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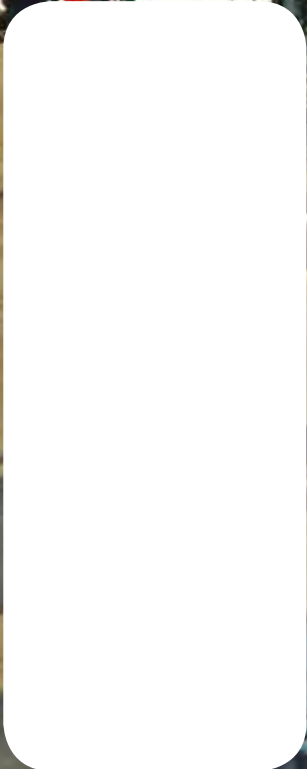
# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

VOLUME 68

**60th Annual North Star Expo**  
**House Speaker Tours**  
**Timber Industry**  
**A Great Day at the Office –**  
**Ron Guertin Logging**



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Volume 68  
September/October 2013  
Duluth, Minnesota

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### ON THE COVER

A birds-eye view of the 60th Annual North Star Expo at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. For more on this year's event, please turn to page 18.

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**H**ope everyone has a chance to enjoy the fall colors and smells and enjoy it as much as I do. It's a great time to be in the forest, working, and enjoying the gifts

## President's Column



we have been given. I'm not even sure it should be called work this time of year.

The Timber Producers Association held its fall board meeting in Grand Rapids at the end of October. It was a good opportunity for those interested to participate and influence policies. After all, the world is still run by the people that show up.

Be safe and enjoy the season.

*"It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."*

**Samuel Adams**

Take Care,

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# Years Ago in the Bulletin

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

### 25 Years Ago

- The 1988 North Star Expo, TPA's annual equipment show, sponsored jointly with the U of M, was held October 7-8 at the Duluth Convention Center on the city's colorful waterfront. A record number of lots and booths were occupied by the vendors who serve the Minnesota Timber Industry. The entire Arena Convention Center complex was covered inside and out with a wide variety of logging and sawmill machinery. A new feature of the show this year was the Best Load Contest. Consuming mills were contacted to sponsor a truck or tractor-trailer outfit, and a total of 11 entries participated.

### 40 Years Ago

- Due to efforts of the Timber Producers Association, improvements were made in the winter hauling law during the last legislative session, making it possible for loggers to start hauling heavier loads December 1st in the northern area.
- Dennis Ingvaldson, former area staff forester in Bemidji, has been appointed area forest supervisor in the Blackduck area.
- Blandin Paper Company's \$32 million expansion will include a new Beloit paper machine that will produce 100,000 tons per year of base weight paper between 32 and 45 pounds. The new plant will create approximately 125 new jobs and will increase the company's wood consumption by 50,000 cords per year. Start-up is planned in late 1975.

### 50 Years Ago

- Neil DeLack of Littlefork has been appointed to eventually headup the Section Corner Project and assist in forest management activities in the Littlefork area for Koochiching County Land and Forestry Department.

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**T**hank you to all of the vendors who exhibited at this years' *North Star Expo* and to all of you, your family, friends and colleagues who attended the show. A big thank you also to Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp and all of the committee members, along with Ray Higgins and Ann Todd from our office! Putting the show together is a large undertaking for the vendors who move and display millions of dollars of equipment, our committee who organizes it and our staff who helps make it run smoothly.



With the fall hunting season on us already I always remember taking

## Executive Vice President's Column



the gun safety class as a kid. The class taught you what was right, wrong and safe when handling a firearm. But, safe hunting is a cultural thing. Practiced and passed on from generation to generation and part of the ethics and culture of the hunt. Let's make safety on the job part of the culture and ethics of our companies. Let's pass it from owner to employee to employee and particularly to new employees. Practicing safety every day is just as important at work as it is on the hunt. Be safe.



Congratulations to Jack Hedstrom who recently retired after 45 years with the 99-year-old Hedstrom Lumber. Jack's career included production planning, dry kiln operations, sales and shipping coordination. He was also particularly active in national lumber grading and standards groups. Best wishes to Jack in his retirement.



As I write this column we are in the midst of the federal government shutdown. It seems that there is plenty of blame to go around in this one.

Unfortunately, we are one of the

losers in the whole process with the USFS in the process of shutting down operations on any active timber sales on their lands.

The process represents another sad and embarrassing time for the citizens of our country. The two parties are unable to come together to govern is damning for both.



While not retiring, Howard Hedstrom was recently honored as he completed his term as the inaugural chair of the Federal Forest Resources Coalition. Howard was the driving force in establishing this important national group that focuses on U.S. Forest Service management and timber sales. Howard is an important and respected voice in the halls of Washington for everyone on timber issues.



'Tis the season for the tours, or so it seems. We were pleased to host MN House Speaker Paul Thissen for a two-day tour this fall. It's not often that a legislator from south Minneapolis, let alone the speaker of the house, is willing to commit two days just to learn about logging, forestry and mill operations.

This tour was the outgrowth of conversations that I had with the speaker during the last legislative

session. He was interested in our issues and helpful. Towards the end of the session he remarked that he would like to come up and learn more about us and what we do. It wasn't just an offhand remark as he followed through with scheduling the time to be with us in the woods, on logging jobs, in some mills and at a meet and greet reception in Bemidji.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the tour and to TPA Executive Committee member Scott Pittack who even brought the Speaker into the cab of his processor to snip a few trees.



The DNR also hosted a tour with legislators that I was able to participate in. The tour focused on Permanent School Trust fund lands and included stops in the St. Croix river area blowdown that happened a couple of years ago, an active logging job, and a couple of recent harvests. It also included stops that addressed land exchanges and iron mining on trust lands.

Congratulations to the DNR for a well organized tour and thank you to the many legislators who took two days to learn more about these issues on the ground.

*Wayne E. Brant*

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## Member Feature...



Left to right: Scott Broberg and Ron Guertin

# A Great Day at the Office

**Ron Guertin's office is the woods, and although he's found danger and near-tragedy there, there's no place he'd rather be.**

by Ray Higgins

**A**s Ron Guertin handles a Stihl MS660 chainsaw, delimiting the aspen he's just harvested, he can't believe his good fortune. The sky is cloudless, temperatures are in the mid-60s, and hand delimiting fresh timber is his favorite part of the job. Life is good.

"This," Guertin says smiling, "is the best day of the year! I love it out

here. All fall. Any hunter would say that. Temperature-wise, it's the best. Just being out here. I just love the fall. It's better than summer. It's a great day at the office."

And the wood is good. It's nice and straight, the skid to the landing is so short, and the haul to Blandin is so short, he can make four deliveries a day.

"It's exceptional," Guertin says of this 200-cord Aitkin County sale.

On a day like this one, most

folks who'd find themselves in Minnesota's north woods would agree, it's a picture perfect. But for the 46-year-old Guertin, it's extra special, particularly after what happened five years before.

\* \* \*

Guertin grew up just north of Cohasset, on a farm with his mother, father, brother, and six sisters, and 70 head of beef cattle. Plus, his father George logged, selling





Ron Guertin operates a John Deere 843G feller buncher to harvest aspen on an Aitkin County sale near Jacobson.

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Guertin limbs harvested timber with a Stihl MS 660 Chainsaw. Limbing by hand is Guertin's favorite part of the job.

timber to Blandin and the Blandex mill – which later became Potlatch and then Ainsworth. Ron was raised working side-by-side with his siblings on the farm, but he was attracted to the woods.

"When I was 14," he says, "on summer vacation, I told my dad I thought it was time for me to start logging, make some money. I think he had in the back of his mind, 'we'll see how good this kid is.' So he dragged me up a half a dozen maple drags with an old Timberjack cable skidder, with the limbs and the leaves and everything, and he gave me the saw and he said, 'start limbing.' I think he figured he was going to make me or break me. But I must have done a good job,

because from then on, I limbed for him.

"Then when I went back to school, I'd come right from school, throw my clothes on, my chaps and everything, and I'd cut everything that he'd skidded all day long, and then he'd roll it in piles. I did that six days a week. Saturday I'd work all day. And that's how it started."

When Guertin graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1986, he enrolled at Itasca Community College, planning on becoming a forester. But after a semester, his father was diagnosed with colon cancer.

"It was bad," he says. "So the choice was either get rid of the logging and the farming because my dad wasn't going to be able to do it, and stay in school, or quit school and take over the logging and the farming. So we talked about it and that's what I did."

That lasted a couple of years. The colon cancer claimed George in 1988, and Ron's family urged him to try something else.

"I had three or four brothers-in-law that worked at Blandin," he says. "They were always saying, 'you just grab your lunch pail and you go to work at the paper mill.' So I put in an application and by gosh if I didn't get hired right away when 6 line was going online."

That was February 1990. He worked on the coaters at the mill for a while and ended up in clay prep, making clay for the papermaking process. But after 13 years, when the mill decided to shutdown some of its paper machines, Guertin was laid-off.

"If they hadn't laid me off I'd still be there," he says. "I liked it. It was a good job

Fortunately Guertin never sold his skidder and continued to cut a small amount of wood in the wintertime, marketing the timber



Harvested aspen waits to be skidded to the landing.

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Guertin drags wood to the landing with a John Deere 648H skidder.

through area brokers like Ted Kromy and Jerry Demenge. So when he found himself out of a job at the mill, it was easy to go back to the woods.

“The day they finally let me go,” Guertin says, “I knew right what I was going to do because the skidder was there, and I had some private wood bought. I was in the skidder the next day.”

Over the years he’s gradually been able to market his own wood, mostly to Blandin, Sappi, and NewPage. But it’s always been a small operation, with no more than two other employees. One was a co-worker at from Blandin, Ron Burton.

“Ron was always doing extra work, whether it was pouring concrete, logging, whatever,” Guertin says. “He’d work with me when he could and then he quit the mill and worked with me full time.”

The other member of the Guertin team also had mill experience. Scott Broberg is Guertin’s father-in-law, working as a millwright at Ainsworth in Grand Rapids. When that mill closed he went to work at the mines. But when Guertin decided he needed some extra help in the woods running

the slasher, Broberg jumped at the chance.

“Ainsworth did me a favor laying me off,” Broberg says.

Now, Broberg works four days a week in the slasher, taking Wednesdays off, and any other day Guertin doesn’t need him. Which is

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Scott Broberg slashes aspen with a Hood 12,000 slasher loader, featuring a 60 inch saw.

why Broberg wasn't there Sept. 30, 2008.

\* \* \*

Harvesting operations on Guertin's logging job near Balsam Township had been completed, and everything had been delimited. So Broberg had the day off while Burton was running the slasher and Guertin was skidding the last of the timber to the landing.

After Guertin circled the skidder toward the harvested timber so he could back into it with the grapple, the machine wouldn't go into reverse. He put the skidder in park – or thought he had – and hopped out to investigate.

"Now that I think about it, it didn't quite go all the way into park. It went nearly all the way, but it didn't go that much more," he says, holding his thumb and forefinger a tiny fraction of an inch apart. "The park brake just had to go just a little bit farther. But it didn't. But it wasn't in gear, so I hopped out."

When he climbed out and looked underneath, he saw a piece of hazel brush found a hole in the belly pan.

Without thinking about it, he laid on his back and gave it a pull.

That's all it took. The skidder, which hadn't been in park after all, roared into reverse, running over Guertin's mid-section.

The injuries were numerous: a broken pelvis, ruptured spleen, torn diaphragm, and lacerated liver. His stomach was jammed up into his chest. It should come as no surprise that there was also massive internal bleeding.

Guertin was still alive, but not out of danger. Because he had been circling before backing into the drag,

the skidder was "kinked" meaning once it ran over him, it continued on a circular path.

"The back-up alarm was going," Guertin recalls, "and it was in low gear, and it started making the circle. I had heard the bones break, so I knew I was hurt, and I thought, that thing's going to come back around and I'm not going to get out of the way." So I kind of rolled into a depression a few feet away. But the skidder didn't quite make it. It hit a stump and died."

Now the problem was, Guertin had been alone when all of this



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happened. Broberg hadn't been there and Burton was slashing at the other end of the sale. All Guertin could do now is wait and hope Burton noticed he'd been gone too long.

"We kind of had a thing," Guertin says. "You know when the other guy should be back, and Ron knew I should have been back with that drag. Pretty soon I heard the slasher stop and the other skidder start up, and out he came. Once he found me he ran and called 911."

That started a flurry of activity. Soon the Balsam Township Fire Department arrived. Logging sites can be notoriously difficult to find for first responders, but fortunately for Guertin, one of the Balsam Township guys had been picking up tops and limbs from the job site and when he heard the call he knew right where to go. They were followed by the folks from Hibbing Advanced Life Support. And a medical helicopter out of Brainerd was already in the air and diverted to pick up Guertin and take him to Duluth.

The recovery wasn't easy. No one who saw Guertin in the hospital with the breathing tube and all the IVs would have been surprised if he didn't make it. But he did. After two weeks in ICU, Guertin spent a week in "step-down" and another in Duluth's Miller Dwan rehab facility, before getting to go back to the farm. From there it was weeks of rehab appointments in Grand Rapids, as well as constant care in the form of home health care.

All that time, Burton and Broberg had been keeping the business going, with the help of Guertin's close friend, logger Paul Stangler. By early February, four months after the accident, Guertin miraculously climbed back in the feller buncher, and returned to work.

"It was painful," Guertin says, "but I just had to get out of the house."

That May, Guertin underwent the last of four surgeries. Now five years later, he says he feels as healthy as he did before the accident. He works just as hard and suffers no residual effects. The

only real difference is that on those days he's alone in the woods, he's sure to keep his cell phone handy, and his wife Rachael will call a half dozen times throughout the day. In fact, so much good happened in the accident's wake, Guertin's almost glad it happened.

"There's so much good that happens that no one ever sees," he says. "The average guy doesn't see it. But when that happened to me, the people stepped up. It's amazing. Rachael was down there for three weeks and never left me. My nephew and his wife moved into the house to take care of my two older daughters, take care of the dogs and the cats. Paul Stangler helped keep the business going. Ron Burton and another buddy, they took care of the farm. Two of my farm buddies, they helped vaccinate all of the cows, sorted the calves, sold the calves. Another buddy hauled all the hay home. Scott and Cathy (Broberg) brought food over to the house for the kids. Another two different friends of mine, they took my son, who was



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**Guertin hires Terry Scovel Trucking to haul the harvested timber to the mill. This load is on its way to the UPM Blandin mill in Grand Rapids.**

2 or 3 at the time. The snowmobile club came over and cut my whole pile of wood, split it and threw it in the wood shed. One of the neighbor guys would come over and throw wood down in the basement. Some other neighbors put tin on the shed. The church had a fundraiser there. The tractor association in Deer River put on a big benefit. People came over to visit me when I was laid up and couldn't get out of bed. Guys from the mill I hadn't seen in years came to see me. Wood buyers and mill guys came and donated stuff for the benefits. Opening of deer hunting, the guys would bring their deer over, back it up to the picture window so I could see their deer. And that's not even everything. We didn't ask anybody to do anything, they just did it. It's just amazing what everybody did. It kind of gives you a little perspective on what's important.

"Glad it happened? In a way I am. I don't want to go through that again, but it just opens your eyes."

\* \* \*

Back at work, there's plenty to do. The Guertins still live on the

farm where Ron grew up. Rachael handles the beef cattle, numbering 140 head right now. Rachael also handles the books for the logging business and raises their three kids.

Guertin says having worked at Blandin gives him an understanding of what the paper mills are looking for and helps him make silvicultural decisions in the woods. And because Broberg worked at Ainsworth, they also have a working knowledge of OSB plants.

There's also plenty to do because the logging crew is down to just Guertin with the part-time help four days a week from Broberg. There wasn't enough work last year to keep Ron Burton on, so he left and found work as a carpenter. To compensate, Guertin hires a couple of high school kids – football players from Grand Rapids – to help with the limbing in the wintertime.

"The winter before Ron left," Guertin says, "I put out the most wood I've ever put out. And after breakup got done I sat down and I had the least amount of money ever. Trucking sucked up a lot of it. The profits got eaten up between workers' comp, taxes, fuel, and the

trucking. We were putting wood on the landing for less than we used to get when I first started out."

But since then, business has stabilized. Markets are good. While Broberg runs the slasher and loads trucks, Guertin spends the day jumping between the feller buncher and skidder, and handling his favorite chore, delimiting with a chainsaw.

"I love running a chainsaw," he says, "If I had to sit in a skidder or buncher all day I'd go bonkers. I have to get out and do something. Sooner or later I'll have to get a limber. I know I can't limb 20, 30, or 40 cords of wood a day forever. But I love it."

The accident is never far from Guertin's mind. In the months afterward, Ron and Rachael traveled around the region to meet those who cared for him on that day five years ago, and to thank them for saving his life.

And on the anniversary of the accident every year? That's a day Guertin no longer works. It's now a paid company holiday, a day on which Ron and Rachael can spend time together, and be thankful.





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# Boise Paper Mill Sold

## Packaging Corporation of America Purchases International Falls Mill



**P**ackaging Corporation of America (PCA) purchased Boise Inc. in September, including the paper mill in International Falls.

The sale was completed October 25th.

The total purchase price for the company was \$1.995 billion, inclusive of \$714 million of outstanding indebtedness of Boise. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2013 with committed debt financing, but is subject to certain customary conditions and regulatory approvals.

Along with the International Falls paper mill, Boise owns another paper mill in Jackson, Alabama, as well as seven other facilities in the US that make liner board and corrugated packaging products.

PCA manufactures containerboard, corrugated containers, and retail packaging and displays, among other products at over 100 facilities across the US. That includes four containerboard mills and 71 manufacturing locations.

“This acquisition allows us to apply our operating and sales expertise across a much larger system and provides significant growth potential,” PCA Chief Executive Officer Mark Kowlzan said. “We look forward to working with the employees of Boise as we integrate our businesses. I am confident, that together, we will achieve significant operating benefits.”

Boise Board Chair Carl Albert said,

“Our Board and management team have thoroughly evaluated a broad range of strategic options for Boise, and we believe this transaction is the best way to maximize value for our shareholders.”

The sale of the International Falls mill comes as part of a year of significant change at Boise. In September, 265 workers were laid off as part of the idling of the two oldest of its four paper machines at the Falls mill.

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# 60th Annual Expo is Great Minnesota Logging Get Together!

**L**ots of loggers, Friday sunshine, and plenty of big iron. Throw in some great food from Famous Dave's and you have the perfect recipe for the 60th Annual North Star Expo.

This year's event was back in Grand Rapids for a fifth consecutive year, and it was *the* place to see the latest and greatest in logging, trucking, and sawmill equipment. In addition, it was a chance for folks in the logging and forest products industries to talk business and renew acquaintances, as well as a chance for the general public to get a snapshot view of what happens in the woods. That includes more than 100 students and their teachers from Grand Rapids schools who stopped by, and roughly a half dozen media outlets who came to cover the Expo and tell the



In the **Best Outdoor Display – Small Lot Division**, Expo committee chair Joan Pomp (L) presents top honors to Nuss Truck & Equipment. Pomp's Tire was runner-up, and PetroChoice received third place honors.

industry's story.

With so much going on – various contests, good food, and great vendors

– the North Star Expo continues to be, to borrow a phrase, “the Great Minnesota *Logging* Get-Together!”



The **Best Outdoor Display** competition was again split into two divisions: Large Equipment and Small Lot. Here, Nortrax accepts the Blue Ribbon in the **Large Equipment Division**. Ponsse North America finished second, with ZieglerCAT claiming the third spot.






In the Best Indoor Booth competition, FleetPride Truck & Trailer Parts receives the Blue Ribbon from Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. Jackson Lumber Harvester received the second place award, and SunSource placed third.



Matt Lundberg (R) of Lundberg Forest Products in Solway posted the fastest time in the **Loader Contest** for the fifth consecutive year. Finishing second was Jason Roach of Greg Cook Logging, pictured here with son Brody.

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Contestants in this year's **Celebrity Loader** competition included (L-R): Adam Lorch, Northland's NewsCenter; Jennifer Austin, Northland's NewsCenter; Mayor Bob Anderson of International Falls (and former 51-year employee of Boise Paper), Maarja Anderson of WDIO/WIRT-TV, and Lt. Chip Lemon of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division of the Minnesota State Patrol.



Tom Kruschek (C) of Great Northern Logging in Pierz accepts the Blue Ribbon in the **2013 Best Load** competition from Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp, and committee member Jim Gabriel. Kruschek's entry was sponsored by Sappi Fine Paper. Haley Logging of Bigfork provided the second place entry, while Pelland Logging from International Falls finished third. This year's best load competition featured a total of five entries.





Al Weijo of Weijo Logging in Ely applies the maple syrup at the annual Saturday Morning Logger's Breakfast. Weijo was one of many who enjoyed the Expo tradition, sponsored by Nortrax. The John Deere dealer once again sponsored pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice, helping everyone at the Expo – vendors and visitors alike – get their day off on the right foot!

In the **Guess the Weight Competition**, Cassie Ysen of Grand Rapids was the closest to the actual weight to capture the \$50 prize.

In the Wood Identification Contest, Emily Hill won the \$25 prize by correctly recognizing the most wood species. Congratulations Emily!

### Next Year

The TPA Expo committee is already working on plans for next year, and we look forward to seeing you there!



It was a 3-peat for Nashwauk's Jazlyn Svaleson in the annual **Expo Coloring Contest**. Jazlyn earned top honors for the third consecutive year – this time in the Ages 7-9 Division – and received a Blue Ribbon and an art kit for her efforts. The top three in each division received ribbons, while the division winners were also awarded art kits. And Expo visitors received the opportunity to enjoy their beautiful works of art, displayed near the indoor booths. Thanks kids!



The Expo again doubled as an outdoor classroom for roughly 150 school children who visited from Murphy Elementary School and Elkington Middle School. The students learned all about logging by seeing the big equipment up close, and about logging from years ago by seeing draft horses at work. The kids learned from Grand Rapids logger Mike Hill (at right) as well as from foresters Adam Sutherland of UPM Blandin and Sappi Fine Paper foresters Craig Ferguson and Damon Polus. It was a great opportunity for the kids to get out of the classroom and learn about our industry!





As is Expo tradition, Friday was capped off with a delicious dinner, this year featuring a delicious Famous Dave's Barbecue! More than 250 tickets were sold, while the Grand Rapids Curling Club staffed the Beer Garden. In addition, more than 100 door prizes were donated by generous vendors and companies, making it an evening of great food, cold beverages, and lively conversation, the fitting end to Day One of the North Star Expo.







What would the Expo be without the horses? Ed Nelson of Wood "En" Horse Logging and Duane Barrow of the Northstar Draft Horse Association again coordinated the Expo's popular horse logging demonstration, showing how far the industry has come in terms of harvesting methods.

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TPA would also like to thank Dave Chura for taking the Expo photos you see in this issue of the *Bulletin*.



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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
<b>St. Louis County</b>		
<i>August 15 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen		
pulpwood	\$25.79	NA
Birch		
pulpwood	\$12.11	NA
Tamarack		
pulpwood	\$ 6.24	NA
Balsam Fir		
pulpwood	\$13.55	NA

22 of the 35 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Aitkin County

<i>August 21 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen P/B	\$28.50	NA
Aspen Pulp	\$26.69	NA
Maple P/B	\$11.93	NA
Oak P/B	\$17.78	NA

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

### Cass County

<i>August 29 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$22.74	\$21.47
Birch	\$13.92	\$14.80
Basswood	\$ 8.96	\$12.65

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

### DNR – Little Falls Area

<i>September 11 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	\$28.29	NA
Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$17.08	NA
Red Oak		
(WMP)	\$17.17	NA
Red Maple		
(WC)	\$ 9.06	NA

8 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

### DNR – Little Falls Area

<i>September 12 – Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species		
(WC)	NA	\$20.48

Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	NA	\$15.15
Red Oak (WMP)	NA	\$34.51

6 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

### DNR – Park Rapids Area

<i>September 16 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	\$29.27	NA

Paper Birch		
(WC)	\$ 9.88	NA

Red Oak		
(WMP)	\$23.85	NA

Jack Pine		
(WMP)	\$33.39	NA

All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

### DNR – Park Rapids Area

<i>September 17 – Oral Auction</i>		
Trembling Aspen		
(WC)	NA	\$22.62

Pine Species		
(WMP)	NA	\$26.78

Red Oak		
(WMP)	NA	\$24.52

Basswood		
(WMP)	NA	\$13.80

Paper Birch		
(WC)	NA	\$ 8.50

20 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

### Crow Wing County

<i>September 20 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$20.76	NA
Oak	\$16.49	NA
Birch	\$10.79	NA
Maple	\$10.32	NA

13 of the 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Cass County

<i>September 26 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$24.62	\$ 8.34
Red Oak	\$32.82	\$13.08
Basswood	\$16.41	\$ 9.20

3 of 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Hubbard County

<i>October 14 – Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Mixed	NA	\$30.43
Norway Pine		
Mixed	NA	\$43.83
Oak Mixed	NA	\$19.41
Birch Pulp	NA	\$10.32

All 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Products:

PB= Pulp and Bolts  
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WST=Woodsrun Sawtimber  
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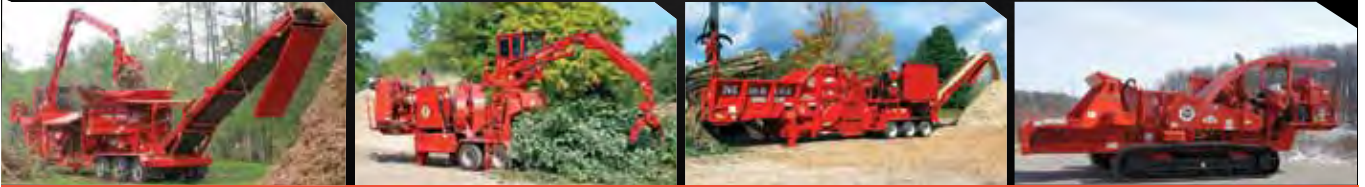
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# Speaker of the House Tours Logging Operations

**S**tate Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Minneapolis), Minnesota's Speaker of the House, spent two days in September touring logging sites and forest products mills, in an effort to learn more about Minnesota's forest products industry.

The speaker also attended a reception in Bemidji filled with a variety of industry stakeholders, including TPA members, mill personnel, and Minnesota DNR staff.

"We appreciated Rep. Thissen's willingness to spend time with us," TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt said. "The speaker is the second most powerful person in state government, so it was a great opportunity to share our story with him. We look forward to working with Rep. Thissen on a variety of issues during next year's legislative session.

Rep. Thissen was elected speaker last year. He began the two-day tour at Scott Pittack's logging job east of Hill City. Before the two days were complete, The speaker had visited another logging site east of Effie and toured the Blandin, Potlatch, Norbord, and Sappi mills, in addition to the evening reception in Bemidji.

"I learned so much about a critically important part of our state's economy," Speaker Thissen said of the tour. "But more than anything, I was so impressed with how deeply the people I met cared about our natural resources and, above all, their communities. They understand that their success and the prosperity of the cities and towns where they do business rises and falls together. And they have survived through tough times because of their unwillingness to let their communities down. That says all that needs to be said about the timber and paper business in Minnesota."



Minnesota House Speaker Paul Thissen (L) listens as TPA Vice President Scott Pittack and Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt explain logging operations at Pittack's harvest site east of Hill City.



Pittack shows Thissen the harvesting head on his cut-to-length processor.



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TPA loggers (L-C) Dan Lundberg of Solway and Joe Dukek of Bemidji meet Rep. Thissen at a reception for the speaker in Bemidji.



TPA President Kit Hasbargen of Birchdale welcomes Rep. Thissen to the evening reception in Bemidji during the speaker's two-day tour of logging and forest products industry operations.



Rep. Thissen listens as Norbord Mill manager Jack Wallingford explains operations at the Solway OSB mill.

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# Logger Billed \$600K for Wisconsin Fire

**A** Wisconsin logging company was billed more than \$600,000 for causing a May wildfire near the town of Gordon.

An investigation determined that negligence by Ray Duerr Logging caused the forest fire to start and spread. The decision by the Wisconsin DNR was made following a four-month investigation. The Germann Road Fire was Wisconsin's largest in 33 years.

## Timber Talk

it was contained roughly 30 hours later. Forty-seven structures were destroyed, including 17 homes or cabins, in the towns of Gordon and Highland, Wis.

In its decision, the DNR found that while the cause of the forest fire was accidental and efforts were made to suppress the fire by the logging crew, steps should have been taken in the preparedness and maintenance of the equipment. The investigation also found that the crew and company withheld information from DNR law enforcement officials.

## Wallingford's is Clark Tracks' U.S. Distributor

**C**lark Tracks Ltd is pleased to announce the appointment of Wallingford's Inc. as its representative in the U.S. forestry market.

"Two of the biggest names in the industry teaming up to bring machine tracks to the U.S. is very exciting. With Wallingford's vast experience in traction products and Clark's long history of manufacture of quality tracks, this

is a perfect fit for both companies. We couldn't be more excited about this opportunity." According to Shawn Grant, director of marketing Wallingford's Inc.

Wallingford's will begin immediate implementation of its marketing plan and will see first tracks into stock beginning this fall. For more information or to locate a dealer nearest you can visit their web site [www.wallingfords.com](http://www.wallingfords.com)

Stewart Kelly, product manager, Clark Tracks Ltd, believes that this announcement is going to benefit everyone involved, most of all the loggers. "Clark Tracks has recently invested heavily in developing capacity at its production facility in Scotland. This additional capacity has allowed us to appoint Wallingford's Inc. as the distributor

for the United States of America. This appointment gets Clark Tracks the market knowledge and experience required for operations in the USA, Wallingford's Inc. gets a quality track product in its portfolio and loggers get choice and competition for high quality band tracks!"

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According to the DNR, the fire burned an area nearly 10 miles long and a mile and a half wide before



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# Forest Resources Council Meets in Baudette

**M**innesota's top decision makers on forest policy descended on Baudette in September as part of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's annual forest tour.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is a state forestry council established by the legislature in 1995 to advise the governor, legislature, and federal, state, county and local governments on sustainable forest policies and practices. It is made up of a wide variety of stakeholders, including forest industry, loggers, resort and tourism industry, labor, the University of Minnesota, Minnesota DNR, U.S. Forest Service, and environmental and conservation groups, among others.

This year's meeting in Baudette included a tour of Erickson Timber that was hosted by TPA board member



**Boise procurement forester Nathan Heibel made a presentation to the MFRC titled "Primary forest markets in the Northern Landscape."**



**Minnesota Forest Resources Council Executive Director Dave Zumeta (L) chats with Mayor Bob Anderson of International Falls – former manager of public affairs for Boise – during the MFRC's two-day trip to Baudette.**

and former TPA President Dale Erickson. Erickson is a member of the MFRC, representing loggers. Council members also toured a logging site of Erickson's during the two-day event.

At the meeting MFRC Executive Director Dave Zumeta gave an example of the critical role the council plays in advising the governor on state forest policy. At the administration's request, the council is updating a 2003 report it prepared on the global competitiveness of Minnesota's primary forest products industry.

"The council was pleased to meet in Baudette for the first time in its 18-year history," Zumeta said, "including a highly informative visit to Erickson Timber and to an active logging site the following day. Council members and staff learned a lot about the unique challenges loggers and forest managers face in this part of the state."



**The Council toured Erickson Timber while in Baudette. Among those on the tour were Bob Stine, Chair of the MFRC; DNR Forestry Director Forrest Boe; State Rep. Roger Erickson (DFL-Baudette); Susan Solterman Audette, MFRC member representing environmental organizations; former TPA President Dale Erickson, MFRC member representing loggers; DNR Northwest Region Forest Manager Dave Thomas; and Dr. Alan Ek of the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources.**



LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## "Care Given to Old Jacks"

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*



I spent my childhood in the Bemidji area, and grew up with the logging industry. I have known most of the big and near big logging companies and many of the smaller jobbers that worked for the larger firms.

One of my pet peeves is to hear people today sound off about the terrible living conditions of the old-time lumberjack. There seems to be a tendency to picture old-time logging companies and loggers as exploiters of labor that had little thought or feeling towards the lumberjack other than to work him 10-12 hours daily, give him the poorest housing, feed him the worst food, give him meager pay and send him off to the poorhouse to die when he was old. *This was far from the truth!*

Most companies and independent loggers took very good care of their workers and older men. They and their foremen had a following of jacks that worked for them year after year, and they made a special effort to help and keep their working force.

Men who worked many years for a company often were kept on the payroll long after they were able to produce, and were paid as long as they were able to walk to the table to eat.

It was not uncommon to see several old jacks working around camp—piling, splitting wood, filing lanterns and doing minor chores while they recuperated from illness or injury (or were just too old to work in the woods.)

I remember going to a Crookston Lumber Co. camp, where George Brown was foreman, and seeing 12 old jacks just able to hobble to the table. Only when they couldn't walk to the table were they taken from the camps.

Many older jacks were kept on as camp watchmen or were allowed to take care of a few head of horses during the summer months when the camps were not in operation.

They were given jobs that they were capable of such as watching railroad crossings, haying hills on the ice roads and working as night watchmen.

Some companies set up shacks and furnished food for their old-timers. Dur-

ing slack times, I have seen camp foremen stop on the street and pick up several old-timers and take them to the camps to rest and be fed. One could always stop at a camp and stay several days even if the camp was not hiring at the time. Very few old lumberjacks went to the poor house or became recipients of public care.

In 1916, there were about 30,000 men working in lumber camps in Koochiching County; there were only five old men in the county poorhouse.

In some smaller towns, companies set up small hospitals where their men could go if hurt or sick and stay until they were able to return to camp. During the peak of logging days, many jacks had hospital tickets they bought from the "Lumberjack Sister" of St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth; and they could go there if sick or disabled. The companies often paid for these hospital tickets.

Much has been said about the poor food that was given the jacks. This was not true. While I worked as a log inspector in 1922, I ate and stayed at more than 70 camps that winter, and with the exception of fresh fruit and milk, the food was as good as or better than food served in leading hotels. The best food available under the conditions was always served, and the camp foremen were always looking for the best cooks. They knew that a well-fed crew was a happy crew and put out the best work. It was only in a few of the smaller jobber camps that one occasionally found poor food.

It was true that no inside toilets or

shower baths were found in the camps, but very few homes in the small towns had these facilities during the early 1900s. However, most camps had a small building where men could wash their clothes and "boil-up" to get rid of lice. The men themselves did a good job of policing. If a man came to camp that they thought might bring lice, they insisted that he "boil-up" before sleeping in the bunkhouse. There was always plenty of soap and hot water available.

The lumberjack was a happy, clean living individual in camp. This was not true when he went to town to blow his stake. He then slept in "dump hotels" or boarding houses and lived under pretty tough conditions until his stake was gone. Then he was ready to return to camp. His camp foreman or company man would rescue him from the "vultures," get him back to camp and give him a few days to get back into shape for work. I have seen these men stay in camp up to two weeks before they were able to go back to work after blowing a big stake.

There were no relief rolls during the heyday of the logging industry and it was not until the late 1920s and early 1930s that transient and W.P.A. camps were set up to take care of these men. This was after most camps had closed and companies had gone out of the logging business. During the peak days of the logging industry, it was the companies and loggers that looked after their workers. If all industry took as good care of its workers as the logging industry did there would be few complaints.



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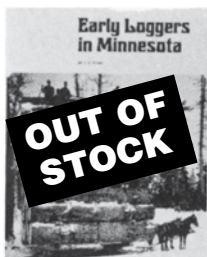
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by J. C. Ryan

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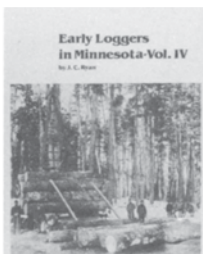
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