

MLEP TREELINE

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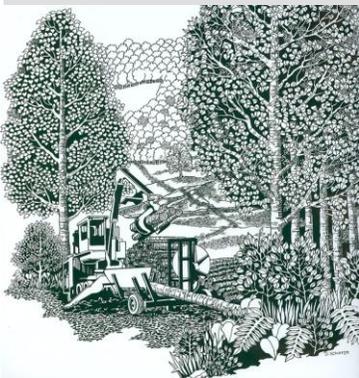
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Winter/Spring 2008



Did You Know That....

- Building an average home uses about 10,000 board feet of lumber -- equivalent to 20 cords.
- Cold this winter? It could be worse. Tower set the MN record for coldest temperature of -60° F on February 2, 1996.



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

MLEP Loggers Harvest Timber for Habitat for Humanity Home

Long time MLEP member, Shermer Logging, recently harvested trees from the Cook Tree Farm of MN Senator Tom Bakk. Both Cliff and Jim Shermer were on site to harvest the aspen that will soon become sheets of oriented strand board (OSB), as part of a unique effort by the MN Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Implementation Committee to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Hibbing, using SFI certified materials.

What started Saturday morning as a well managed Tree Farm will soon become dozens of 4' x 8' sheets of oriented strand board (OSB), as part of a unique effort by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee to build a Habitat for Humanity home. Later this year, Hibbing's Kelli Ritz and her daughter will move into their own new home in that city – a home that will be built in partnership with Minnesota SFI program volunteers using SFI certified materials from Minnesota forest products companies.

(Habitat for Humanity Continued On Page 2)



ABOVE: Cliff and Jim Shermer.

BELOW: Senator Tom Bakk talks about the importance of this project.



\$156,215 in Fines – Don't Be Next

According to the US Department of Transportation, the logging industry in Minnesota has paid more than \$156,000 in fines during the last five years for violations related to the failure to implement a random drug and/or alcohol testing program. Drivers required to have a commercial drivers license (CDL), who operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle are subject to the controlled substance and alcohol testing rules. You can learn more about the alcohol and drug testing requirements by visiting www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/comveh/nesap/mceng/part_382.pdf, contacting MLEP or attending one of our upcoming DOT Audit workshops.



Minnesota Biomass Exchange – By Mimi Barzen, MN DNR U&M

Biomass. Although its wood residue is small in size compared to wood products normally harvested from forests, the connotation is enormous and continues to grow. Do a web search on biomass and over 3 million potential sites pop up.

A newer player on the Internet is the Minnesota Biomass Exchange Site, a well-kept secret to many of us. The site's goal, is to "efficiently connect biomass consumers and producers in an effort to increase the use of renewable resources for energy in Minnesota." This site not only explains biomass and its many uses, but also provides an exchange forum for those with a supply source and those with a need of biomass. Better yet, there is no fee to use the program. Contacts are made directly between the buyer and seller with cost and transportation issues negotiated by the two parties. In addition to the exchange, the biomass site also has some information on biomass research and provides links to other sites that may be useful to a browser.

There are four types of biomass that can be listed. They include: agriculture crops, agriculture residue, wood crops, and wood residue. Mixing of non-biomass materials, such as construction waste, with acceptable biomass is prohibited. Anyone can list a product, which stays on the exchange list for up to 60 days. The listing can easily be removed if sold. For biomass products with a seasonal or continuous supply, the listing can stay on the exchange indefinitely. The only requirement if you either want to either list a product or make a purchase, is to register. A simple mouse click opens the registration site. Once registered, a user logs in with a password for future exchanges. All supplier information is kept confidential except to those who register.

At this time, most exchanges are between large biomass suppliers and commercial, institutional, or industrial buyers. This does not however, preclude the use by individuals, either as a seller or buyer. Regardless of whether a listing is commercial or private, proximity of the buyer to the seller is key to a successful transaction. The actual exchange site lists each commodity, provides the product type and description, the quantity, season, and frequency of availability, the county in which the biomass is located, and if transportation is available. As of late January, the exchange had 30 listings, the majority of which were wood residues.

The Minnesota Biomass Exchange Site is a collaborative effort between the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT), the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the DNR, University of Minnesota, and the Green Institute, each bringing to the table a different perspective. The partners are optimistic about the exchange site and hope that word-of-mouth and other advertising will grow the exchange listings many times over. See for yourself by viewing www.mnbiomassexchange.org.

Expanded Membership Directory

Based on requests from landowners, we are planning to expand the on-line directory listings to include information about your operation type. When loggers received their renewal invoice for 2008, they were asked to indicate what type of operation they were. Logging companies can select as many types as apply. Operation types include: conventional, cut to length, hand felling, chipper, grinder and horse logging.

This information will also appear in the published 2008 Minnesota Forest Resource Management Directory, which is scheduled to be finished printing at the end of March.

Providing this information will assist landowners in locating a logger who can provide the services they desire. If you did not provide this information and would like it included in your future listings, please contact the MLEP office.



Habitat for Humanity

(Continued From Page 1)

The wood for the Habitat for Humanity project came from the Cook Tree Farm of Minnesota Sen. Tom Bakk, which he donated. Harvesting was done by Cliff Shermer, one of more than 440 participants in the rigorous Minnesota Logger Education Program, which continually updates loggers on current technologies, environmental regulations and other requirements. The logs were then hauled to the Ainsworth Engineered mill in Cook, where they will soon be made into OSB, compliments of Ainsworth.

As part of the renewable nature of the project, Sen. Bakk's harvested land will be replanted this spring, using seedlings donated by the University of Minnesota. "I'm happy to donate these raw materials because Habitat for Humanity and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative are such outstanding organizations," said Sen. Bakk. "This partnership with SFI is the first of its kind in the United States to ensure a Habitat home is built using forest

products harvested via measures that promote sustainability – from the OSB that Ainsworth is making, to the final piece of trim that will complete the house."

The OSB will be stored at Ainsworth until spring, when the material will be hauled to the home site in Hibbing. SFI and other volunteers will build a one-story, 1,100-square-foot home using additional materials donated by Louisiana Pacific, Marvin Windows and other Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative program participants. Other Minnesota forest products companies are also contributing, in the form of cash donations to help fund the Habitat for Humanity project. Those companies are Boise, Inc.; Forest Capital Partners, LLC; NewPage Corporation; Sappi Fine Paper North America; UPM, Blandin Paper Mill; and Verso Paper, Sartell Mill.

"This Habitat for Humanity project is a great way to demonstrate how Minnesotans come into contact with practices that promote responsible forestry every day," said Tim O'Hara, coordinator of the Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee. "More and more people are realizing the importance of responsible forestry, and SFI is pleased to be a leader in that area." "SFI is proud to be a partner in this project and support the work of the Minnesota SFI Implementation committee on this incredibly important project," said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow. "This is another example of how our 37 implementation committees across North America are making real, positive differences, not just at the forest management level but also at the community level."

Nathan Thompson, executive director of the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, said his organization is proud and grateful to be the first Habitat organization in the country to team up with a state SFI committee. "We're appreciative of all volunteers who put so much time and effort into building affordable homes with deserving families, but it's especially gratifying to have the people who supply home building materials taking on a project for us," said Thompson. "Like SFI, Habitat for Humanity is a great believer in the importance of promoting sustainability."

The SFI program is one of the largest forestry certification programs in the world, using measurements that include protection of water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and more. There are more than 143 million acres certified to the comprehensive SFI standard across North America. In Minnesota, there are nearly 6.5 million acres of forestlands certified, making Minnesota the leader in the United States in the amount of acres enrolled in the SFI program.



ABOVE: Nathan Thompson (Habitat for Humanity) listens on as Kelli Ritz (future homeowner) shares her excitement about this project.

BELOW:
Snow flies as harvesting begins.





Minnesota Master Logger Certification Program Update

Another Four Logging Companies Earn Certification

Auditors were able to complete field audits for four of seven applicants before the snow fell. Action on these four applications was taken at the January certifying board meeting. The remaining field audits for the other applicants will be completed as soon as possible in the spring. The following logging businesses met the qualifications and successfully achieved the status of Certified Master Loggers:

Fletcher Trucking, Inc. – Brainerd

Venhuizen Forest Products – Isle

Patzoldt Brothers, Inc. – Pine City

Jouppi Forest Products - Isabella

Two New Members Elected to Minnesota Master Logger Certification Board

The MMLC Certifying Board has two new members. Andrew Arends (DNR) and Warren Suchovsky (MI Master Logger) were recently elected to the board. In addition, Dr. Mike Kilgore (UofM) was elected Chair and Bob Krepps (St. Louis County Land Commissioner) was elected Vice-Chair. A complete list of Certifying Board members and their terms can be found at the MMLC website at www.mlep.org/mmlc.htm.

Calibration Training for MMLC Field Auditors, New Auditors and Certifying Board Members

In March of 2006, the MMLC program conducted field auditor training. Since that time, several questions and discussions with field auditors and the certifying board have ensued regarding appropriate protocols for measuring and interpreting the MMLC standard. It has determined that a refresher protocol and calibration training would be beneficial to both field auditors and the certifying board.

The training would focus on the appropriate protocols for measuring and interpreting the MMLC standard and include both classroom and in-woods instruction. The training is scheduled for June 4 (new auditor training) and June 5 (calibration training) in Cloquet.





Minnesota Certified Master Loggers

The following businesses have been audited and found to be in conformance to the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program standard. They appear below alphabetically by company name.

Andy Michalek Logging, Inc. - Blackduck
B & B Logging of Aitkin, LLC - Aitkin
Bialik Logging/Ace Excavating - Winton
Benes Brothers Logging - Hill City
Bruce Kainz Logging - Ely
C.O. Johnson Logging, Inc. - Blackduck
Central Pine Lumber Co. - Brook Park
D. Hill Logging - Bovey
Dean & Bob Walsh Logging - Park Rapids
DeLack Logging, Inc. - Littlefork
Detzel Forest Products - Isabella
Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLC - Park Rapids
Donner Logging - Embarrass
Douglas Hustad Logging - Gilbert
Dukek Logging, Inc. - Bagley
Filipiak Logging LLC - Cohasset
Fjeran Forest Products - Two Harbors
Fletcher Trucking - Brainerd
Glen Erickson Logging - Orr
Great Northern Logging, Inc. - Pierz
Greg Cook Logging, Inc. - Bigfork
Haley Logging Co. - Bigfork
Holm Logging & Trucking, Inc. - Cook
Hughes Timber, Inc. - Kelliher

Johnson Logging - Floodwood
John Nylund & Sons - Marcell
Jouppi Forest Products - Isabella
Kimball's Logging, Inc. - Park Rapids
Knaeble Timber, Inc. - Northome
Neumeyer Logging - Barnum
Lindquist Land & Timber Co. - Kelliher
M & R Chips, Inc. - Grand Rapids
McCabe Forest Products - Duluth
Patzoldt Brothers, Inc. - Pine City
Pittack Logging, Inc. - Bovey
Rasmusson Forest Fuels, Inc. - Virginia
Rice River Logging - McGregor
Richard Dukek Logging, Inc. - Bagley
Rieger Logging, Inc. - Northome
Ron Beckman Timber Harvesting, LLC - Grand Rapids
S & H Forest Products - Pine City
Sawyer Timber Co. - Backus
Scheff Logging & Trucking - Marcell
Craig Turnboom - Meadowlands
Stecker Logging - Gilbert
Venhuizen Forest Products - Isle
Weijo Logging - Ely



“Minnesota Forest Resources” Annual Report

The DNR's annual report on Minnesota's forest resources is now available. The report contains answers to frequently asked questions about Minnesota's forest resources such as current conditions, trends in forest resources and forest resource industrial use. Loggers, foresters, natural resource managers, planners, people employed in forest industry and forest policy makers will find items of interest in these pages. You can access a copy of the report on the MLEP website or by contacting our office



Business Management Training

In today's ever changing and global economy, keen business management skills are a must. Through the University of Minnesota, a training program that addresses information systems, tracking production and financial records, risk management and handling human resources is now being offered.

The catch? It is designed for farmers and targeted at farm wives. Like farming, our industry faces many of the same challenges and needs. And like a lot of farm wives, logging wives are often responsible for managing the business - a job that is becoming increasingly complex. MLEP is working with the Small Business Development Centers, Iron Range Resources and others in the state to develop a similar training program for the logging community.

If you have an interest in this type of training, please contact Dave Chura at the MLEP office.



Online Training Coming in 2008

MLEP and University of Minnesota Extension have partnered to develop computer based (online/CD-Rom) training on Minnesota's new biomass harvesting guidelines. This computer based training is expected to be available in September of 2008. (Classroom training on the biomass harvesting guidelines will be offered beginning in the spring of 2008).

Training Video Library

Have you considered showing a video as a part of your next OSHA required safety meeting? MLEP has a number of training videos which are available for loan to members. The videos can serve as a convenient way to learn more about everything from using a GPS to woods road safety.

Contact our office to receive a video checkout form.

Available videos:

Logging Residue as an Energy Resource: Opportunities and Concerns
Temporary Stream Crossings for Forest Management: Bridges
Permanent Stream Crossings for Forest Management: Culverts
Logging Road Construction: The Right Way!
Sensible Wood Cutting: Tips from the Pros
Woods Road Safety: Tips for Traveling Safely in the Working Forest
Garmin® GPSmap76 Series Operation Guide
Garmin® GPSmap76 Handheld Unit





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Logging Professionalism*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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Upcoming Training Events

March

4- Truck Weight Compliance, Mankato
11- Truck Weight Compliance, Marshall
18- Accessing Aerial Photos, Brainerd
26- LogSafe, Rochester

April

1- LogSafe, Baudette
1- Truck Weight Compliance, Bloomington
2 & 3- LogSafe, I Falls
5- Accessing Aerial Photos, Grand Rapids
8 & 9- MLEP Conference- Tower
15- LogSafe, Two Harbors

April (continued)

16 & 17- MLEP Conference, Bemidji
21- GPS for Loggers, Brainerd
22 & 23- LogSafe, Grand Rapids
22- Truck Weight Compliance, Duluth
24- GPS for Loggers, N. Pine County.
24- LogSafe, Cloquet
29- LogSafe, Biwabik
29- Truck Wght Compliance, Rochstr
30- LogSafe, Bemidji

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