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# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 68



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# TIMBER BULLETIN

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Cover photo by Lori Dobbs of Dobbs Logging in Littlefork. To see more of Lori's work, visit [lori-dobbs.artistwebsites.com](http://lori-dobbs.artistwebsites.com)

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**W**inter showed up the first week in December with lots of snow and temperatures around -25 at night in our area. That should help get some frost in the ground and get the winter season off to a good start.

Loggers are in for some challenging times with the recent changes in the market. Price cuts, mill down times, and high fuel prices will make it a lot tougher to make ends meet and will have a ripple effect on other businesses that support our industry. It will take some good

## President's Column



management skills and creative thinking to survive these challenges.

On the upside, loggers are a resourceful bunch, and hopefully will find ways to handle the bumpy road ahead. Have a safe and prosperous winter.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

*Too often, entrepreneurs are forgotten heroes. We rarely hear about them. But look into the heart of America, and you'll see them. They're the owners of that store down the street, the faithful who support our churches, schools, and communities, the brave people everywhere who produce our goods, feed a hungry world, and keep our homes and families warm while they invest in the future to build a better America.... Capitalism begins with giving. And capitalism works best and creates the greatest wealth and human progress for all when it follows the teachings of scripture: Give and you will be given unto...search and you will find...cast your bread upon the waters and it will return to you many fold.*

*President Ronald Reagan's radio address to the Nation on Small Business, May 14, 1983*

*Kit Hasbargen*

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### TPA Staff

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

# Years Ago in the Bulletin

## A sampling of stories and topics from the archives of the Timber Bulletin

### 40 Years Ago

- Terry Worthman was appointed assistant forestry and logging supervisor for Boise Cascade's Rainy River District.
- Dick Olson was appointed forestry and logging supervisor of Boise Cascade's new Vermilion District in Cook.
- Ziegler Inc., dealer for Caterpillar construction equipment in Minnesota and Towmotor lift trucks in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, has opened a new sales and service facility in Duluth.
- Minnesota loggers start total tree chipping. Lyle Guentzel and Dick Rutter of Hibbing and Tom McCabe of Duluth are total tree chipping in the woods and delivering the chips to Superwood Corporation of Duluth. All three operators are using Metro Chiparvesters made by Morbark Industries.

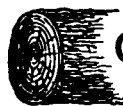
### 50 Years Ago

- A new pulp wood product has been developed to start grass growing in problem areas, according to International Paper Co. A mixture of wood pulp fibers, grass seed, fertilizer, and water is sprayed on an area. The mixture forms a thin protective coating which locks the seed in place, even on slopes. This blotter-like cover permits rain to soak in gradually so that germination is rapid. The wood fibers add to the organic matter in the soil as the mat gradually disintegrates.
- A chain saw injuries study shows the injury rate is highest while the operator is performing the following activities:
 

Bucking	27% of injuries
Felling	24%
Limbing	21%

Areas of the body most often injured are:

Leg	58% of injuries
Hand	28%
Arm	10%



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**W**inter is off to a roaring start this year. A little 30-inch dusting of snow hit northeastern Minnesota and then a plunge into the deep freeze for all of us. It looks like we'll be pushing snow all winter and will have to do some work to freeze down roads and swamps. That's better than the winters where we haven't seen winter until mid-January. It will take work to get things rolling but none of us are afraid of work.

The winter does take its toll workers and equipment. Our biggest enemy is usually fatigue.

**Executive Vice President's Column**

Vince Lombardi once said that fatigue makes cowards of us all.



Fatigue can also cause mistakes which can lead to accidents and injuries. That's all the more reason to stay on top of safety

this winter and make sure that you and your crews get as much rest as you can.



TPA has started up a task force to look at DNR forest road issues. Working with the Division of Forestry we want to see what we can do to improve maintenance on the forest road system. We've been successful in getting state bonding funds to replace some bridges and do limited reconstruction but there certainly seems to be a significant need for better maintenance on the system.

One of the interesting facts on forest roads is that usage surveys consistently show that over 90% of the traffic on forest roads is not forestry related. The bulk of the use is for recreation. I guess we all see that firsthand, particularly during hunting season.

We'll keep you posted as this task force progresses.



Usually this time of the year I'm scrambling around with the Christmas holiday fast approaching with the state legislative session on

its heels. It's a bit different this year as the legislature will not convene in 2014 until Feb. 25. This is the latest start for a session that I can remember.

The even number year sessions traditionally were intended to be "short" sessions to deal with capital investments through a bonding bill, budget adjustments and minor policy legislation. Through the years the "short" sessions had become just another version of the "long" odd numbered year budget sessions.

Current legislative leaders, including our friend Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, decided that the only real way to have a "short" session was to start later. Human nature being the way it is I think they are correct as legislative session nearly always last until the constitutional deadline for adjournment in late May.

What it means is a little more time to do some other things for TPA members, like the roads task force mentioned above, that in most years would have to wait.



As we monitor the public timber auction results it looks like prices are creeping up again. I'm not sure what in the underlying forest products economy supports this. Markets continue to be under stress for most of our products even as our country crawls out of this deep recession.

We can all hope that the coming months will bring better economic conditions and the return of profitability for everyone in our industry. If we're not all economically healthy, from forest to finished product, then none of us are healthy.



The University of Minnesota is going through another one of its organizational reviews. The last time this happened they decided to merge the College of Natural Resources with the College of Agriculture. The new structure was named the College of Food Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS).

Current discussions relate to whether or not to merge CFANS

with the College of Biological Sciences. This would result in a college of biological, food, agricultural and natural resource sciences. My guess is the name would be something pretty close to that. And, names do matter.

If this happens we will see a transformation from having a college dedicated to natural resources to these programs being, potentially, fourth fiddle in a larger administrative structure.

While programs matter more than names and administrative structures, all of these things matter. Natural resource programs could be strengthened in a merged structure. But, I'm skeptical that this will happen.

As our state's Land Grant College, the University of Minnesota has an obligation to natural resources and agriculture. The university needs to support, promote and fulfill this obligation to programs that are vital to the entire state.



As another year heads to the rear view mirror I am grateful for the many blessings that I have: healthy children who are now young adults making their ways in the world; good health and great friends; and the privilege of working for the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. I enjoy the issues we work on, the people I work with and the members of our organization. I feel truly privileged to be a part of this great organization.

I wish each of you a safe and happy time with your families and friends this Christmas.

*Wayne E. Brant*

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## Member Feature...



The crew at John Rolle Logging shares a laugh. L-R: Mike Anderson, Nick Lake, Dale Rahier, John Rolle, Tony Lautizi, Gary Fosso, Don Larson, and Kevin Lenzen.

# No Surrender

**With the help of a loyal crew, John Rolle has survived the industry's economic downturn to keep his logging company managing the forest for over 30 years.**

by Ray Higgins

**J**ohn Rolle walked through his company's latest logging job on 88 acres of state land, just southwest of Cook. Harvesting operations had started the day before, and Rolle liked what he saw, how his crew was taking care of the land and working together.

"Ninety-eight percent of my success I owe to my crew," Rolle says. "These guys are incredible. They work well together. They work hard and they are really good at what they do. They're

phenomenal.

"We're fanatics. We try to be fanatics on the ground, and we try to keep up with the maintenance on this equipment. If you can't afford to take care of your equipment, you can't afford to be out here."

That attention to detail and teamwork is a big reason why John Rolle Logging was named Great Lakes Region Logger of the Year by the Forest Resources Association in October. It's also why the members of Rolle's crew have stayed with the company for the long haul, some longer than 20 years.

Rolle is a native of Chisholm. His

father Dario owned and operated Rolle Ready Mix, a construction company. John started working for his dad as early as the 8th grade, and always had a job when needed, through high school (he graduated in 1972), two years at Hibbing Community College, and for a couple of years after that. But he had learned to love the outdoors at a young age.

"I was eight years old," he says, "and all I ever wanted to do was be in the woods. So I hunted and fished, both by myself and with my best friend. I ended up getting a timber magazine, and in my early





**John Rolle**

20s I started cutting fire wood.”

He used the wood himself and for others who needed it. When the construction business slowed down in the winter of 1980, he decided to buy a cable skidder, then a second one.

“Then I bought an old Barko 160 loader with a Detroit engine and a slasher and mounted it on an old cement truck that my dad had,” Rolle says. “So we cable skidded and put out wood for Clusiau Brothers. They were loggers who’ve retired since then, but I subcontracted with them, and then I started picking up my own contracts around 1985 or ‘86 and the next thing you know, here I am.”

Rolle didn’t grow up in the business like so many of his fellow loggers did, so he had to learn what it takes to be successful. His strategy was simple.

“I showed up every day,” he says. “You learn from people. You see little things and try to get better.”

And while Rolle’s father wasn’t a logger, he was a small business owner, so there was a lot to learn from him, as well as his mother.


“I was blessed with his drive and spirit,” Rolle says. “He would never be denied. Tenacious. He always

said when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. Everybody in Minnesota went through a lot of plant closures, and sometimes you have to put your head down and go.

“I was fortunate,” he says. “My mother would always tell me honey goes further than vinegar, so if you can treat people decently, and then treat people the way you want to


be treated. There’s no job out here that I wouldn’t help with. I’ve been blessed with these incredibly good operators who take care of their equipment and pride in their work.”


Rolle says he wouldn’t have survived without the men he works with. Mike Anderson has been with the company 25 years and runs a delimeter. Gary Fosso has been here





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**This Tigercat 822C feller buncher is operated by Don Larson and is one of two Rolle uses in harvesting operations.**

almost 20 years and also delimits. Donald Larson is 77-years-old and still runs a feller buncher. Thirteen-year employee Dale Rahier operates a slasher, and Nick Lake mainly skids, but also hauls gravel, can run the buncher, and do pretty much anything. In the wintertime, Kevin Lenzen and Tony Lautizi join the crew to run buncher and skidder, respectively. This enables Rolle to basically run two sets of conventional equipment on one sale, allowing for increased production. But he says, there's another reason.

"I try to keep everybody together," Rolle says. "More guys makes it a little easier. As you get older, you just try to take care of everybody."

"These guys are talented, and they have the system," he says. "You have to have a system. If you make each step a little easier for the next guy, then things seem to fall into place."

"We have a theory: if the first drag to the loader goes good, the whole job's going to go good. And if you fight it, if these guys fight the bunching and the

skidding, it slows it down. But if he makes it easier for the loader – and they do, they help each other – then our slashing and processing goes faster. So it's a matter of laying it out correctly. That's how you make the first drag go well."

Rolle's crew does things a bit differently. Most conventional crews fall the trees and have a

skidder drag the trees back to the landing where the delimeter does its job before the wood is slashed and loaded onto trucks for hauling to the mill. Not Rolle. Here, the delimiters leave the landing and move about the sale, delimiting the wood where its harvested *before* it's skidded to the landing. Rolle says they do it this way for a several of reasons.

"For one thing, we're burning less fuel not dragging those limbs," Rolle says. "The skidder is just bringing wood back to the landing, so he can pull more on every drag. And then those skidder operators aren't coming all the way from the back of the job to the delimeter, bouncing around, they're just going steady. He's skidding more wood that's already delimited, and making fewer trips."

"Second, they want the slash scattered throughout the sale. By doing it this way, we're getting it scattered throughout the sale. The slash isn't 50 feet from the landing, so the agencies like it. And third, in the summertime it controls the dust. You're skidding on limbs instead of bare dirt."

"Some say this way we're handling the wood twice," he says. "Well maybe. But I think everybody has to handle it twice in some fashion if you're sorting wood. And we don't have to haul the slash



**Because the Rolle crew skids the wood to the landing after it has been delimited, he feels he realizes a significant saving in fuel costs. The company utilizes this John Deere 648G skidder, as well as a Deere 748H.**



Rolle purchased his John Deere 650 dozer when it was new in 1995.

back out to the sale because it's already scattered. That's what takes time."

Because the delimeter operator is the first to handle the wood after falling, he's the one who also sorts

trees by size and species, making it easier for the skidder operator. Because the felled trees are already without limbs, they can be lined up with the butt ends together, making for easier skidding.

"They're being lined up so the butts are on the same side, so it's a nice even bundle," Rolle says. "The tree length drags will be from like nine or 10 inches up to 25 inches in diameter. Anything eight or nine inches in diameter and smaller will be slashed and the short wood trucks take that, and the tree length trucks will haul the bigger wood, whatever we have on the job."

It's these efficiencies, not to mention the professionalism of the crew, that helps Rolle Logging thrive. That professionalism extends to the care and maintenance of the woods equipment. None of it is new, but every piece is well-cared for, not just by Rolle, but also by the rest of the crew.

"I'm intense," Rolle says. "They are too. My dad used to know a mechanic that would say, 'that's good enough.' Well nothing's good enough if it's not done right the first time."

He points to the little John Deere 650 dozer he uses for road clearing. Purchased new in 1995, it's still going strong thanks to the Rolle crew's TLC. Plus, they have a system for road clearing, too.

"It's like the Eveready battery," Rolle says. "Everyone says that's a

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Rolle's Komatsu delimber with a Pro Pac boom limbs the wood throughout the sale rather than at the landing. Rolle also has a John Deere with a Denharco boom.

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small dozer. But my roads are all done, because we use the bunchers and the excavator. The rocks are all pulled out by the excavator. We cut the right-of-ways, the roads and the landing with the feller buncher, and we lean on the trees with the buncher to loosen the stumps in this heavy clay, and then the excavator comes and plucks the stumps and throws them out of the way with the rocks, and then we follow behind with the dozer. And it all looks great.”

In addition to the woods crew, Darrell Rahier, Terry Rautiola, and Lloyd Schofield handle the hauling of the timber to the mill.

Rolle also gives a large measure of credit to his wife Mary for her support in his more than 30 years in business.

“She’s never made a fuss when I was out working hard,” he says. “She’s very supportive. I couldn’t have done it without her.”

So the work on the 88-acre job continues. There are 1,200 cords of pine to cut, along with 820 cords of aspen, 155 cords of spruce, 40 cords of balsam, and another 30 cords of hardwoods. The aspen and pine pulp are headed for Boise, while the pine bolts will be hauled to Potlatch in Bemidji and Hedstrom Lumber in Grand Marais.

As hard as he and the crew works, they like to laugh together and Rolle has been known to break away to travel to thirty Bruce Springsteen concerts throughout the country. In fact, he likens his crew to the lyrics in a song Springsteen wrote



Once the timber is delimbed, it’s lined up with the butts facing the same way for easier skidding and sorting.

in tribute to his famed E Street Band called *Blood Brothers*.

“So many roads traveled, so many rivers crossed,” he recites. “I can relate to that.

“These guys here are all incredible. Look at them.

We have fun out here. I mean, there are days, but let me give you an example: We cut a private sale. We started at 6:30 in the morning and finished at 8 at night. We

slashed 284 cords of Norway pine bolts, and 58 cords of pulp wood, 342 cords in one day, and sorted everything while we did it. This system works because our guys can handle it. They make every move count.”



Harvested red pine waits to be hauled to the mill.



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# John Rolle: 2013 Lake States Outstanding Logger



FRA Lake States Chair Jon Lamy (at right) presents 2013 Outstanding Logger Award to John Rolle and his wife Mary.

**T**he Forest Resources Association's Lake States Region and Stihl Incorporated have recognized John Rolle of Chisholm, Minn., as the 2013 Regional Outstanding Logger. Stihl Incorporated presented the award to John during the Lake States Region Awards ceremony in Duluth, Minn. on Oct. 30.

Rolle now becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger recognition.

John Rolle Logging has developed a strong reputation for conducting harvesting operations in a manner that is sensitive to both environmental quality and to landowner objectives. The fact that the company has been in business for over 30 years is a testament to John's commitment to professionalism in all aspects of the job.

MLEP (Minnesota Logger Education Program)

Executive Director David Chura lauded Rolle, noting that, "Rolle's professionalism and outstanding logging performances exemplify the professional independent logging contractors within Minnesota's forestry community. He is committed to safe, professional, responsible timber operations.

FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance, raise the visibility of professional logging contractors, encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners, and improve forester-logger-landowner relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

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# Senator Saxhaug Supports SFI and Tree Farm

*Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) wrote the following opinion piece which initially appeared in the Bemidji Pioneer. It is reprinted here with Sen. Saxhaug's permission.*

**M**illions of Americans nationwide directly or indirectly depend on the forest products industry to support their livelihoods. In rural areas in particular, timber serves as the backbone of the community, providing jobs and revenues for families, business, and much needed services. These areas are best served by policies that promote the use of sustainable timber, not restrict it.



**Senator Saxhaug**

One way businesses ensure sustainability is to certify their land or products to the standards of programs such as the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These certification systems all promote sound land management and keep forests economically and ecologically viable for the near and long-term future. They do this by mandating that property owners implement sound practices that promote conservation.

It is not just foresters and tree farmers who express interest in certification. Many large retailers also want to source from supply chains that ensure sustainability. 3M, which employs 15,000 workers in Minnesota, sells products that are SFI chain of custody certified. As a result, the company ensures that consumers purchase products that contain materials responsibly procured from our land.

It is unfortunate that some policies favored by many cities across the U.S. fail to acknowledge

ATFS and SFI timber as sustainable. Specifically, a majority of American wood that has been recognized by certification programs often finds it difficult to enter "LEED" projects, which number in the thousands nationwide. While LEED provides sustainable sourcing credits to wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), it fails to do so for lumber recognized by ATFS and SFI. Combined, ATFS and SFI forestland outnumbers FSC property by tens of millions of acres in the U.S., but businesses that utilize ATFS and SFI timber instead of FSC find themselves blocked from participating in LEED projects and unable to get building contracts.

This has the effect of limiting commerce in building markets and depriving businesses of new customers. With fewer markets to sell in, businesses see their revenues and employment levels stagnate or fall.

Furthermore, misguided pressure against private retailers from non-governmental organizations can negatively impact forest products markets. One group recently protested 3M in Minneapolis because they do not certify their

products to their preferred standard. Businesses caught in the middle of these debates may decide not to take sides and withdraw from selling certified products altogether, which harms producers and consumers. Businesses cannot get their products to consumers if retailers will not stock them on store shelves.

Here in Minnesota, the timber industry has declined by one-third in the last few years, straining families and businesses across the state. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources already recognizes FSC and SFI as equally contributing to sustainability, as do many private sector enterprises; however, our businesses must have fair access to markets in all 49 other states.

We can promote this fairer marketplace by encouraging competition among forest certification programs, not exclusion. Such a step will allow more domestic wood into American construction and building projects increase the consumption of U.S. forest products overall and therefore lead to more jobs in Minnesota and throughout the country.



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# Incentive Program Available for Landowners

## Responsible Logging can Improve Habitat for Golden-Winged Warblers

**P**riate forest landowners can harvest timber to create habitat that will help one of the most imperiled migratory songbirds in North America: the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA), and an incentive program has been created to encourage these harvests.

From 1966-2010, this species experienced one of the most precipitous declines of any songbird in the United States. Historically, the GWWA nested in early successional forest sites created by natural disturbance that stretched from northwestern Minnesota to Appalachia, as far south as Tennessee and east to New Hampshire. Declines in the GWWA numbers can be attributed to fragmentation or loss of young deciduous forest breeding habitat, range displacement and hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler, and nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird.

Today the GWWA management region that includes northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin

represents a last stronghold for the GWWA, containing approximately 57 percent of the world's remaining nesting population. As a result, Minnesota is a key state in an international initiative to save the Golden-winged Warbler from further population decline.

Successfully achieving GWWA population goals will require creating, restoring and maintaining forested landscapes with balanced distributions



of young and mature forests in Minnesota.

Private land owners can play a pivotal role in creating habitat for this species on their property with as little as 10 acres. In addition to providing support for the Golden-winged Warbler, young forests also create important habitat for other declining species like the American Woodcock, as well as more common game species like Ruffed Grouse, black bear, deer and Wild Turkey.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and American Bird Conservancy (ABC) have joined forces to help private landowners design and implement the development of early successional habitat on qualifying lands. An incentive program is in place to attract potential habitat restoration projects

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on private lands that are within the GWWA focal area. The incentive payments are designed to offset the expense of the projects, compensate landowners for trees reserved from harvest and promote the creation of this type of habitat immediately. Payments are made on a per-acre basis and depend on the type of project. An ABC forester has been hired to design and lay out the habitat treatment acres and to ensure that the treatments comply with NRCS practice standards.

The most common mechanical treatment to create GWWA habitat is the harvest and regeneration of aspen species. The cuts must meet certain criteria to be eligible for the incentive payments. An example of a common treatment is patch clearcutting conducted on several smaller units while mature forest is maintained in the adjacent forest matrix. Another example is cutting larger forest blocks dominated by aspen or northern hardwoods, while retaining an evenly spaced number of healthy trees (5-15/acre). Larger cutting blocks with 15 percent of the cover type reserved as small legacy patches is another good example of a way to create adequate GWWA nesting habitat. Finally, early successional habitat can be created in oak, birch, ash, and northern hardwood cover types or by shearing decadent upland brush or pole-sized aspen saplings.

To learn whether an interested landowner qualifies for this program, write to Erin M. Loeffler, Soil Conservation Tech, USDA-NRCS, 4850 Miller Trunk Hwy. St.2B, Duluth MN 55811 or phone 218-720-5209 ext. 114.

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# Arrests Made in Theft of Spruce Tops

**T**wo Meadowlands residents were in court in December, facing charges of stealing spruce tops from St. Louis County Land in November.

Steven George Morterud and Tara Lynn Herrick face gross misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor trespass charges in the case. If convicted, the penalties would be up to one year in jail and up to \$3000 in fines.

## Timber Talk

According to the St. Louis County Land Department, 1970 spruce tops were stolen, totaling just over \$800 in lost revenue to the county. The retail value of the tops would be in excess of \$12,000.

"We do get a lot of these thefts," said Jason Meyer of the St. Louis County Land Department. "It's happening all over, especially in the

southwestern part of the county, and it's nice to catch up with these folks once in a while because the county is losing quite a bit of money in spruce top thefts every year."

## Gypsy Moth Quarantine Proposed

**T**he Minnesota Department of Agriculture was expected to propose a quarantine of Lake and Cook counties to take effect in April 2014. This would restrict the transportation of harvested wood from the quarantined counties.

If the quarantine goes into effect, mills outside the quarantined counties would be required to meet these conditions:

- All timber and byproducts harvested from within the quarantined counties during the high-risk period of May and

June must be consumed within five days.

- All "winter" timber harvested from the quarantined area would need to be utilized by the end of April.

Before the quarantine is implemented, the Department of Agriculture will publish the proposed quarantine in the state register in January. This will be followed by a comment period. Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Dave Fredrickson will consider these comments before making a final determination on the proposed quarantine.

TPA has met with Commissioner Fredrickson and with Department of Agriculture staff about the proposal on several occasions and will continue to seek solutions that would minimize loggers ability to deliver harvested timber to market, as well as the ability of mills to consume delivered wood.



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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**

### Cass County

October 31 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$15.24	\$15.85
Basswood	\$ 8.66	\$ 9.67
Birch	\$12.33	\$11.47
Red Oak	\$16.69	\$19.69

All 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### St. Louis County

November 7 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
pulpwood	\$25.24	NA
Birch		
pulpwood	\$ 5.75	NA
Red Maple		
pulpwood	\$ 2.78	NA
Black Spruce		
pulpwood	\$21.32	NA
Balsam Fir		
pulpwood	\$ 4.85	NA

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

### Koochiching County

November 20 – Sealed Bid

Aspen P/B	\$32.65	\$29.02
Spruce P/B	\$19.38	\$27.48
Tamarack P/B	\$ 6.61	\$ 5.28
Balsam P/B	\$ 7.68	\$ 7.53

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

### Cass County

November 27 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$26.69	\$19.67
Red Oak	\$20.12	\$20.80
Birch	\$16.29	\$13.55

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR – Baudette Falls Area

November 26 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$29.47	\$28.75
Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	NA	\$22.53
Jack Pine		
(WMP)	NA	\$30.21
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 5.10	\$ 3.41

18 of the 19 tracts offered during the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.

### DNR – Tower Area

December 3 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$24.03	\$23.53
Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	\$29.45	\$24.79
Black Spruce		
(WC)	\$21.04	\$27.93
Mixed Spruce		
(WMP)	\$25.45	\$15.92
Jack Pine		
(WMP)	\$36.25	NA

11 of the 18 tracts offered during the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.

### Carlton County

December 5 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$31.62	NA
Norway Pine		
P/B	\$35.04	NA
Paper Birch	\$21.46	NA

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

### Itasca County

December 5 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$26.49	NA
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Balsam	\$17.72	NA
Black Spruce	\$27.37	NA
Maple	\$ 7.93	NA

Results above are for the combined regular and intermediate auctions, as reported by Itasca County. 40 of the 44 tracts offered during the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.

### Beltrami County

September 3 & 5 –  
Sealed Bid & Oral Auction

Aspen	\$24.09	NA
R&W Pine P/B	\$57.22	NA
R&W Pine Bolts	\$59.87	NA
Jack Pine P/B	\$35.13	NA

24 of 25 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR – Cloquet Area

December 5 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$26.76	\$27.22
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$66.24	NA
Black Spruce		
(WMP)	\$12.81	NA
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 4.84	NA

8 of the 9 tracts offered during the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.



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**DNR – Aitkin Area**

December 9 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$36.53	\$29.70
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$37.49	\$24.06
Pine Species (WMP)	\$61.34	\$ 9.50
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$62.82	\$22.77

19 of the 27 tracts offered during the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.

**Aitkin County**

December 9 – Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$23.56	NA
Aspen Pulp	\$30.53	NA
Maple Pulp	\$11.51	NA
Mixed Hardwood P/B	\$11.36	NA

25 of 38 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Products:**

- PB= Pulp and Bolts
- WMP= Woodsrun mixed Products
- WC= Woodsrun cordwood
- ST=Sawtimber
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# MnDOT Commissioner Zelle at TPA Board Meeting

**M**innesota DOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle answered questions on a variety of topics at TPA's Fall Board of Directors meeting. TPA directors had the opportunity to ask a variety of questions, including about the state of Minnesota's highway system, its importance to the viability of our state's logging community, and maintenance of the system. Commissioner Zelle also gave a presentation on current transportation funding in the state, as well as expected future needs. Zelle was joined by MnDOT District Engineer Duane Hill.

Minnesota Sen. Dave Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids), and Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township) also addressed the board and took questions about legislative accomplishments this year and about the 2014 legislative session.



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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## "Skidding by Horse & Ax"

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*



After watching various rubber-tired skidders demonstrated at the annual TPA logging demonstration and having seen the many types of power skidders entering the north woods in recent years, one may wonder how the vast stands of virgin pine in northern Minnesota were ever logged, considering that loggers had to skid mostly with horses and oxen.

In the early days, when logs were skidded to the rivers and lakes, quite a few oxen were used. They were slow and powerful, moved well in the brush, ate less than horses, were less expensive and needed less care. The oxen were generally paired, but it was not uncommon to see four or six oxen skidding a large log.

In Minnesota, oxen were used mostly in the southern part of the pine range along the St. Croix River, the Rum River and up along the Mississippi River to Grand Rapids or to a short distance west. Very few were used in the northern part of the pine range.

Throughout the northern half of the pine range, horses were used for most of the log skidding. Two horses were used most often but with a small run of timber, sometimes a single horse was used.

When a large butt log was too much for a single team, it was left until all the skidding nearby was done. Then four horses would go in and skid all the big butt logs that had been left on a certain tract. This was usually done late in the spring as a cleanup.

I remember one spring at one of the Northern Lumber Co. camps run by Tom Henderson, an unusual number of pine butt logs were skidded. Early in April, they were left two and three on a skidway all along the railroad track in Section 30-53-12. Dan McCloud was scaling them as we happened along. We were estimating the number of board feet in each log. These ran from 900 to 1,200 board feet per log. They were all loaded at one time and made eight cars of the finest pine logs I ever saw.

Skidding tongs were used on most logs and they were skidded one at a time. However, when the logs ran small, a skidding chain was used and then two, three or even four logs were skidded at a time. Skidding usually was confined to about 40 rods from the skidway or about half way across a forty—logging roads usually went through the center of a forty if the terrain was level.

When skidding had to be done for any distance, a single-bunk dray with spikes along the tops of the bunk was used. The butt end of the log was then rolled onto the dray and the top end left dragging on the ground. Two or three logs could be hauled in this manner. With the front end of the log on the dray, pulling was much easier for the horses.

Ties, pulp, posts and other short products were skidded with a two-bunk dray—usually pulled with a team of horses—and about a cord was taken out

each trip. Here skidding was confined to less than one-fourth of a mile.

Some large logs were peeled or barked on one side and then rolled and skidded with the smooth side down to make the pulling easier for the horses.

Cedar poles, mining poles and long timbers were skidded similarly to logs, with the single-bunk dray used for longer distance skidding.

A team of horses and one man would skid up to 150 logs per day. There was usually one "swamper" cutting trails for each skidding team. Often, as many horses skidded as hauled logs in a camp. However, plans were to have most of the skidding done early in January before the snow got deep. Most sleigh-haul logs were decked in the woods so a whole load could be loaded in one spot and the sleigh not moved with half a load or several times while being loaded.

Only one company used the steam skidder with any success in Minnesota. That was the Crookston Lumber Co. of Bemidji, which did steam skidding in the Kelliher, Mizpah, Northome and Blackduck areas from 1910 to 1920. Several other companies tried this high-line cable skidding but had little success. The Cloquet Lumber Co. tried it in the Cloquet Valley Forest area.

The cost of log skidding was one of the factors a lumber camp foreman watched very closely. And he always tried to get a good straw-boss to handle the crews.



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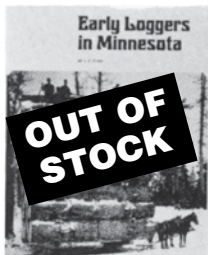
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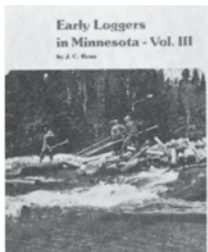
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by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



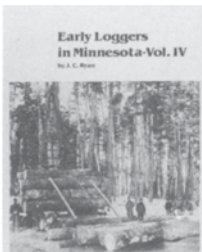
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