

Annual Report CY 2009



“Setting the Standard in Logging Professionalism”

Minnesota Logger Education Program
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May 2010

Preface

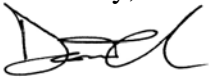
Despite continued economic challenges in the timber industry, 2009 was a successful year for MLEP. This annual report summarizes the program services and activities of the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) for calendar year 2009.

The Minnesota Logger Education Program is a logger-initiated program that was established in 1995 to provide assistance to Minnesota's logging community through educational programming. This objective is accomplished by partnering with numerous groups to identify needs and facilitating the development, design, delivery and evaluation of programs which focus on sustainable forest management, transportation, safety and business management. MLEP, which is based in Duluth, MN, is a 501(c)(3) organization. It is governed by a thirteen-member board of directors and employs an Executive Director and a part-time Executive Assistant.

To date, MLEP has sponsored 568 workshops focused on sustainable forest resource management, business management, professional operations and safety. Participation within the training and education programs exemplifies MLEP's overall support and success with a total combined attendance of 13,890 including 11,603 loggers and 2,287 public and private sector natural resource managers.

MLEP's program services and success would not be possible if not for the support of our members and the dedication and commitment of our partners. We greatly appreciate their continued support and contribution to MLEP's success.

Sincerely,



David T. Chura
Executive Director

Minnesota Logger Education Program 2009 Board of Directors

Kit Hasbargen, President
Hasbargen Logging, Inc.

David Hughes
Hughes Timber, Inc.

Bruce ZumBahlen
Minnesota Forestry Association

Rod Enberg, Vice-President
Enberg Logging

Seth Johnson
Johnson Logging, Inc.

Craig Turnboom, Secretary
Turnboom Logging

Kelly Kimball
Kimball Logging, Inc.

Bill Fleischman, Treasurer
Izaak Walton League

Jim Marshall
UPM – Blandin Forestry

Charlie Blinn
University of Minnesota

Tom McCabe, Jr.
McCabe Forest Products

Gordy Dobbs
Dobbs Logging, Inc.

Bob Tomlinson
DNR Division of Forestry

Membership

MLEP membership is comprised of logging business owners (large and small), wood dealers and associate members. 2009 membership totaled 531 reflecting: 144 small logging business owners, 288 large logging business owners, 6 wood dealers, 64 associates, and 29 new logger applicants.

Historical Membership Breakdown

Logging Businesses						
<i>Applicants</i>						
Small	19					
Large	10					
Wood Dealer	0					
Total Applicants	29					
<i>Members</i>						
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Small	144	146	105	99	100	93
Large	288	305	296	297	310	314
Wood Dealer	6	5	5	6	5	5
Total Members	438	456	407	401	415	412
<i>Associate Members</i>						
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Paid Memberships	64	66	61	63	61	60
Mill Individuals	74	75	75	68	55	50
Other Individuals	51	49	46	41	36	35
Total Individuals	125	119	121	103	91	85
Grand Total	531	522	468	464	476	472

Program Services / Activities

In 2009, the Minnesota Logger Education Program delivered a variety of workshops and training formats to logging and natural resource professionals and landowners.

Professional Training and Continuing Education Classes (CY 2009)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Attended</u>
February 18, 2009	Roosevelt	Biomass Field Day	11
March 19, 2009	Ponsford	Biomass Field Day	3
March 24, 2009	Grand Rapids	Anderson Lubricants Seminar	25
March 25, 2009	Virginia	Anderson Lubricants Seminar	12
March 25, 2009	Rochester	LogSafe - CPR	17

March 31, 2009	Baudette	LogSafe - CPR	23
March 31, 2009	Baudette	LogSafe - OSHA	28
April 1, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR	26
April 1, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	34
April 1, 2009	Duluth	Truck Weight Compliance	2
April 2, 2009	Brainerd	Biomass Field Day	19
April 2, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR	18
April 2, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	18
April 3, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR	23
April 7, 2009	Tower	Logger Conference Day One	138
April 8, 2009	Tower	LogSafe - CPR, Logger Conf. Day Two	47
April 8, 2009	Tower	LogSafe - OSHA, Logger Conf. Day Two	83
April 8, 2009	Rochester	Truck Weight Compliance	2
April 9, 2009	Two Harbors	LogSafe - CPR	25
April 9, 2009	Two Harbors	LogSafe - OSHA	15
April 14, 2009	Walker	Logger Conference Day One	177
April 15, 2009	Walker	LogSafe - CPR, Logger Conf. Day Two	48
April 15, 2009	Walker	LogSafe - OSHA, Logger Conf. Day Two	74
April 15, 2009	Alexandria	Truck Weight Compliance	2
April 16, 2009	Hackensack	Aitkin County Logger Workshop	20
April 21, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR	26
April 21, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - OSHA	32
April 22, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR	26
April 22, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - OSHA	21
April 23, 2009	Biwabik	LogSafe - CPR	21
April 24, 2009	Rochester	LogSafe - CPR	9
April 28, 2009	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR	24
April 28, 2009	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	37
April 29, 2009	Brainerd	LogSafe - CPR	25
April 29, 2009	Brainerd	LogSafe - OSHA	14
May 5, 2009	Rochester	GPS	3
May 5, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR	21
May 5, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	14
May 6, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR	23
May 7, 2009	Grand Rapids	GPS	18
May 13, 2009	Cloquet	Landview	20
May 15, 2009	Cloquet	Accessing Online Photos	22
May 19, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR	21
May 20, 2009	Bemidji	Operator Select/Timber Marking	31
May 21, 2009	Sandstone	LogSafe - CPR	15

June 2, 2009	Cloquet	Train The Trainer	30
June 3, 2009	Cloquet	Train The Trainer	27
July 14, 2009	Grand Marais	Silviculture	13
July 21, 2009	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR	19
July 28, 2009	Bemidji	Biomass Focus Groups	9
July 29, 2009	Grand Rapids	Biomass Focus Groups	8
July 30, 2009	Virginia	Biomass Focus Groups	10
August 12, 2009	I Falls	Business Management	19
August 20, 2009	Hackensack	Chainsaw Safety	4
September 1, 2009	Cloquet	FMG Day One	49
September 2, 2009	Cloquet	FMG Day Two	49
September 18, 2009	Grand Rapids	Reasonable Suspicion	19
September 22, 2009	Hinckley	FDL Biobaler Demo	17
September 23, 2009	Aurora	FDL Biobaler Demo	1
September 24, 2009	Hibbing	FDL Biobaler Demo	5
October 1, 2009	Brainerd	Landview	9
October 6, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR	22
October 6, 2009	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	9
October 7, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR	20
October 7, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	19
October 8, 2009	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR	23
October 8, 2009	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	32
October 9, 2009	Bemidji	Truck Weight Compliance	8
October 13, 2009	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR	17
October 13, 2009	I Falls	Transportation Across State Lines	34
October 14, 2009	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR	24
October 20, 2009	Brainerd	DOT Audit	11
October 27, 2009	Bemidji	Skilled Driver	26
October 28, 2009	Virginia	Skilled Driver	18
December 8, 2009	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR	25
December 8, 2009	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	20
December 15, 2009	Cloquet	Business Management	18
December 31, 2009	Online	Online BHG Training	45
December 31, 2009	Online	Online Landview Training	4

Total Participants 1,976

Program Activity Highlights

- Secured \$40,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation for implementation of the Continuing Education of Forestry Professionals Task Force recommendations.
- Secured \$3,500 from the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and an additional \$500 from the UMN Northeast Sustainable Development Partnership for Train-the-Trainer effort.
- Coordinated the “Train-the-Trainer” effort aimed at revising the Forest Management Guideline training and developing a new core of FMG trainers.
- Expanded influence with biomass sector – active with Arrowhead Partnership for Economic Expansion, BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota and Bioenergy Action Team; participating in efforts to develop a Minnesota Bioenergy Strategy.
- Assisted the development of an online/computer-based Biomass Harvesting Guidelines training package launched in November 2008.
- Distributed member training record reports quarterly to public land managers, mills and others as appropriate.
- Published 2008 annual report of MLEP activities.
- Published 2008 annual report of MMLC activities.
- Adopted new policies for board approval to ensure 990 compliance and nonprofit management best practices:
 - Whistleblower policy
 - Document retention and destruction policy
 - Policy on process for determining compensation
 - Joint venture policy
 - Drug and alcohol testing policy
 - Discipline policy
- Secured \$15,000 from VersoPaper for MMLC (January 2009).
- Certified one new logging businesses and recertified thirteen logging businesses as Minnesota Certified Master Loggers.
- Actively participated in the Continuing Education of Forestry Professionals Task Force which resulted in MLEP/LogSafe partnership.
- Implemented new training requirement (12 hours MLEP, 12 LogSafe over a two year period)
- Secured \$125,000 contract for administration of LogSafe training from Department of Labor and Industry in February 2009. Undertook ambitious training schedule to ensure seamless delivery of spring 2009 LogSafe training.
- Conducted focus groups with owners and employees during the 2009 Spring LogSafe workshops to gather input on safety hazards, training needs and improved workshop delivery.
- Significantly improved logging business compliance with OSHA CPR requirements in 2009 through past training verification during workshop registration process.
- Drafted and distributed a variety of safety resources and materials to assist employers with monthly safety meeting requirements and OSHA compliance.

2009 Workshop Participant Evaluation Overall Summaries

Participants evaluated the training using the following scale (this summary includes all the dates that were offered for:

Overall, at this training, I learned:

-2 Much less than I expected	-1 Less than I expected	0 About as much as I expected	1 A bit more than I expected	2 Much more than I expected
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Tower Logger Conference	0.5
Walker Logger Conference	0.4
Landview	0.8
Accessing Aerial Photos/Topo Maps	1.2
Operator Select Timber Marking	1.0

LogSafe

CPR/First Aid	1.1
OSHA	0.7

New Evaluation Format

Overall, the training was:

Not Valuable		Very Valuable	
1	2	3	4

Silviculture	2.6
Business Management	3.5
Chainsaw Safety	3.8
Forest Management Guideline Training	3.2
Reasonable Suspicion	3.8
Landview	3.4
Transportation Issues Between US/Canada	3.3
How to Prepare for DOT Audit	3.7
Skilled Driver	3.4

LogSafe

CPR/First Aid	3.7
OSHA	3.2

Minnesota Master Logger Certification

Often, the only forest management advice a family forest owner receives is from a logger who approaches the landowner to procure wood. While many loggers are very experienced and have a professional approach to wood procurement, the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) believes that a well-trained and experienced logger with a broader vision of forestry can provide family forest landowners with sustainable forest management information. MLEP developed the Minnesota Master Logger Certification (MMLC) program to address the challenge of providing certified fiber from family forestlands to the marketplace.

Minnesota Master Logger Certification, administered through the MLEP, is a performance-based program for loggers that recognizes training, experience, and the application of sound business and sustainable logging practices. Logger certification has been recognized as a way to independently verify the harvest, safety and business practices of participant loggers against specific standards designed to ensure forest are managed and harvested responsibly. MMLC has been endorsed by Time Inc. as meeting the requirements of their Certified Sustainable Forestry program.

Many Minnesota loggers already meet the standards and criteria required for certification, but they do not have a way to authenticate that their customers. Loggers who become certified are able to provide certified wood to the market place. This means loggers and mills in Minnesota will be in a strong position to provide certified wood from family forestlands to customers like Time Inc. that require certified wood in the products they purchase.

A working group representing the broad forestry community was established in early 2005 to develop the MMLC program and its policies, as well as set-up the certifying board. The program is comprised of eight areas of responsibility such as “Protection of Water Quality and Soils”, “Adherence to Site Specific Harvest and Management Plans” and “Compliance with Regulations Applicable to Logging Operations.” Each responsibility area includes measurable performance standards and practices.

A logger participating in the program undergoes a third-party audit of his or her business practices and harvest sites. Independent auditors who have been trained on the MMLC standard conduct field audits on a sample of sites the applicant has harvested within the last 12 months. The logging business and harvest practices are evaluated against 138 practices in eight major areas of responsibility. Based on their findings, the auditors provide the certifying board a recommendation for or against certification. An eight member certifying board, which represents a broad range of forestry interests, reviews the audits and recommendations and makes the final determination on whether the applicant’s business can be certified. To be certified, a logging business must pass all eight areas of the MMLC standard on all audited sites.

Once a logging business is certified, the certification status is good until the next recertification audit which will occur within five years. During any given year, the certified business may be randomly selected for recertification. As each year passes, the probability that the business will be selected for recertification increases. No Minnesota Certified Master Logger will go longer than five years without being recertified.

Why is Certification Needed?

Several mills in Minnesota and across the country have been asked to meet a target that more than 80% of the resource going into their product be certified. Minnesota has about 15.6 million acres of timberland. Of that 15.6 million, 37% is controlled by family forest landowners and these family forests provide 26% of the timber harvested each year. Logger certification addresses this challenge by providing certified wood from family forestland to the market place. This means loggers and mills in Minnesota will be in a strong position to provide certified wood from family forestlands to customers like Time Inc.

A detailed annual report for the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program is available.

MLEP Budget

MLEP's activities are funded by membership fees, training fees and grants.

Support

Membership fees	\$158,625
Training / Program fees	\$17,655
Grants	\$157,076
Misc.	\$13,965
Total	\$347,321

Expenses

Management and General	\$32,989
Program Services	\$238,344
Total	\$271,333

Staffing

David Chura, Executive Director

Chris DeRosier, Executive Assistant