

MLEP TREELINE

Volume 13, Issue 1

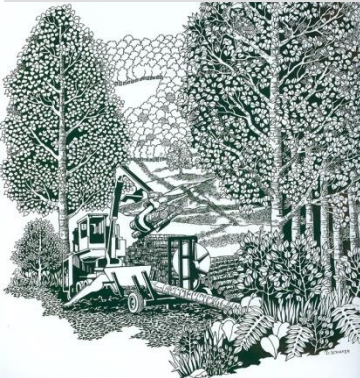
www.mlep.org

Spring 2015



Did You Know:

- Forests & forest products store enough carbon each year to offset approximately 10% of the nation's CO₂ emissions.
- Two-thirds of the nation's drinking water comes from forests.



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

New MLEP Executive Director Announced

The Minnesota Logger Education Program's (MLEP) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Rachel Peterson as its Executive Director.

Peterson was born in Fond du Lac, WI and received a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. After graduation she has worked for forest products companies and forest industry associations. She is an avid outdoors person who enjoys hunting, ATVs and hiking. Peterson is married and has three children.

She will start with MLEP on July 6th. After that date, you can contact her at rachel.peterson@mlep.org or 218-722-5442.

Welcome to MLEP, Rachel!

Rachel Peterson – New MLEP
Executive Director



Habitat projects aim to help Minnesota's moose

The Duluth News-Tribune recently ran an article about upcoming projects with the hopes of helping the moose population on the North Shore.

In addition to planting, the efforts also focus on how declining numbers could also be linked to lack of suitable habitat. As the article states, "young aspen trees are a favored browse- or feed-species of moose. Aspen regenerate rapidly after northern Minnesota's forests burn or are logged."

Read the whole story at:

<http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/outdoors/3749429-habitat-projects-aim-help-minnesotas-moose>



Greg Cook Logging Inc. – 2015 Logger of the Year!

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative(r) Implementation Committee (SIC) named Greg Cook Logging as the 2015 Logger of the Year. The award was given by Roger Johnson, SIC chair and forester with Molpus Timberlands on April 14, during the Minnesota Logger Education Program Conference held in Tower, Minnesota.

Being selected to receive the Logger of the Year Award in Minnesota may occur only once. However, operating as the Logger of the Year is a full-time job and a lifetime commitment. Greg Cook Logging has accomplished both.

"Greg Cook Logging exemplifies the significant and unique contribution the state's timber harvesters provide Minnesota's economy, wildlife and healthy forests" said Tim O'Hara, coordinator of the Duluth-based Minnesota SIC and vice president of forest policy with Minnesota Forest Industries.

Greg Cook started the logging business in the 1970s in the Bigfork area. In 2006, his son, Clinton, purchased the business from his father. Minnesota's woods and timber harvesting were not unfamiliar ground to Clinton; he had worked alongside his dad since he was in the eighth grade.

The company has grown with Clinton; both the company and Clinton are known for being hard-working, honest, and motivated to continually improve. Clinton is the first to admit that behind a great logging company is an outstanding crew. His wife, Tracy, manages the office operations along with forester Carl Bleiler and the company's long-time equipment operators: Jason Roach, Fred Pitzen, and Jason Tower to name just a few.

"The Minnesota SFI Logger of the Year Award should be defined by the characteristics of honesty, hard-work and motivation to continually improve," Damon Polus, Procurement Forester with Sappi Fine Paper wrote on his nomination form. "Greg Cook Logging fits that definition perfectly."

The company's professionalism does not begin and end in the woods. Greg Cook Logging has been a member of the Minnesota Logger Education Program since the program's beginnings in 1997. Showing its commitment to safety and high standards, 25 to 30 of the company's employees annually attend training both to ensure safety on the job and high-quality woods work. The company has achieved recognition as Minnesota Master Loggers since 2006.

Nominations for the 2015 honor came from not only the logging community, but from private landowners and professional consulting foresters, proving that Greg Cook Logging has conducted its operations "over and above" the expectations and standards of peers in the profession. A Zim, Minnesota private landowner lauded the company on its sensitivity to the recreational goals he had for his woodland.

"Greg Cook Logging represents perfectly the commitment to responsible forestry that is required to achieve logger of the year. The team's significant contributions to a sustainable community, conservation, logger training and market access are what make them leaders," said Kathy Abusow, SFI President and CEO of SFI Inc.



Clinton Cook (L) accepts the 2015 Logger of the Year plaque from SIC chair Roger Johnson with Molpus Timberlands at the MLEP Logger Conference in Tower, MN.





2015 Logger Conferences a Success!

We had another very busy and successful spring at MLEP with our two Logger Conferences in Tower and Bemidji, MN. Approximately 350 loggers, vendors, and sponsors attended this year.

The weather varied from a perfect spring day in Tower, only to change the following week in Bemidji to snow flying and the wind howling.

Thank you again to all who came to attend this year, along with our vendors and sponsors. Their support helps make the Conferences possible!!

Photos (clockwise from top left): MLEP Members during a break at the Sanford Center during the Bemidji Logger Conference; the Conferences were a good time to catch up with others in the industry; thank you to Eli Sagor of the UofM who assisted with the Conferences this spring, pictured with Chris DeRosier of MLEP; participants visit vendors who were present at the Conferences.

MLEP Members in the News

Junker Logging had a nice write-up in the International Falls Daily Journal this winter:

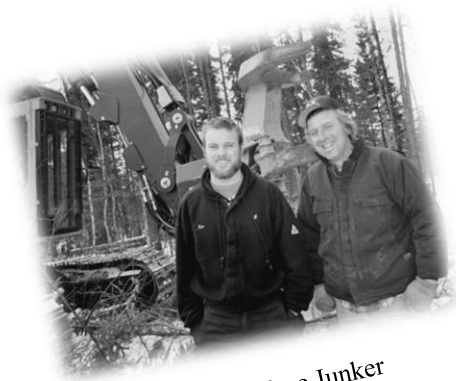
http://www.ifallsjournal.com/news/business/logging-is-all-in-the-family/article_36838309-14c9-5db6-b65a-47e4cdcc4ff9.html

Peter Hall also had a feature article in the TPA Timber Bulletin:

<http://www.mlep.org/documents/peterhallfeature.htm>

Dave Berthiaume took part in the filming of an episode of NTWF "Save the Habitat Save the Hunt":

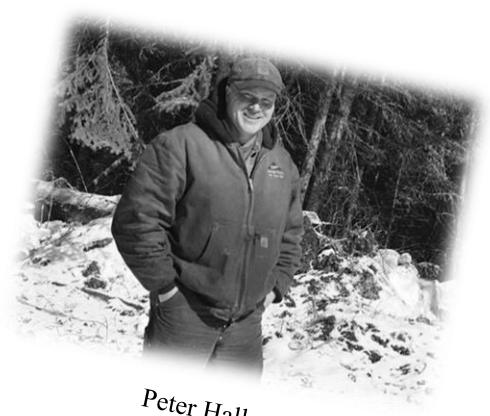
<https://www.facebook.com/MNSIC/photos/a.390337021094785.1073741830.380734632055024/688499037945247/?type=1&heater>



Bruce and Jace Junker



Dave Berthiaume



Peter Hall





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Chris DeRosier
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Logging Professionalism*

We're on the Web!

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Upcoming Events

June

2 – Timber Sales for Wildlife – Wrenshall
4 – US/Canada Border Transp – I Falls
17 – Timber Sales for Wildlife – SE MN
24 – Timber Sales for Wildlife – North Shore

August

25 – Whys/How's of FMG Monitoring – Palisade
26 – FMG Pocket Guide Intro – Cloquet

September

10 – Forest Health – Silver Bay
15 – FMG Pocket Guide Intro – Bemidji
29 – Wood Markets – Grand Rapids

Fall LogSafe Dates/Locations

Oct. 13 – I Falls
Oct. 14 - Bemidji
Oct. 20 - Cloquet
Oct. 21 - Hibbing
Dec. 8 - Hibbing

- 2015 MLEP Board of Directors –

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Johnson Logging, Inc.

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Izaak Walton League

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