

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2010

VOLUME 65

Krueth Logging

**Berthiaume Logging:
2010 National Logger of the Year**

**Former Spy to Speak
at Annual Meeting Banquet**



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TIMBER BULLETIN

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Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

The sun rises in the northeastern Minnesota forest.

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As I write this column, it has been a long time since I can remember a spring like this one. It feels more like June than April with the abrupt end to winter

President's Column



and the unusually warm and dry spring. But it is April and time to get MLEP training in.

Also the TPA has sent out a B.M.P. guideline revision survey. It is important that

we receive your thoughts on this so please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and send it back.

I would like to remind everyone that June 10-11 is the TPA annual meeting this year. Hopefully everyone can make time to attend.

As always remember to please be safe out there.

Michael Rieger

TPA Executive Committee

Mike Rieger: 218-244-8572
Mike Warren: 218-244-5722
Kit Hasbargen: 218-634-1628
Scott Pittack: 218-259-8148
Tom McCabe: 218-726-1042

TPA Staff

Wayne Brandt: 218-722-5013
Ray Higgins: 218-722-5013

TPA Forms Wood Yard Safety Task Force

In response to incidents at northern Minnesota wood yards over the past several years, TPA, in conjunction with Minnesota Forest Industries, has formed a Wood Yard Safety Task Force to examine how to make mill wood yards safer.

The Task Force is made up of TPA loggers and truckers, mill representatives, as well as Dave Chura from the Minnesota Logger Education Program, and Dave Amundson, loss prevention specialist at insurance carrier

Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance. The goal is to develop best practices for those unloading timber and make safety information easily accessible for loggers and truckers. Safety workshops for MLEP credit may also be created.

The task force hopes to complete its work by the end of the year. For more information, or to offer input, contact Ray Higgins at the TPA office at 218-722-5013.



Wood is unloaded at NewPage's wood yard in Parkland, Wisconsin. TPA has formed a task force to examine safety issues in wood yards.

Make sure you get your reservations early for the TPA Annual Meeting on June 10. We are having the event at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge with the business meeting in the morning, golf and fishing in the afternoon and the banquet in the evening.

As mentioned in a previous column, Jim Olson, former Chief of Counterintelligence with the CIA, will be our banquet speaker. An Iowa native, Jim is the real deal, having served overseas for the CIA in the USSR, Austria and Mexico.

He is a very interesting speaker with fascinating stories from his

career experiences and important insights on the war on terrorism.

Executive Vice President's Column



I've recently been reading one of his books: *Fair Play: The Moral Dilemmas of Spying*. It's a fascinating read that combines his knowledge and

situations that our country faces in a complicated world.

Mr. Olson is unlike any keynote speaker that we have ever had at an Annual Meeting. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear a true American patriot speak about his time on the front lines for our country.



The legislative session is moving along. As I write this column legislators are ending their Easter/Passover break. They have enacted about one-third of the cuts needed to balance the budget. Thus far the DNR Division of Forestry, while taking cuts, has not been treated unfairly. The remaining work includes various policy bills and cuts to the big parts of the state budget, health and human services and K-12 education.

This session, while still partisan, has been a bit more workmanlike than in recent years. We'll hope that this continues. If it does, it could bode well for dealing with

the \$5+ billion deficit projected for the 2012-2013 biennium.



What's up with diesel prices again? According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency prices nationwide have increased \$0.22 since December and have reached a seventeen-month high of around \$3 per gallon.

The economy has not gotten better, fuel usage continues to be down and refineries are producing less in response. So how can prices for crude oil be escalating? A recent article in the Wall Street Journal indicated that the increases were being fueled by investment speculation. Apparently investors believe that the economy is getting better so fuel usage will increase and prices will go up. So they are bidding up the prices now. Huh?

A colleague who runs one of the petroleum agencies suggested to me once that the best way to take some of the speculation out of the fuel business would be to require purchasers of crude or fuel contracts to actually take delivery of some portion of the product that they trade. His theory was that if the traders had to actually own some fuel tanks some reality would be injected into the marketplace. This makes more sense every day.



Congratulations to Dave and Cindy Berthiaume of Berthiaume Logging for being named Logger of the Year by the Forest Resources Association. Dave, a TPA board member, runs an outstanding operation that richly deserves this important recognition. It's also great to see someone from our region recognized nationally.



How about break-up this year? One day it's winter and the next it's not. It was remarkable how little transition time there was. It went from cold to 45 degrees and rain and then stayed warm. It's a little bit like how things can go from running along smoothly and then Bam! An accident. An injury.

It just shows how important preparation is. Not putting things

off until the end of the winter. Not putting off that safety meeting. Preparing for an early break-up. Preparing for that accident that could happen.

I'm grateful that we seem to have gotten through the winter with very few injuries. This is a testament to your preparation and attention to safety every day.



I heard something that I had never heard before when I was in Washington, D.C., a few weeks ago. In a meeting with a group of us the chief of the Forest Service said that he wanted the Forest Service to do more, no matter what their budget was. That he wanted them to sell more wood, implement their plans and get more done. He also asked us for our ideas on how the Forest Service could get more done.

It was remarkable.

It was a far cry from a recent previous chief who used to say that they would "under promise and over deliver." Which always seemed to turn into under promise and under deliver. The Forest Service at the national level is a long ways from being out the woods but this chief at least seems to want to do more. He seems to care.

That in itself is a big step for the Forest Service's national leadership.

It gives me hope that the national leadership will improve the way we have seen improvements on the ground in our two National Forests.

W. J. Olson

Member Feature...



Left to right: Ron, Brian and Gary Krueth.

“Quality, Not Quantity”

Krueth Logging Focuses on Getting the Job Done Right

by Ray Higgins

It's early March and much warmer than expected. Spring load restrictions on Minnesota's roads go into effect at midnight, days before anyone had anticipated or wanted. Loggers throughout the woods are scrambling, trying to haul their final loads to the mills before break-up.

All except Ron and Gary Krueth. They're on their logging site, northeast of Kelliher, sitting in the

shack they haul from job to job, sipping coffee, chatting.

"It's like the tortoise and the hare," Ron says. "We're the tortoise."

"It's quality, not quantity, Gary says. "I'm not interested in quantity, I never cared about how many cords."

"Everybody's interested in production because of their payments," Ron says. "They have

to produce. We're not in that category. Whatever happens, happens.

"You have to log smarter," he says, "not harder."

This even-keel approach has served the brothers well since starting the business in 1974.

At that time, both had graduated from Kelliher high school and gone off to college. Ron started at Bemidji State, but ended up getting

a forestry degree at Itasca Community College. He thought he might be a DNR forester some day, and got his start in the industry as a scaler for a guy who made snow fences from aspen bolts. Gary also went to Bemidji State and worked toward a business degree. But his heart was in the woods.

"I can't think of anything in my life I hated more than going to college," 55-year-old Gary says. "When I looked outside from my dorm room, the only thing that was missing was the bars on the windows."

The Krueths had always spent their spare time helping logging operations. Their dad Ernie was a logger, but he was older when he got married and started a family, so by the time the boys were in high school, it was other guys in Kelliher like their cousin Gordon Krueth and Warren Hughes who put them to work. They'd peel aspen during the summers and head back to Kelliher throughout the school year to lend a hand.

"That's basically what we did



Gary Krueth operates the John Deere 843G feller buncher in a stand of aspen.

every summer," says Ron, now 57. "we peeled aspen as soon as school was out until mid July."

"We always worked weekends during the school year," Gary says. "During breaks, Christmas vacation, any chance we got, we were cutting wood."

Gary didn't know what kind of business he wanted to start once he got that college degree, but he knew he wanted to do it in a small town. At the same time, Ron was realizing that neither the DNR nor the snow fence business were right for him. So they put their heads

together and decided to start Krueth Logging.

"Our dad was mad when we bought our first chainsaw," Gary says. "He just didn't want us to get into logging. There wasn't too much encouragement."

"When we started, we had a tractor-loader," Ron says. "We had a dray to pull behind the tractor and we'd skid the wood off the landing like that. We shipped it on railroad cars, and of course we did a lot of hand falling when we first started. The will to work is the only thing we've had. When we first started, let's face it, when you're peeling that aspen where you're tractor and draying it, that's a lot of work."

They didn't have any mill contracts, either. It was a meager beginning.

"We started out from scratch," Gary says. "No contracts were given to us. A lot of people in logging, their dad had the contracts and the equipment, everything. There's nothing wrong with that, but that's not the way it started for us."

The Krueths established a relationship with the old Super Wood mill in Bemidji. Gordon Krueth hauled the wood, seven cords at a time on a little red truck.

"We did the logging," Gary says, "and Gordy did the trucking."

Over time, other markets developed and the business survived. The brothers started to add equipment. In 1983, they purchased their first shear. But they kept the growth limited by design.

"With mechanization, production goes up, but financing does also," Ron says. "So, you have to know how to make the numbers work as well as make the machines work. It's a fine line you're walking in today's world, knowing exactly what is too much and what is not enough."

Gary's business background from college comes in handy in that area. The Krueths have been careful not to overextend themselves. As a result, it's been a two-man operation all these years: Gary runs the shear and skidder, while Ron runs the loader-slasher at the landing. And they never vary from



Ron Krueth operates the Prentice loader-slasher. To produce the 11-footers needed for the Helblad mill, the Krueths use a slasher with a bar saw. They also have a slasher with a more common 72-inch Serco saw on a Lemco XL280 loader when higher production is needed.



Brian Krueth drives the John Deere 648G3 skidder.

that formula.

"We've logged together all this time," Ron says, "and I've never sheared a tree in my life."

"I've never slashed," Gary adds.

That method does have its drawbacks. If one brother is sick, or off somewhere else – doing maintenance or at a timber sale, for example – logging operations stop. But along with holding down production, their business model also holds down overhead like employment costs and workers comp insurance.

They've also split up other responsibilities. Gary goes to all of the workshops for MLEP and the like, while Ron handles the timber sales.

They also typically don't buy new equipment, looking to purchase machines with 4000-5000 hours on them already. In fact, they've managed to accumulate a lot of iron over the years, with the core pieces including a John Deere 843G feller buncher, a Hood 3200 delimber, a Lemco XL280 loader with a 72 inch Serco saw, a John



The Krueths typically run their delimber only in the summertime. So, the balsam and spruce from the sale is stockpiled on the landing and then they will bring the delimber on their way to an adjacent sale. They have a Hood 3200 delimber and also a Timberjack 608 processor with a Logmax head that they use for delimbing.

Deere 648G III skidder, and a Timberjack 608 processor with a Log Max head.

They still do much of the

delimbing by hand, with a chainsaw. Right now, Ron's 21-year-old son Brian is helping with that while he looks for

work as a mechanic. The Krueths will also use the Timberjack processor for delimbing. In fact on this site, they're stockpiling spruce that hasn't yet been delimbed. Come summer when they start to work on an adjacent sale, they'll bring the Hood and take care of it then.

Over the years the Krueths have developed good dependable markets for their wood. Some goes to Boise and Norbord, and they'll do some pine thinnings. Plus, they have a niche market in Kelliher at the Helblad Sawmill that manufactures snowmobile crates for Arctic Cat. As a result, Helblad requires 11-foot-long aspen bolts, instead of the standard eight footers.

"A lot of loggers don't like to cut odd lengths," Gary says, "because it slows production. We said we'll go after high value wood, yet we'll do that special 11-foot stuff, because we're not going to win the game on high volume, high stumpage."

That means their ideal spot for buying stumpage is just east of



The Krueths delimb 100 percent of their aspen with a chainsaw. Here, Brian Krueth works on some felled timber.

Kelliher. The aspen bolts here are of high quality, and good and straight too, perfect for Helblad. It's also roughly equidistant between Boise and Norbord – about 65 miles.

"Our sites are usually small and it has a lot to do with our location," Gary says. "We can't go west of town because of the reservation, and we can't go north because of the bog. So we're very limited."

The Krueths hire custom haulers to take their wood to the mill, all except the bolts for Helblad's. Because the 11-footers don't fit on most logging trucks, Helblad comes and hauls that wood himself.

"Because of the irregular length," Gary says, "Helblad has to haul them lengthwise on his truck. Not everybody wants to haul that. He can only put on 10 cords. Most truckers don't want to run down the road with only 10 cords."

The Krueths try to look at most every site before they buy it at auction to make sure the quality they need is there. But with a number of loggers in the area vying for the same wood, the brothers find they have to pay a little more for stumpage. They estimated they paid an average of over \$32 for aspen last year. To offset that, they try to purchase sales adjacent to one another.

"We have a tendency to buy sales close together," Ron says. "Like

last winter, we had six sales almost touching one another. It takes a year or two to accumulate those, but it saves us the moving expenses."

"We've only hired to move our equipment once this winter and we worked on seven sales," Gary adds. "We try to line them up."

"We do get some larger sales," Ron says. "We bought one last summer that was 2500 cords, but it had the quality we wanted."

The Krueths have a bit of an unconventional approach when it comes to bookkeeping. Just like Ron always slashes and Gary always shears, the division of labor is similar when it comes to doing the books.

"We have our own little system," Gary says. "I do all the checks out, and when I get done paying the truckers, I hand it over to Ron."

"I do all the financing on the timber sales," Ron says."

They also don't share their spare time. While Ron loves to golf and ride his motorcycle, Gary hunts, fishes and works with wood. In fact, he built his home himself using mostly wood the brothers harvested. He even made much of the furniture inside.

"We just get along," Gary says.

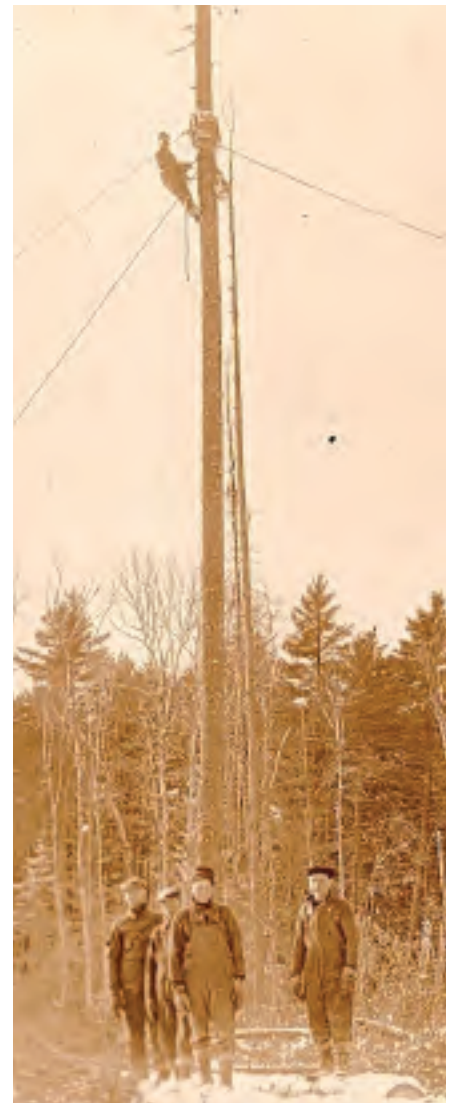
Where they stand together is the importance of doing the job correctly, of taking care of the forest, and making sure the woods are better off once their work has

been completed.

"I look at logging like tending a garden," Gary says. "The garden doesn't look so good by itself. If you pick the weeds out and tend to it, it's amazing how it can look. And that's what forestry is."

"Pine thinnings have to be done the proper way," says Ron, "because when you're done, you have a stand left. When you leave you should have a better stand than when you arrived. So you take pride in your work when you can say the stand is better than when you started."

"This is our home," Gary says. "This is where we live. When I come by here I want to be able to say that I did this, and be proud of it."



Ernest Krueth, Ron and Gary's father, is in the middle of the three men on the ground in this photo taken roughly 80 years ago. Ernest's job was to anchor the trees with cables.

Berthiaume Logging: 2010 National Logger of the Year



Cloquet's Dave and Cindy Berthiaume of Berthiaume Logging, accept the Forest Resources Association's 2010 National Outstanding Logger Award. Berthiaume is a member of TPA's board of directors.

Cloquet logging company Berthiaume Logging was named 2010 National Outstanding Logger by the Forest Resources Association. Dave and Cindy Berthiaume accepted the award in Hilton Head, South Carolina at the annual awards luncheon in March.

"My father, now 87, started the Berthiaume family logging business nearly 60 years ago, Dave Berthiaume said in accepting the award. "As I and my brothers grew up and entered the business, he instilled upon us the values of hard work, the unbendable rule of

treating people fairly and that if you treat the land with respect, it will provide for you always.

Berthiaume Logging was named 2009 Minnesota Logger of the Year by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee. As a result, the company was nominated for the FRA's Great Lakes Region Outstanding Logger Award, and received that honor in October. Berthiaume was selected over four other region winners for the national honor.

Berthiaume Logging is a long-

time TPA member. Dave Berthiaume sits on the association's board of directors.

"I would be remiss not to mention how all of us in the timber industry have a greater environmental awareness than ever before," Berthiaume said. "It does my heart good to see industry companies up north like Sappi, Potlatch, and Bell Timber step forward to support logger training and best management practices."

Over the years, Berthiaume Logging has developed a strong reputation for conducting harvests

in a way that is sensitive both to the environment and to landowner objectives. On sites where harvesting will be highly visible and aesthetics will be a major issue, it is not uncommon to hear – from industry, agency, or consulting forester – “Can we get Berthiaume Logging to do the work?”

One of many examples of Berthiaume Logging’s commitment to following Sustainable Forestry Initiative requirements is its use of logging slash on steep slopes to divert water runoff and mitigate erosion concerns. Governing his operation in accordance with the Minnesota Forest Management Guidelines, Dave Berthiaume does not wait for the forester or landowner to shut his crew down if a site has received significant rainfall—he suspends operations until conditions improve, voluntarily.

Berthiaume Logging’s commitment to safety and the firm’s outstanding safety record also set it apart. Consuming mills often consult Dave for his advice on woodyard safety, as well as on trucking and logging safety issues.

A family-run business for three generations, Berthiaume Logging has been a mainstay in the education of students at Cloquet Forestry Center. When students need to see an example of sound forest management, they tour an active Berthiaume Logging site, questioning crew members about practices and performance. The company has also made itself available to work with researchers at the Cloquet Forestry Center, in one case reducing productivity significantly to conduct a controlled experiment on the impact of spreading, versus removing, logging slash on an active job, to permit the Center to evaluate impacts.

In spite of the many demands of his business, it is important to Dave Berthiaume to find the time to involve himself deeply in his community. As his daughter, Rachael, wrote in supporting Berthiaume Logging’s nomination:

“My Dad always claims, ‘You have to work with the people.’ One of my favorite donations he does is to haul and set up the buildings for the Sentence to Serve. These are young folks that have started out life down the wrong path but gain a sense of pride by participating in the creation of these buildings. My Dad says it’s all worth it when he sees the young folks’ excitement when the final log is raised.”

“We couldn’t be more proud of Berthiaume Logging,” said Ray Higgins of TPA. “They’re indicative of the excellent loggers we have in Minnesota, companies that properly manage our state’s forests, supplying the timber needed to make the products we all use daily, and ensuring the forest’s health for generations to come.”

FRA’s Outstanding Logger program is designed:

- 1) to recognize outstanding logging contractor performance;
- 2) to raise the visibility of competent, professional independent logging contractors in the forestry community;
- 3) to encourage other independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of the award winners; and
- 4) to improve forester-logger relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

Former Spy to Speak at Annual Meeting Banquet

Combined Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event Returns to Grand Rapids

Mark your calendars for June 10 and 11 for the 2010 TPA Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge just south of Grand Rapids.

It's an opportunity for TPA members to attend three major events in just two days. Both days will not only feature information to help members run their businesses, but also with the opportunity to socialize with fellow loggers and vendors.

We're proud to welcome former CIA Chief of Counterintelligence Jim Olson as our featured speaker at Thursday night's Annual Meeting Banquet. Olson will talk about his more than 25 years as a spy for the CIA in various locations around the globe. He is the author of a book about his experiences titled *Fair Play: The Moral Dilemmas of Spying*.

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge features a beautiful golf course and clear, blue Sugar Lake. We've again chosen this location not only because of the success of last year's events, but also because it is



Left to right: Eric Lunemann of Nortrax, Kelly and Shelly Kimball of Kimball Logging, and Tim Murphy, Nortrax Regional VP, get ready to enjoy the 2009 TPA golf outing.

centrally located just south of Grand Rapids.

Registration forms for the 2010 Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting and Golf and Fishing Event are being mailed in April. Watch your mailbox and join us for these great events!

Schedule

Thursday, June 10

Morning – Annual Meeting

Afternoon – Golf and Fishing Event

Evening – Social Hour and Banquet

Friday, June 11

Morning – Board of Directors Meeting



UPM Blandin's Bob Behr shows off 2009's biggest fish, a 24-1/4-inch walleye.



Left to right: Cindy Hughes, Kurt Benson, and David Hughes socialize before last year's TPA banquet.



*Minnesota Timber
Producers Association*

Board of Directors Meeting

○○○

TPA Golf & Fishing Outing

○○○

Annual Meeting

○○○

Annual Banquet

Featured Guest Speaker:



Jim Olson

Former CIA Chief of Counterintelligence

**Thursday, June 10th & Friday, June 11th
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge**

It's a fun and informative 2-day event for all TPA members,
as well as vendors and other related organizations

Look for information and complete details to be mailed soon to all members

We look forward to seeing you there!

Unique Partnership Again Heads to Capitol Hill

Presentations from Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten and Division of Forestry Director Dave Epperly highlighted the March meeting of the Wood Fiber Employees Joint Legislative Council in St. Paul.

The Wood Fiber Council brings together labor and management of Minnesota's forest products companies throughout the state with a goal of speaking to lawmakers with a united voice on legislative issues affecting jobs and the economic health of the timber industry. During the three-day conference, delegates discussed potential legislative positions, heard presentations on a variety of topics important to the forest products industry, and paid visits to legislators from all over the state.

"It's always great to see our friends from the forest products industry," said Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) to Wood Fiber delegates visiting his office. "It's a great opportunity to pick your brains about what's important to the folks back home."

During Commissioner Holsten's presentation to the council, he talked about the remaining months of the Pawlenty administration – his term expires in January and he's not running for reelection – and the future of the DNR in a time of a state budget deficit.

"We need to take the reductions we're going to get and redesign ourselves," Holsten said. "The next four years are going to be fascinating for the department. We get the opportunity to make government the way we want it to be, if we seize the opportunity."

Epperly told delegates about the report of the Governor's Forestry Subcabinet that stresses the relationship between proper forest management practices and the state's economy. The report states, "Minnesota's forests are natural assets that will depreciate if we do not carefully manage them."

"Management is important, and



Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) greets members of the UPM Blandin delegation to the Wood Fiber Employees Joint Legislative Council. Left to right: Jim Marshall, Kent Koerbitz, Larry Manella, Dave Decker, Sen. Bakk, and Bob Olson.



DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten discusses the future of the DNR at the Wood Fiber Council's March meeting.

we couldn't manage the forest without industry and the loggers," Epperly told the Council. "If we have quality fiber, costs at mills go down, and that helps everybody."

Epperly also said it's important to stress to the environmental community that this high quality fiber that comes from well managed forests result in improved water quality.

Epperly also discussed the

division's pine initiative, which he hopes will help those mills and loggers who are looking for pine. A special spring auction stressing pine will be held in mid-May.

"We shifted some of our priorities to meet demand," Epperly said of the initiative. "It's affording us the opportunity to improve our plantations. If you can keep the pine growing at an optimum, you have a better product when you go

to saw it, and that will help loggers and sawmills.”

Among others addressing the Wood Fiber Council was Mark Lindquist, of the DNR’s Biofuels Program Manager. He said biomass markets in the state haven’t grown in the state due in part to the global recession and the collapse of natural gas prices. Furthermore, when it comes to renewable energy, wind is less expensive in Minnesota than wood and there’s a lack of clarity in state

and federal policy when it comes to biomass. Lindquist acknowledged that some wood isn’t selling at auction in Minnesota, but any growth in the sector can’t put current companies and their associated jobs in peril.

“It’s about threading the needle regarding woody biomass competing with existing industry,” Lindquist said.

The Council adopted positions on several issues that they took to the hill: Support of funding the

Division of Forestry’s timber sale program, continued funding of the Minnesota Forest Resource Council, and funding the reforestation and forest road provisions in the bonding bill. The Council also voted to support a house bill that would streamline the environmental review process for new economic projects, which would require state agencies to issue appropriate environmental permits within 150 days of application or post for public review the reason the permit is being withheld.

Becker County Board Votes to Continue Timber Sales

The Becker County Board, at its March 23 meeting, rejected a recommendation from its Natural Resources Committee and voted to continue selling timber.

The county’s Natural Resources Committee had voted in February to recommend suspending sales, citing low stumpage prices and low demand. After hearing testimony from several parties, including TPA board member Kelly Kimball, a Becker County resident, the county board voted 4-1 to reject the recommendation and continue timber sales.

“That wood is important to our business,” Kimball said. “We have a dozen or so employees and all but one live in Becker County. When the board heard how suspending timber sales would affect not only those jobs but several others in the county, they made the right decision.

Also testifying in support of continued timber sales were Norbord procurement forester Jerry Richards and Minnesota Forest Industries Vice President of Forest Policy Tim O’Hara.

“We had a good mix of folks before the board,” Kimball said.

“We were able to show the commissioners why it would be a mistake to stop selling wood from several different perspectives.”

Chippewa NF to Charge for Gathering Firewood

To comply with national direction, the Chippewa National Forest will initiate a \$20 fee for gathering personal-use firewood on national forest lands beginning April 12, 2010. Firewood gathering permits, which allow individuals to gather up to five cords of dead and down wood, had been available at no

cost. All members of the 1855 Treaty Bands (of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe) are exempt from these

permitting requirements and fees. Firewood permits that have already been issued in 2010 are still valid until the end of the calendar year.

Firewood gathering permits issued after April 12 will also be valid throughout 2010, until Dec. 31, and

are available at any Chippewa National Forest office in Blackduck, Cass Lake, Deer River and Walker, Minn.

Firewood must be dead and down, and can be gathered from most national forest lands within the national forest. Specially designated areas are prohibited for firewood collecting. These include Research Natural Areas and candidate (pending) areas, any Forest Service administrative office grounds, developed recreation sites, wetlands and within 100 feet of lakes and rivers.

Maps of suggested areas for firewood collecting are free and will remain available. These areas are usually completed timber sales and landing areas with slash. Maps of national forest lands including the specially designated areas where firewood gathering is prohibited can be purchased at any national

forest office.

The Chippewa National Forest issues about 300 personal use firewood permits per year. The \$20 permit fee is effective April 12. More information is available from the Chippewa National Forest at (218) 335-8600 or online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/>

Timber Talk

Poll: Minnesotans Value Forests and Their Products

Minnesota has millions of acres of forests, and a recent survey found that Minnesotans feel that forests are important to their quality of life, including supplying wood and paper products.

"There is near unanimity that forests are important to Minnesotan's quality of life," says Lori Weigel of the polling firm Public Opinion Strategies. "This consensus is held among all key subgroups and in every region of the state."

The survey was conducted between Nov. 10 and 15, 2009, by a bipartisan research team. Phone interviews were conducted with registered voters throughout the state of Minnesota with proportional and geographic distribution and a resulting margin of sampling error of +/-4.0%.

The survey asked about viewpoints and values related to forests and forest-derived benefits like wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and wood products and jobs.

"All of the forest benefits ranked high, with the top rankings being the benefits that forests provide as a place for wildlife and to help keep our air and water clean," says Weigel.

The survey was the result of collaborations between organizations interested in better understanding Minnesotan's environmental values and priorities. Collaborating in the research were the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Dovetail Partners and state leaders who had participated in the "Seeing the Forests and the Trees" Study Tour organized by the Blandin Foundation.

"We have a duty to future generations to be good stewards of Minnesota's forests, and leave them in as good or even better shape than we found them," says Dave



Zumeta, executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and study tour participant.

Questions asked during the interviews touched on the trade-offs between managing forests for specific benefits. The results showed that a full 76% of those polled ranked the supplying of essential wood and paper products as extremely or very important.

"Our forests are vital to our quality of life and our economic future," says Kathryn Fernholz, executive director of Dovetail Partners.

One of the ways that Minnesota's land managers have addressed the need for balanced management is through participation in voluntary certification programs. Minnesota

has more than 8 million acres of certified forestland, including lands certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standards. Public and private lands throughout the state have been certified, including lands managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, county land departments, The Nature Conservancy and others.

"As a forestland manager the survey results are encouraging; seeing that the vast majority of Minnesotans hold forests in such high regard reinforces my resolve to provide quality forest management now and into the future," says Mark Jacobs, land commissioner for Aitkin County.

A full 85% of the state's electorate agreed with the statement, "With sound forest management, we can continue the current level of wood and paper production from Minnesota's forests while still protecting and improving forest health."

"Overall, the survey results show the strong value Minnesota voters feel they derive from the presence of forests in their state," concludes David Metz of the polling firm FM3. "They say forests contribute to the quality of life in Minnesota, and believe there are numerous benefits from clean air and water to wildlife habitat to economic and recreational benefits. They also very much agree that economic and environmental benefits of forests can be compatible and can be preserved simultaneously through sound management."

Speed and Logging Access Roads Don't Go Together

by Dave Amundson

Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance

To help TPA members avoid accidents resulting in injury or damage to property, the Timber Bulletin, in association with Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, will publish details of actual incidents and what can be done to avoid such occurrences in the future. By sharing this information, TPA and LUA hope to make our industry as safe as possible.

Background:

This case study compiles information from personal interviews with the owner, the employees, and the review of the

damaged equipment. This large-sized logging and trucking company operates both conventional and cut-to-length logging

mobile equipment.

This loss occurred in mid-winter, and the weather was somewhat normal for the time of year with clear sunny skies. The gravel/mix roadway had spotty snow and was ice-covered, and the job site was located approximately 30 to 45 minutes from the nearest town. This personal injury and property

loss took place on a remote logging road. The equipment involved in this serious collision accident included a pick-up and a loaded semi-truck and trailer.

Operator:

Both vehicle drivers were seasoned drivers as they had worked several years with this company and had other driving experience before this incident. Also, both of these individuals were considered fully trained for their job duties as a forwarder operator and a logging truck driver.

Accident and/or Injury:

Just before this serious emergency, the logging equipment operator was leaving the logging site for the day when he remembered something back at the log landing. This individual turned around and was hurrying back to the log landing to stay on track for the remainder of the day's activities. At this same time, a loaded log truck was also leaving the logging site on this roadway. As these two vehicles neared each other, the truck driver saw the pick-up rapidly approaching on the logging road and veered to the right to give the road to the other vehicle. When the pick-up driver saw the loaded truck, it was too late to avoid the collision, and he slid into the loaded truck. The pick-

up driver sustained very serious injuries (pelvic, ribs, head, and bruising) and considerable vehicle damage occurred to both units. The log truck driver was not injured.

Unsafe Act and/or Condition:

The unsafe conditions may have involved the slippery roads and poor visibility while driving into the setting sun. The unsafe act may have been the excess speed of the smaller vehicle. Some contributing factors were: driver's focus on the task at hand, awareness of others on the roadway, and communication with the other road users. The following suggestions may help prevent problems of this nature while traveling on low maintenance logging roadways.

Preventative Measures:

1. Always travel at a safe speed for the design of the roadways (improved, limited maintenance, etc.). Tough driving conditions may occur, such as hilly terrain, curves, limited visibility, wildlife or animals on the roadway, etc.
2. Stay aware of severe weather conditions that may occur when traveling in motor vehicles. Considerations such as wet, icy, slippery, and poor visibility (fog, rain, snow, traveling into the sun, etc.) are all factors.
3. Stay focused on the job at hand and don't let your planning get



The side view of the damaged pick-up.



The front view of the damaged pick-up.



The side view of the damaged truck and trailer.



The front view of the damaged truck and trailer.

yourself ahead of the current task. Sometimes you have to slow down to go faster!

4. On limited roadways, practice good communication with all road users. Utilize cell phones, two-way radios, and/or personally stop and talk to other road users to inform them of your situation and have them spread the word to other road users if they have the ability.
5. Post road signs to notify all road users of logging and trucking activities in the area. Also, post road conditions for limited visibility, hilly, etc. to limit speed.
6. Implement an emergency response plan for all logging and trucking operations for both personal injury and property loss situations. All logging operations need to maintain an emergency call number list with directions to the logging site location (written directions to the logging job sites), and regular refresher training. Employees must also practice good communication. These are just some of the items that are very necessary. The panic factor is what you're preparing for in an emergency situation.

On the Markets

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

DNR to Hold Pine Auctions

In an effort to meet market demands for pine and spruce, the Minnesota DNR has scheduled an auction in the Northeast Region focusing on these species. The oral auction will be held May 20 at Ironworld, appraisals scheduled to be available by April 19.

The Northwest Region is also trying to meet the demand, but each area is holding its own sale. For instance, the Brainerd area has already posted its tracts for its May 4 auction at the Breezy Point Community Center/City Hall.

"We shifted some of our priorities to meet demand," said DNR Division of Forestry Director Dave Epperly. "It's affording us the opportunity to improve our plantations. If we can keep it growing at an optimum, you'll have a better product when you go to saw it."

Recent Timber Sales Average prices, as reported by each agency

Note: On state sales, the DNR does not calculate price per cord on individual auctions. Price per cord information on these sales is done by TPA staff. This average is for "trembling aspen" and "aspen species" combined, unless otherwise noted.

Average prices are for the combined regular and intermediate auctions.

Cass County

January 28 – Oral Auction

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$22.09
Birch	\$13.54
Red Oak	\$18.78
Balsam Fir	\$23.73

All 17 tracts offered on this auction were sold.

St. Louis County

February 18 – Sealed Bid

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$30.94
Balsam Fir Pulpwood	\$19.92
Black Spruce	
Pulpwood	\$26.86
Birch pulpwood	\$12.73

23 of 34 tracts offered on this auction were sold.

Cass County

February 25 – Sealed Bid

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$21.17
Red Oak	\$21.56
Birch	\$13.67
Jack Pine	\$28.95

All eight tracts offered on this auction were sold.

Cass County

March 25 – Oral Auction

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$22.49
Tamarack	\$ 6.16
Birch	\$15.23
Red Oak	\$21.78

All 14 tracts offered on this auction were sold.

Crow Wing County

March 26 – Oral Auction

<u>Species</u>	<u>Avg. Price</u>
Aspen	\$28.73
Oak	\$20.21
Birch	\$16.04
Maple	\$11.40

Ten of the 14 tracts offered on this auction were sold.

to some questions such as the importance of guaranteed access were similar for many. But the survey also explores how sale characteristics affect producers differently.

Among the findings:

- 68% of respondents indicated a 15% down payment was no barrier to purchasing DNR timber permits
- Respondents preferred either

SOAV or consumer scale sales in roughly equal numbers, with 22% showing no preference.

- the #1 reason for not bidding on a timber permit, other than price, was no guaranteed access to the timber permit

The survey may be found online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timbersales/notices.html>

U.S. Housing Stats Mixed for February

U.S. building permits were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 612,000 in February, according to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. That's an increase of 11.3 percent over the February 2009 estimate, but down 1.6 percent from January of this year.

Sales of new single-family homes reached a record low in February. The seasonally adjusted annual rate of 308,000 units sold nationwide, was down 2.2 percent from the previous month, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. The figure also represents a dip of 13 percent from February 2009.

Construction spending was also down in February, down 1.3 percent from January and 12.8 percent from February 2009.

A more optimistic picture is being painted by a forecast from the West Wood Products Association, which projects modest gains in housing, lumber consumption and U.S. production this year after setting modern lows during 2009. However, while markets are expected to improve in the coming years, lumber demand and housing construction will remain far lower than what the industry saw in the mid-2000s. According to the forecast, total housing starts are projected to increase 11.9 percent to 618,000 and then climb again in 2011 to 719,000 units.

DNR Surveys Loggers

In an effort to better understand the widely varied needs of their timber purchasers, the MN DNR recently sent out over 500 surveys. Answers

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Who Logged Here?"

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*



Above: Early log camp buildings along the Rum River. Below: Chaw time in an early camp on the Mississippi River.



The questions most often asked of forest rangers today go about like this: What company logged in this area? Or who ran that old camp by such and such a trail or creek? Or how many years ago was the virgin timber cut on a certain area?

Today there are many people out in our forests each weekend in search of artifacts of the old logging days and asking for information on locations of old logging camp sites—and they think that the rangers know where all the old camps were located. And while rangers who have been on a district a number of years do get to know where many of the old camps were, every trip a ranger makes into a 40-acre tract he has not been on before is liable to show up evidence of some sort of a logging operation having been there.

While snuff jars seem to be the most desired of all logging artifacts, these searchers find old bottles from liniment, vegetable compound, extract, Hinkley bone liniment and whiskey as well as all types of metal objects that were used around a camp. All the old camp clearings and sites that they have found have been pretty well dug up, and they have turned up many very interesting objects of the old logging days. It is a very appealing hobby and one that has brought about considerable interest in the history of the old logging days.

This brings me back to the first question: What company logged here and when?

From the time the first logs were cut along the Rum River in 1837 to the taking out of the last log drive on the Littlefork in 1937, the 100-year period brought camps to house men in every part of the timbered area of the state. Just how many there were would be only a guess, but the number would run in the thousands.

As a rule, logging companies would walk men up to a mile and a half to work, and most loggers tried to keep the distance from the camp to work within one mile. When the distance became greater a new camp would be built. When you apply this rule to the vast area of the state that was logged off, you can readily see that there had to be a great number of camps. However, in later years when transporta-

tion became better and men were transported to work by railroad in some cases, the camps were a little farther apart.

In the early days, camps were situated along rivers and on lake shores in most cases—for easier transportation of supplies by water, for a water supply for horses and cattle and because in many cases the logs were landed along the shorelines. When camps were located inland, they often were on a small creek where a water supply would be available.

Some camps remained in the same location for a number of years or until the logging company had completed cutting all its holdings in a given area. Sometimes several companies would use the same camp location. I know of one case in 55-15 where the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. built a camp and logged ties in 1916, and in 1922 the Northern Lumber Co. built a large camp on the same site and logged the pine. Then in 1926 the John Kusinerik Co. built a camp on the same site and cut Duluth and Iron Range Railroad lumber in the general area.

I know of many cases where two different companies had camps on the same site. This was very common where one company cut the logs and another cut the ties, cedar and pulpwood. For example, the American Cedar Company cut cedar the year after the Crookston Lumber Co. cut the logs, the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. followed operations of the Cloquet and Northern Lumber Co., National Pole followed the International Lumber Co.—and many other cutters of ties and cedar followed the logging companies by a year or so.

Different ownerships of timber stands in the same general area also might bring a second camp to a site—the second company taking advantage of some of the improvements, such as a well and roads, that had been made by the first.

Camps built along rivers probably were used as log driving camps for many springs, being occupied for only a month or so while the drive was in progress.

Early camps built of logs were never torn down and usually stood for a number of years if not destroyed by fire. Many of them were victims, however, of early forest fires. In later years when camps were made of lumber, they were torn down and the lumber was used to build new camps. And some lumber probably was used in several camps before being discarded. Even when camps were torn down, a small building usually was left intact to mark the site.

Evidence of these camps is found all over the forested area of the state. Camps that stood for a year or more usually are surrounded by a grassy area and the bottoms of these buildings are easily found and identified by their dimensions—with the kitchen having the root cellar attached. Buildings were all banked with



Most early camps were made of logs, as this one under construction.



These are two very early camps—from about 1880. Note there are no windows in the one above. Below: Kitchen and bunk houses were under one roof.





Above: Two early camps in northern Minnesota. Below: The whole crew as well as the camp got into this early picture near Blackduck.



earth, and the trenches where the banking was dug along the sides of the buildings are often the most evident signs that a camp was there.

These grassy areas of a camp site remain for many years, although there were many camps used only during the winter months that soon grew up to brush and trees. We find trees up to 100 years old growing in the middle of buildings. This type of camp is usually found only by cruisers or rangers or in the re-logging of the second crop of timber. While planting trees with a tree planter, we have turned up evidence of old camps that we did not know existed. It is the camp sites along the rivers, tote roads and railroads that are discovered most and better known.

We are often asked: Where was camp 3? Or camp 6? In fact, there were many a camp 3 and camp 6. Every logging company had several of them. The system was to number the camps annually, and a company might have five camps numbered 1 to 5 each year. In later years, however, many of the larger companies numbered their camps consecutively and had numbers running well up in the hundreds.

Now to get back to the question of "Who logged here?"

The logging companies and contract loggers also ran into the thousands, and I can only mention a few of them along with their general areas of operations.

Probably some of the first camps in Minnesota were along the St. Croix and lower Rum, with William Atkins, Henry Sibley and Lyman Warren being some of the first loggers. They were followed by Hershey and Staples, Caleb Cushing and others. The early loggers of the lower Rum and Snake were so numerous it would take a small book to list them. The first logging camp we have a record of was at the junction of the Snake and St. Croix Rivers in 1837 when John Boyce carried on logging with 11 men and 6 oxen. Dan Stanchfield built the first camp on the Rum River in 1847.

From this time until 1910, when most river driving ended, loggers spread up the Mississippi and all its branches in great numbers—the Mississippi Logging Co., the Chippewa Logging Co., the Laird Norton Co. below Aitkin and the Delatrees above, "Len" Day, W. W. Hale, the Swan River Lumber Co., Simson and Dwyer and many others.

With the coming of the logging railroads, other companies sprang up all over the area, with the logging spurs running in to most of the pine stands. Some of the loggers by areas are: around Brainerd and north to Leech Lake, the Gull Lake Lumber Co., the Cross Lake Lumber Co., Sam Simson, the Northland Pine Co. and the Pine Tree Lumber Co.

In the area around Walker and west was the Walker and Akley Co. West of

Itasca Park, the Nichols and Chisholm Co. and Wild Rice Lumber Co. West of Bemidji were the Clear Water Logging Co., the Crookston Lumber Co. and the Grand Forks Lumber Co. North along the M. & I. Railroad to Northome were the Bemidji Lumber Co., John Moberg, Blakley Brothers & Farley, J. Niels and Joe Ervine.

North from Northome to International Falls was Backus & Brooks. Around Baudette, the Engler Lumber Co. Around Cass Lake, J. Niels. Along the railroad of the Itasca Lumber Co. from Deer River to Craigville there was Jim Reed, and "Haywire" O'Connell. East from Grand Rapids were Powers and Simson, the Swan River Lumber Co. and C. N. Nelson.

Out of Cloquet and up the St. Louis and Cloquet and Whiteface Rivers and in the area south of the Range were the Cloquet Lumber Co., Northern Lumber Co. and Johnson and Wentworth Co. North of the Range, Cooke and O'Brien, Virginia Rainy Lake Lumber, Moon & Kerr, Namakan Lumber Co., Shevlin Clark and R. R. Bailey.

Around Ely were the St. Croix Lumber Co., Swallow & Hopkins, Kook Lumber Co. and Trout Lake Lumber Co. Along the Iron Range Railroad north from Two Harbors were Scott Graff, Colbrath, Dunka River Lumber Co., N. B. Shank, Jack Saari, North Star, Oliver Mining Co. and then the Alger Line of the Smith and Alger Co. running from Knife River to the Canadian boundary, and the General Logging Co. fine a little farther north with camps along it.

Up the North Shore of Lake Superior were the Redcliff Lumber Co., Split Rock and Thomas Nester. In the area adjacent to Duluth were the Lesure Lumber Co. and Mitchell McClure, and the Brooks Scanlon Co. railroad running 40 miles from Scanlon to just north of Duluth had many camps all along it. Other camps in the area just north and west of Duluth were Howards, Whitesides, Merrill and Ring, and Hubbard and Vincent.

While this is but a very small part of the companies and contractors that were scattered by the thousands all over the pine regions of Minnesota, it will give you some idea of "who logged here" when you run across the remnants of some old camp while hiking or traveling through our forested area.

If, in your search for artifacts, you happen to find an ox shoe, the camp probably was there prior to 1900, and if you find a snuff jar you can be quite sure the camp was there prior to 1912.

And as you discover the remnants of these many lumber camps, you can realize the great numbers of men and animals and the effort it took to log our vast virgin timber stands and bring out lumber and material for the homes and cities of the early settlers who developed the Midwest.



Two good examples of later camps. Above: Oliver Mining Camp 24 in 1918. Below: Camp 6 of the Cloquet Lumber Co. in the Big Lake District in 1923.



Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I

VOL. II



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