

MLEP TREELINE

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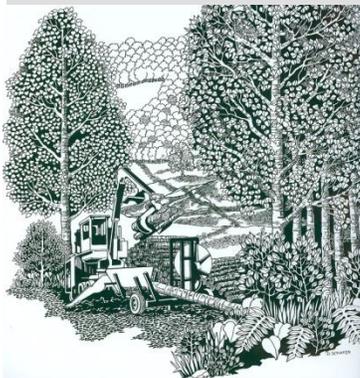
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Fall 2014



Did You Know:

- The average date of the first frost varies from 9/23 in Cook to 11/2 in the Duluth Harbor.
- 4,384,000 commemorative postage stamps can be made from one cord of wood.
- This is the 50th anniversary of having a Christmas tree on the west lawn of the US Capitol.



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Scheff Logging & Trucking – 2014 Logger of the Year – Also Tapped to Cut U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree!

Scheff Logging and Trucking has been named the 2014 "Logger of the Year" by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (MN SIC). The award was presented to the Marcell-based business at the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) workshop held in Tower April 15. James Scheff, owner, accepted the award from MN SIC vice-chair Roger Johnson in front of an audience of more than 200 loggers.

The Logger of the Year Award recognizes outstanding independent logging contractor performance with the purpose of honoring Minnesota's competent professional independent logging contractors. The formal nomination notes that Scheff's logging operations are testimony to what a modern-day business focused on timberland management can successfully be. The family-owned enterprise supplies wood fiber to Minnesota's forest products economy, while at the same time harvesting trees in an environmentally sensitive manner.

"Jim and his staff exhibit a professional attitude and work ethic, preceded only by their ability to pay attention to detail," according to retired U.S. Forest Service Forester and award nominator Dave Roerick. "When conditions change unexpectedly on a logging job, Jim is willing to adjust his operations in a fair and equitable manner, thus ensuring the best interests of the landowner are taken care of," Roerick added.

Scheff and his employees are known for their willingness to not only take suggestions, but to implement ideas and make adjustments to their harvesting and forest management operations in ways that improve efficiencies whenever possible.



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The Logger of the Year Award was presented to Scheff Logging & Trucking. Pictured left: MN SIC Vice-Chair Roger Johnson (L) and award winner Jim Scheff (R). The winner was announced at the MLEP Logger Conference in Tower



2014 Logger of the Year *(Continued from Page 1)*

Founded in September 1977, Scheff and his family members, including his mother, have established a thriving business in Scheff Logging and Trucking. The business includes five timber harvesting crews, and one chipping operation. The company includes a full fleet of 17 wood hauling trucks and complement of heavy equipment to build and maintain roads, landings, and overall support of the business.

Scheff Logging and Trucking is not all about 'business,' however. Jim volunteers for several professional programs and associations that help his logging business meet the challenging demands of his profession. He serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association and Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers of Minnesota.

His membership in the MLEP is evidence of his compliance with legal business requirements; Scheff's certification as a Minnesota Master Logger recognizes his professionalism as an individual logger, earning Scheff Logging and Trucking the seal of approval as a logging business.

MLEP Executive Director Dave Chura congratulated Scheff, noting that in addition to the high risk and large business investment the family has made, Scheff pays close attention to the safety and needs of the company's workforce. Employees are met with on a regular basis to discuss safety concerns; Scheff meets annually in a town hall setting with employees and his insurance agent to ensure that issues are addressed.

"Not only are Jim Scheff's standards for his operations above the norm," testified Tim O'Hara, coordinator of the Duluth-based Minnesota MN SIC, "he is a volunteer with several professional programs and associations that help both his, and his fellow logging businesses meet the challenging demands of the logging profession."

Scheff Logging and Trucking received a plaque and a check for \$500 for the recognition along with several other gifts. In addition, Jim Scheff, will have the honor of cutting the white spruce that will light up the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

The Chippewa National Forest, in partnership with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Choose Outdoors, will provide the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, an 80-foot plus white spruce. Scheff Logging and Trucking will cut the tree during a public ceremony on Oct. 29. After the ceremony, the tree will be loaded onto a flatbed truck and begin the nearly 2,000-mile cross-country expedition.



Wood Markets in Minnesota

Loggers at our "Wood Markets" workshop visited with representatives from a variety of mills and other markets. Many of the participants learned about some new markets they previously didn't know existed.

Check out our Wood Markets Packet online at <http://www.mlep.org/wm2.pdf> for information on wood market locations in Minnesota, contact information and species utilization and specifications. Is a market missing from the packet? If so, please let us know so we can get them added!



Important Information About the Northern Long-Eared Bat

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposes to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Such a listing would have serious implications.

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) has put together a summary outlining the implications of the proposed "Endangered" listing at <http://bit.ly/1t4ZZMq>. Other key points to keep in mind:

- The northern long-eared bat is facing a disease issue, not a lack of habitat issue.
- Current forestry practices in this area provide high quality habitat for forest bats.
- Annual harvest rates during summer are very small (less than one-half of 1 percent of the forest impacted in Minnesota), but it has a large economic impact.

Restrictions on summer logging would hurt local forest products companies and loggers without providing added protection for the northern long-eared bat.

Minnesota Forest Industries has put together a fact sheet on the NLEB and the need to address the proven cause of their imperilment. Text from the fact sheet is below, or you can view and/or print the fact sheet from our website at <http://www.mlep.org/documents/longearbatfacts.pdf>

Fish and Wildlife Service should focus on the deadly White Nose Syndrome, not on altering forests.

Northern Long-Eared Bats die in large numbers every winter – in some caves, their mortality rate is 99% – due to a fungal disease known as White Nose Syndrome. But rather than focusing on disease prevention and treatment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to make ill-conceived changes to the bats' summertime habitat – including Minnesota's forests – as part of a proposal to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an endangered species.

Such action would do nothing to address what decimates these bats, but it would decimate a forest products industry that provides excellent products and employment across America, including 30,000 jobs in Minnesota.

That's why the focus should be on the disease, not the trees.

The proposed solution overlooks the real cause

While the Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledges that White Nose Syndrome, for which there is yet no cure, is the cause of the bats' diminishing population, the FWS wants to create ways to enhance the population in non-hibernating months.

And since Northern Long-Eared Bats like to roost underneath bark or in crevices of both live and dead trees during the summer, the Fish and Wildlife Service's preliminary guidance to federal agencies identifies regulation of forest practices as a way to accomplish this.

Among its recommendations are to prohibit summertime forest management activities within a 5-mile radius of "hibernacula" (the caves in which bats hibernate) and within a 1.5-mile radius of actual and potential roost trees that are 3" in diameter or larger. If you drew 1.5-mile-radius circles around Minnesota trees larger than 3" in diameter, you'd find very little of the state left outside of those circles.

If these recommendations are imposed, Minnesota timber harvesting activities could only occur during the winter while bats are hibernating, effectively shutting down the forest products industry.

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Northern Long Eared-Bat *(Continued from Page 3)*

Such drastic steps are not necessary

In Minnesota, less than 1 percent of forestland is harvested each year, so bat habitat will always remain plentiful. In fact, our state's effective forest management techniques actually provide new habitat opportunities for these bats.

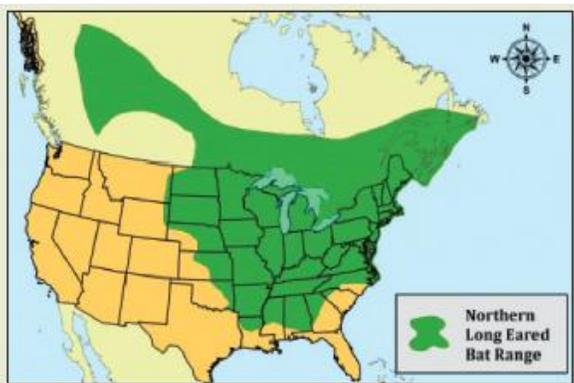
There's no question bats are important to our ecosystem. They disperse seeds and consume damaging agricultural pests, helping keep our crops healthy. A single bat can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour. We need bats.

The solution is not to handcuff the forest products and other industries; it's to find a cure for White Nose Syndrome. Recently, Bat Conservation International and the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy were the latest to take up this challenge, awarding \$97,000 in grants for research into the disease. The Fish and Wildlife Service needs to quickly explore and help fund additional efforts to eliminate White Nose Syndrome.

Because right now, no matter what happens in the summer, up to 99 percent of Northern Long-Eared Bat populations will continue to succumb to White Nose Syndrome in the winter.

Disease has killed millions of bats

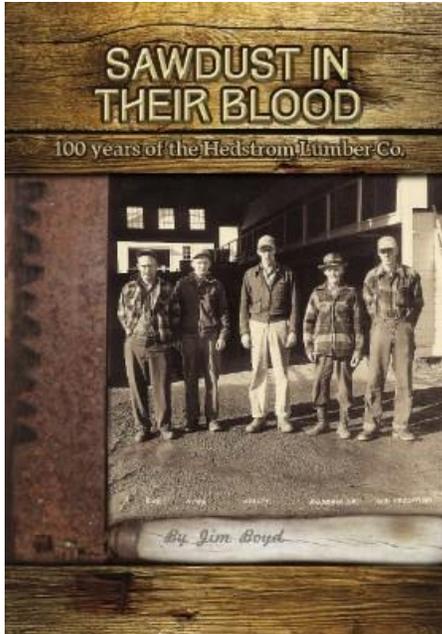
More than 5.5 million bats have died during the past eight years in 25 states and five Canadian provinces. This isn't due to farming, wind turbines, forest management or other reasons, but to White Nose Syndrome. This fungal disease, which thrives in the low temperatures and high humidity common in caves where bats hibernate, has killed 99% of bat populations in parts of the Northeast, according to Fish and Wildlife Service data.



Northern Long-Eared Bat, with White Nose Syndrome



100 Year Anniversary – Congratulations Hedstom Lumber Company!



Andrew Hedstrom, supported by his wife, Alma Berglund Hedstrom, began sawing lumber on the banks of the Devil Track River in July 1914. To start his mill, Hedstrom, father of seven, was required to turn his back on a thriving carpentry business and put all his family's hopes on rebuilding a burned-out sawmill that no one believed could be restored.

It was an extraordinarily courageous decision by Andrew and Alma, the first of many such decisions that made it possible for this small family sawmill to survive a tumultuous century of economic shocks, devastating fires, dramatic changes in federal and state forest management policy, and successful management transitions to a second, third and now fourth generation of Hedstroms. Few are the family businesses that survive into a fourth generation.

The story of that survival is told in photos and text in a book commissioned for the centennial celebration, "Sawdust in Their Blood." It will be available for purchase during the centennial events and afterward in a number of North Shore venues.

Howard Hedstrom, president of Hedstrom Lumber Co., says the company "has a bright future. It will continue investing in the community on several levels, as well as providing employment for the stability of many families. There are also technological and mechanical plans in the works to update and improve the production and safety of the Hedstrom facility."

MLEP & MMLC CY 2013 Annual Reports

The 2013 Annual Reports includes detailed summary of MLEP and MMLC operational activities and program services. A copy of the full reports are available online or by contacting the MLEP office.

MLEP Annual Report <http://bit.ly/1v6RnVC>

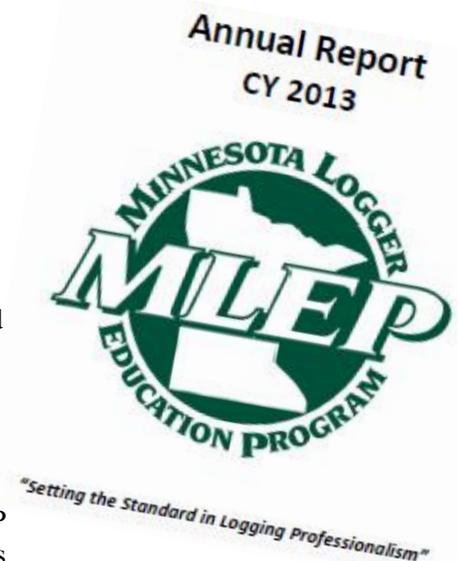
MMLC Annual Report <http://bit.ly/1BWL8m5>

Membership Summary

MLEP membership is comprised of logging business owners (large and small), wood dealers and associate members. 2013 membership totaled 490 reflecting: 139 small logging business owners, 252 large logging business owners, 8 wood dealers, 65 associates, and 26 new logger applicants.

Workshop Attendance

There were 50 workshops available to members to complete their day of MLEP credit (in addition to Log Safe classes). The total attendance at these workshops was 1,901 logging business owners, logging business employees, natural resource professionals, landowners, and others.



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Upcoming Events

October

15 – LogSafe – Rochester TENT (CPR-1st Aid)
30&31 – Bat-Friendly Forestry Workshop & Field Tour – Aitkin

November

5 – Forest Pest First Detector – Rochester
12 – Ash Mgmt. for Woodland Owners – Rochester

December

2 – Erosion Control – Grand Rapids
3 – LogSafe – Hibbing (OSHA & CPR-1st Aid)
TBD – Open Computer Lab – Cloquet

- 2014 MLEP Board of Directors –

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