

MLEP TREELINE

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Did You Know:

- A single tree can absorb more than 10 lbs. of carbon dioxide each year.
- America's forests, acre for acre, are the most productive in the world.
- Insects and disease threaten 58 million acres of America's forests



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Mike Warren: 2011 Lake States Region Outstanding Logger

The Forest Resources Association's Lake States Region has recognized Mike Warren of M&R Chips, Inc., as the Region's 2011 Outstanding Logger. The award was presented to Mike and his wife Tammy at FRA's Lake States Region Awards ceremony in Green Bay, Wisconsin on October 26. He now becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger recognition.

In April, Warren was named 2011 Minnesota Logger of the Year by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee.

Mike has served on the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, and is currently the president of that organization. The high regard in which Mike is held by his peers is very apparent, and well deserved. When accepting the Outstanding Logger Award, Warren made clear his respect for others working in his chosen career: "Thank you very much for this award. This industry is full of outstanding individuals, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

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.

Photo: FRA Lake States Region Chair Bud DeLano, Thilmany LLC (at right) presents 2011 Regional Outstanding Logger Award to Mike and Tammy Warren.

Mike also received a new chain saw presented by Stihl Representative Eric DuChateau and a cash prize



New Financing Opportunity for Loggers

Recently, there has been good news for sustainable forest-product producers and green builders with the release of a new report by the USDA indicating that wood should factor as a primary building material. The report can be located here: <http://1.usa.gov/vcdX9M>

"Using wood obtained through sustainable forestry practices in green building applications promotes a healthy environment and a strong economy," the report says.

To take advantage of the growing markets for certified wood products, loggers and forest products businesses committed to sustainable harvesting have a new source of capital they can turn to: ShadeFund.

ShadeFund provides loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for new equipment, inventory, certification costs, and other working capital needs. "We're looking for small enterprises that can keep certified forests and the communities that depend on them working," says Rick Larson, Director of Sustainable Ventures at The Conservation Fund.

ShadeFund is a joint project of The Conservation Fund and the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities. Loans are available nationwide, but Minnesota is a priority according to Larson, thanks to the enormous acreage of forests under certification

For more information about ShadeFund, visit www.shadefund.org or contact Enrique Perez at (919) 951-0118 or email him at eperez@conservationfund.org. To inquire about a loan, contact Rick Larson at (919) 951-0113 or via email at rlarson@conservationfund.org.

Executive Director's Column

At the MLEP Board of Directors Annual Meeting in October, President Rod Enberg thanked Kelly Kimball (Kimball Logging) and Bob Tomlinson (DNR) for their service as MLEP Board Members. Kelly served on the board for 12 years and was President of MLEP from 2005-2006. Tomlinson served on the board for 14 years. Their dedication to logger education is greatly appreciated.

At that same meeting, Dan Lundberg (Lundberg Forest Products) of Solway, MN was elected to a four year term as a MLEP Board Member. Dan has been a member of MLEP since 1997 and is also a member of the LogSafe Advisory Committee and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

Thanks again Bob and Kelly for your service and welcome Dan to the board.



Photo: Bob Tomlinson with the Minnesota DNR receives a service award for his 14 years of service on the MLEP Board of Directors from board President Rod Enberg, Enberg Logging of Motley, MN.



Commissioner Landwehr Announces Changes to DNR Forestry Staff

On October 17, DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr announced several staff changes within the DNR Division of Forestry. According to an email from the Commissioner to Division staff, Dave Epperly has decided to step down as Director of the Division of Forestry. The agency is recruiting for a new Division Director and Epperly will continue in his role as Director until a successor is in place. Bob Tomlinson has also moved to a new role leading the DNR's Land Asset Management efforts. Other changes include:

The Division will have one Assistant Director and that will be Wayne Damerow.

The three Regional Managers will now report directly to the Director.

There will be 4 Section Managers that will report to the Assistant Director.

- Meg Hanisch will serve in the role for Strategic Planning, Policy & Outreach
- Janet Cherney will continue to serve in the role of Business & Administrative Services
- Olin Phillips will continue to serve in the role of Forest Protection and Health
- To be filled - Forest Operations and Management

eFMG – Forest Management Guideline Training Now Available Online

We have rolled out the recently completed eFMG Training and it is now available as an online training option. If you are interested in completing the training, visit <http://bit.ly/tOYy3j>.

The training consists of twelve modules which address the following:

- Introduction
- Background, Monitoring and Guidebook Organization
- Planning
- Riparian Management Zones
- Cultural Resources
- Forest Soils
- Petroleum Spills
- Water Diversion and Erosion Control
- Approaches & Crossings
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wetland Identification
- Visual Quality



In addition, there is an Implementation/Timber Sale Design exercise participants need to complete to receive credit for the training.

Funding for the development for this training was provided by the AgStar Fund for Rural America, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Forest Resources Council University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Logger Education Program.



Getting Questions about Ash Management and EAB?

Ash Management Guidelines have been developed for Private Forest Landowners in Minnesota. The guidebook is a thorough overview of the ash resource in Minnesota including: ash's history on the landscape; ash tree identification; information on the emerald ash borer (EAB); how to identify native plant communities on your property; wildlife impacted by ash; and other related implications of ash forests and EAB.

Most importantly this guide offers recommendations generated by a panel of experts for private landowners on how to manage their ash. Recommendations, organized by native plant communities, include when to start preparing for ash's decline, what trees to consider as replacement trees, and likely obstacles that need to be prepared for and managed. This guide may not have all the answers but it should help you understand the problem and guide you towards a management plan to help your forest resilient and healthy.

More information and the guide can be found at <http://bit.ly/rOsBir>

Chipper and Grinder Safety



The number of chippers and grinders in Minnesota continues to increase as biomass markets evolve. It is important to understand the precautions you should take when operating, maintaining or working near this equipment. The Forest Resources Association's Southwide Safety Committee has developed two brochures as a guide to personal safety and protection of anyone working around or visiting a chipper or grinder operation.

Chipper safety: <http://bit.ly/upihwC>

Grinder safety: <http://bit.ly/tW6uQ1>

At your next safety meeting, consider talking about chipper/grinder safety and use the safety training meeting report located at <http://www.mlep.org/documents/trainingmeetingrept.pdf> to document your meeting.

Be Aware of One-Pot Meth Labs

In rural areas around the country, "one-pot" methamphetamine cookers have been found. Water bottles and liter cola bottles are being used in a process also known as "shake and bake" - a method of making meth in a single container. The items are highly toxic and combustible. The bottles contain hydrochloric acid and other toxins. The bottles often have a hose coming out of the top and contain a white powder. There may be an ammonia scent around the bottles. The scent means the device is in an extremely dangerous stage. The bottles may look harmless but they are dangerous. There also may be other harmful objects such as used syringes and chemicals in the area.

If a possibly toxic bottle is found, do not touch it or attempt to transport it. Call local law enforcement or 911. Stay aware of your surroundings and focused on your safety.



If Trees Could Talk, They Would Say...

"I provide jobs, recyclable products, educational opportunities, and adventures for residents and visitors."

This is the text from one of the ads developed by the Forestry Education & Awareness Program (FEAP) which connects the program's partners with students and the community to promote forestry. FEAP began in 2004 as a result of the Itasca County Land Commissioner and County Commissioners' desire to more broadly bring education and awareness of the northern Minnesota forest to students, citizens, and visitors. It was recognized that a need exists to bridge the communication gap between practicing foresters' knowledge and teachers' skills in order to more effectively reach citizens young and old. Doing so would require a partnership between Itasca County and its forest users, landowners, forestry and logging professionals, education professionals, businesses and citizens.

FEAP initially focused on K-14 educators and students by offering team teaching opportunities. Team teaching pairs forestry professionals and professional educators together to incorporate the context of the "forest" and the FEAP key messages into core curricular subjects such as math, science, reading, social studies, and communications.

In 2009 and 2010, FEAP focused on citizens and visitors. The communications campaign "If Trees Could Talk" began incorporating the FEAP website, print ads, an article series, radio public service announcements and a DVD created by the local public television station. More information about FEAP and the "If Trees Could Talk" campaign resources, go to www.feapmn.com.

Wood Yard Safety

Minnesota Timber Producers Association, in partnership with the member companies of Minnesota Forest Industries as well as the Minnesota Logger Education Program, in an effort to increase safety and reduce accidents, has developed Wood Yard Safety Recommendations. Each facility will have its own rules and regulations for its property. These recommendations are designed to improve safety, increase awareness, and to the greatest extent possible, standardize safety practices across the state.

The recommended safety recommendations can be found at: <http://www.mlep.org/documents/woodyardsafety.pdf>

Wood yard maps for many of Minnesota's mills are also available at <http://www.mlep.org/woodyardmaps.htm>

Make safety a habit! You should keep a record of your safety meetings and discussions using the safety training meeting report.

If trees could talk, they would say:

"I PROVIDE JOBS, RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND ADVENTURES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS."

Working Forests:
regeneration for generations

FEAP
FORESTRY EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAM

For more information visit www.FEAPMN.com

photo credit EH Segor





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Logging Professionalism*

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www.mlep.org

Plan Ahead – 2012 Logger Conferences

April 3 & 4, 2012
Fortune Bay Resort
Tower, MN

April 10 & 11, 2012
Northern Lights Convention Center
Walker, MN

Registration Now
Open Online!
www.mlep.org

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