

MLEP TREELINE

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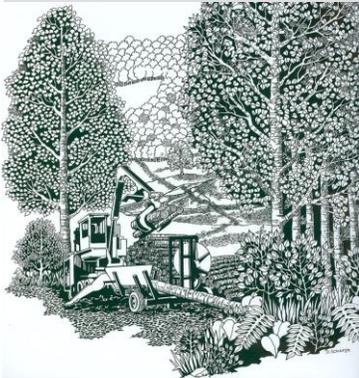
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Summer 2009



Did You Know:

- Only 1% (approx. 185,000 acres) are harvested each year in Minnesota?
- The record high temperature occurred in 1936 – 114 degrees in Moorhead?



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Berthiaume Logging, LLC Named Minnesota Logger of the Year

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC) named Cloquet's Berthiaume Logging, LLC, as its 2009 Logger of the Year on April 7, during the Minnesota Logger Education Program conference at Fortune Bay Resort & Casino in Tower, MN.

Berthiaume Logging, which has operated in Minnesota for more than 60 years, is owned by Don, Dave and Duane Berthiaume, sons of founder Richard Berthiaume. The brothers' sons are now continuing the family logging tradition to a third generation.

"Over the years Berthiaume Logging has developed a strong reputation for conducting harvesting in a manner that is sensitive to environmental quality and sensitive to land owner objectives," said Tim O'Hara, coordinator of the Minnesota SIC, which is based in Duluth. "Because the Berthiaumes realize that educating the public is crucial in developing a universal understanding that harvesting is needed for excellent forest management, they readily make their operation open to tours. This is just one of many examples of why the Berthiaume family is such an outstanding representative of the industry, and why they are receiving this award."

This is the fourth year SFI has named a Minnesota Logger of the Year. At the ceremony, the Berthiaumes received a plaque and a \$500 award. They will now represent Minnesota at a regional Logger of the Year competition.



Dave Berthiaume accepts the SFI Logger of the Year plaque from Pat Galdonik, representing the MN SFI Implementation Committee at the Tower Logger Conference.



Safety Meeting Requirements

The OSHA Logging Standard states, "the employer shall hold safety and health meetings as necessary and **at least each month** for each employee. Safety and health meetings may be conducted individually, in crew meetings, in larger groups, or as part of other staff meetings".

There are excellent resources for reviewing past accidents, recommendations for correction and the prevention of future injury and property damage, located in the training/safety portion of our website or by contacting MLEP:

- **FRA's Logging and Transportation Safety Alerts** http://www.loggingsafety.com/app/index.php?r=safety_alert&a=list
- **TPA and LUA's - Lessons from Losses** <http://www.mlep.org/lessonloss.html>
- **MLEP Safety Training Meeting Report** <http://www.mlep.org/documents/trainingmeetingrept.pdf>

Get in the habit of printing off an accident summary for your meetings and using the MLEP Safety Training Meeting Report to document the meeting date, participants and topics discussed.



Lumber Market – Status and Trends

Dr. Henry Spelter, an economist with the USFS Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin provides a monthly analysis of softwood lumber trends. You can access Dr. Spelter's Lumber Market - Status & Trends publication on the MLEP website: <http://www.mlep.org/documents/lumbermktstatustrends.pdf>

Biomass Procurement Focus Groups

The Minnesota Logger Education Program is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry to obtain your suggestions and input about ways in which the procurement of biomass can be simplified.

This effort is supported by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association and the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers. Your participation is encouraged and will help shape the way the state offers biomass in the future. Please consider attending one of three focus groups scheduled for the end of July:

Bemidji, July 28
Grand Rapids, July 29
Iron Range, July 30

To register, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact MLEP at 218-722-5442 or Anna Robertson, DNR Biomass Coordinator, at 651-259-5253.

Your participation in this effort is important and appreciated.



One New Master Logger - Thirteen Logging Businesses Recertified

The Minnesota Master Logger Certification Board met on June 10th and approved the certification of 1 new company and the recertification of 13 Minnesota Certified Master Loggers. This brings the total number of Master Loggers in Minnesota to 47. Congratulations to:

New Minnesota Certified Master Logger
Rum River Timber Harvesting, Inc. – Onamia

Recertifications

C. O. Johnson Logging, Inc. - Blackduck
D. Hill Logging – Bovey
DeLack Logging, Inc. – Littlefork
Dukek Logging, Inc. – Bagley
Fjeran Forest Products - Two Harbors
Greg Cook Logging, Inc. – Bigfork
Hughes Timber, Inc. – Kelliher

Jouppi Forest Products - Isabella
Kimball's Logging, Inc. - Park Rapids
Pittack Logging, Inc. - Bovey
Rieger Logging, Inc. - Northome
Sawyer Timber Co., LLP - Backus
Weijo Logging - Ely



Local Stations Air "Be Seen and Be Safe" Public Service Announcements



Two different public service announcements, produced by a partnership of the Minnesota Logger Education Program, Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, tell drivers of passenger vehicles to make sure they don't follow trucks too closely and reminds them that log truck drivers are highly trained.

Safety is a top priority and these PSAs are aimed at getting that message out throughout the region, especially to the motoring public we share the roads with. You can listen to the PSAs by visiting the MLEP website at www.mlep.org/documents/psa1.mp3 and www.mlep.org/documents/psa2.mp3

Independent Contractor or Employee?

It is important to understand the difference between an independent contractor and an employee. The following links provide useful information about the law and how to correctly determine whether the individuals providing services are employees or independent contractors:

- **The Independent Contractor Definition Dilemma Continues** - reprinted with permission from *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor*. <http://www.mlep.org/documents/indcontractor.pdf>
- **Unemployment Insurance Minnesota Employer Handbook - Independent Contractors**. http://www.uimn.org/tax/hdbook/ind_contractor.htm
- **IRS Information - Independent Contractor or Employee?** <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=99921,00.html>



MLEP and MMLC Annual Reports

Copies of the MLEP and MMLC CY2008 Annual Reports are now available on the news section of each website, or by contacting our office. Highlights from the reports include the following:

- 1,105 participants took advantage of the more than 40 workshop opportunities that were offered in 2008.
- Led the development and delivery of training on Minnesota's new Biomass Harvesting Guidelines.
- Certified 8 logging businesses as "Minnesota Certified Master Logger" (current total is 47)
- Conducted a series of four focus groups with Master Loggers and stakeholders aimed at identifying ways to improve the program and add value to members.
- Delivered calibration training for auditors and certifying board members
- Implemented electronic forms for auditing reporting
- Developed a revised recertification model

Membership Summary

MLEP membership is comprised of logging business owners (large and small), wood dealers and associate members. 2008 membership totaled 562 reflecting: 146 small logging business owners, 305 large logging business owners, 5 wood dealers, 69 associates, and 37 new logger applicants.

Are You Prepared for an Accident?



If you had an accident out in the woods that required medical attention, could you quickly provide the 911 operator with detailed directions to your location? While a GPS coordinate will tell Emergency Medical Services (EMS) know where you are, it doesn't tell them how to get to you. The access roads for many timber harvests don't show up on the electronic mapping software used by EMS. Before you open your next sale, make sure you and your crew have a written copy of the detailed directions to the area you are operating in. A few minutes spent putting this information together could save someone's life - or your own.

Fire's Effect on Global Warming Underestimated

A new report states that deforestation due to burning by humans is contributing about **one-fifth** of the human-caused greenhouse effect. Scientists say that the report clearly shows that fire is a primary driver of global climate change.

Full text of the article on the report available at

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/090423142332.htm>



Progressive Harvesting

Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines (FMGs) recommend loggers use a progressive timber harvest pattern (harvesting from the back of the sale to the front). Quintin Legler, a forester with UPM/Blandin, expressed the following benefits of this practice during a recent FMG training session at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

Logger Benefits - cost savings and increased efficiency

- Operators don't have to spend time figuring out the way back to a landing
- If damage should occur, a concentrated area means less rehabilitation or repair would be needed
- By concentrating the skidding/forwarding to a main trail slash can be used more efficiently to keep the operation running in wet weather. Any wet holes can be slashed up to keep from breaking through - start with as much slash as is feasible and to add more as needed. This also minimizes the impact on the soil which in turn affects future productivity.
- With progressive harvesting you may be able to move to other areas of the same sale to continue operations when the weather gets too wet and move back when it dries up without trafficking over previously harvested areas.
- Finally, when you leave trees where you are skidding/forwarding those trees are still transpiring so the site will dry out sooner versus than an area where the trees have been removed.

Site Benefits

- Progressive harvesting concentrates the compaction (and rutting if it occurs) to a small area which in turn minimizes the impact on natural & artificial regeneration of the trees - maintaining site productivity.
- Results in less compaction - compaction affects the amount of suckering of aspen and survival and growth of planted stock.

Progressive harvesting can be beneficial in more than just clear cuts. In a thinning, this technique minimizes the damage to the residual trees. Slash can be more easily concentrated on the skid trails and if any damage occurs it would occur primarily along the main skid trail.

Got Mats?

Thanks to a donation from Beasley Forest Products in Georgia, the Cloquet Forestry Center will have two mats for use during training workshops and demonstrations. John Koski Logging will be donating their time and services to deliver the mats.

You too can obtain mats for your operation. Several mats which were to be used for the Enbridge pipeline project are located and available in Carlton, MN. These mats can be used as timber mats or portable bridges. Each mat is bolted together with 1" rods and is either 18' or 20' long, 4' wide and 8" thick. The mats are made of oak, hickory or gum. A 18' mat weighs approximately 2,600-2,800 pounds.

If you have an interest in purchasing one or more of these mats, contact Darrell Beasley at (912) 375-5174.

Bell Timber, Inc. also has mats available for sale. The mats are produced from logs harvested in MN, WI, and MI. For more information, contact Dustin Imholt at (612) 309-9470.





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Logging Professionalism*

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Upcoming Events

July

- 14 - Silviculture – Grand Marais
- 28 - Biomass Focus Group - Bemidji
- 29 - Biomass Focus Group – Grand Rapids
- 30 - Biomass Focus Group – Virginia
- 15 - Truck Weight Compliance – Alexandria

August

- 11 - Wage/Hour Law - Duluth
- 12 - Financial Planning – I Falls
- 18 - Chainsaw Safety - Rochester
- 20 - Chainsaw Safety - Hackensack

September

- 1 & 2 - Forest Management Guidelines
Cloquet
- 11 – Log A Load For Kids Golf Tournament
Pokegama Golf Course- Grand Rapids
- 18 - Reasonable Suspicion – Grand Rapids

Fall LogSafe Classes

- Oct. 6 - I Falls
- Oct. 7 - Bemidji
- Oct. 8 - Cloquet
- Dec. 8 - Chisholm

- 2009 MLEP Board of Directors -

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Hasbargen Logging, Inc

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