

Annual Report CY 2011



“Setting the Standard in Logging Professionalism”

Minnesota Logger Education Program
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May 2012

Preface

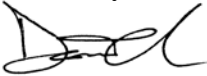
Despite continued economic challenges in the timber industry, 2011 was a successful year for MLEP. This annual report summarizes the program services and activities of the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) for calendar year 2011.

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 732 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 17,761 including 14,501 loggers and 2,376 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
2011 Board of Directors**

Rod Enberg, President
Enberg Logging

Charlie Blinn
U of M Extension

Tom McCabe Jr.
McCabe Forest Products

David Hughes, Vice President
Hughes Timber, Inc.

Gordy Dobbs
Dobbs Logging, Inc.

Cliff Shermer
Shermer Logging

Seth Johnson, Secretary
Johnson Logging, Inc.

Kelly Kimball
Kimball Logging, Inc.

Bob Tomlinson
DNR Division of Forestry

Bill Fleischman, Treasurer
Izaak Walton League

Kit Hasbargen
Hasbargen Logging, Inc.

Bruce ZumBahlen
MN Forestry Association

Jim Marshall
UPM – Blandin Forestry

Membership

MLEP membership is comprised of logging business owners (large and small), wood dealers and associate members. 2011 membership totaled 544 reflecting: 170 small logging business owners, 280 large logging business owners, 7 wood dealers, 66 associates, and 21 new logger applicants.

Historical Membership Breakdown

Logging Businesses						
Applicants						
Small	12					
Large	9					
Wood Dealer	0					
Total Applicants	21					
Members						
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Small	170	158	144	146	105	99
Large	280	270	288	305	296	297
Wood Dealer	7	6	6	7	6	5
Total Members	457	435	456	438	456	407
Associate Members						
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Paid Memberships	66	66	66	64	66	61
Mill Individuals	68	74	75	74	75	75
Other Individuals	44	51	49	51	49	41
Total Individuals	110	125	119	125	119	103
Grand Total	544	541	522	531	522	464

Program Services / Activities

In 2011, 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 and Evaluations (CY 2011)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Learned</u>
January 12, 2011	Detroit Lakes	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
January 19, 2011	Owatonna	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
January 27, 2011	Arden Hills	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
January 29, 2011	Rochester	Aerial Photos (6-9PM)	0		
February 2, 2011	St. Cloud	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
February 10, 2011	E Grand Forks	Truck Weight Compliance	2		
February 24, 2011	Fairmont	Invasive Species	0		
February 26, 2011	Duluth	Landview/GIS	2		
March 2, 2011	Marshall	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 10, 2011	Alexandria	Truck Weight Compliance	1		
March 16, 2011	Mankato	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 22, 2011	Rochester	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	32		
March 23, 2011	Bloomington	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 30, 2011	Baudette	LogSafe - AM OSHA	38		
March 30, 2011	Baudette	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	34		
March 31, 2011	I Falls	LogSafe - AM OSHA	44		
March 31, 2011	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	75		
March 31, 2011	Duluth	Truck Weight Compliance	8		
April 1, 2011	North Branch	Invasive Species	2		
April 5, 2011	Tower	MLEP Logger Conference Day One	159	2.5	2.1
April 6, 2011	Tower	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	70		
April 6, 2011	Tower	LogSafe - OSHA	82		
April 6, 2011	Arden Hills	OS/OW Permitting - MNDOT			
April 12, 2011	Walker	MLEP Logger Conference Day One	182	2.6	2.3
April 13, 2011	Walker	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	72		
April 13, 2011	Walker	LogSafe - OSHA	92		
April 13, 2011	Duluth	OS/OW Permitting - MNDOT			
April 14, 2011	Two Harbors	LogSafe - AM OSHA	15		
April 14, 2011	Two Harbors	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	27		
April 19, 2011	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - AM OSHA	15		
April 19, 2011	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	45		
April 20, 2011	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - AM OSHA	10		
April 20, 2011	Grand Rapids	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	35		
April 21, 2011	Palisade	Aitkin County Logger Wkshp	40		

April 21, 2011	Cloquet	LogSafe - AM OSHA	34		
April 21, 2011	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	38		
April 26, 2011	Brainerd	LogSafe - AM OSHA	23		
April 26, 2011	Brainerd	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	35		
April 26, 2011	I Falls	Skilled Driver	33	3.3	3.2
April 27, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - AM OSHA	25		
April 27, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	42		
April 27, 2011	Cloquet	Skilled Driver	20	3.5	3.6
April 28, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - AM OSHA	10		
April 28, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	32		
May 5, 2011	Winona	Invasive Species	2		
May 12, 2011	Cloquet	FMG Beta Testing	7		
June 28, 2011	CFC	Roads	34	2.9	2.9
July 7, 2011	New York Mills	IST - Pine	14	1.1	
July 12, 2011	Grand Marais	Landview/GIS	11	3.4	3.1
July 19, 2011	Bemidji	Landview/GIS	22	3.6	3.2
August 18, 2011	I Falls	Roads	28	2.9	2.8
August 24, 2011	Brainerd	Roads	20	2.9	2.8
August 25, 2011	Aitkin	IST - Hardwoods, Red Oak	14	0.9	
September 15, 2011	Bemidji	Skilled Driver	23	3.0	3.0
September 16, 2011	Duluth	Managing Your Woodland			
September 16, 2011	Grand Rapids	Skilled Driver	23	3.3	3.0
October 4, 2011	I Falls	LogSafe - AM OSHA	9		
October 4, 2011	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	13		
October 5, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - AM OSHA	17		
October 5, 2011	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	12		
October 6, 2011	Brimson	IST - Pine	22	0.9	
October 12, 2011	Grand Rapids	SFEC IST - Mixed Species	6		
October 18, 2011	Cloquet	LogSafe - AM OSHA	18		
October 18, 2011	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	36		
December 7, 2011	Hibbing	LogSafe - AM OSHA	15		
December 7, 2011	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	48		
December 8, 2011	CFC	Online/Computer lab	10		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online Advanced Landview			
December 31, 2011	Online	Online Biomass Harvesting Guidelines	40		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online DOT Audit Training	19		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online EAB Training	55		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online eFMG Training	6		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online Hazmat Training	11		
December 31, 2011	Online	Online Intro to Landview	5		

December 31, 2011	Online	Online MNDOT CMV	28		
TOTAL/AVERAGE			1942	3.1	2.9

Total Participants 1,942

** Overall, the training was:*

Not Valuable		Very Valuable	
1	2	3	4

*** I believe I learned:*

Very Little		A Great Amount	
1	2	3	4

Program Activity Highlights

- Developed 2011-2016 Business/Strategic Plan based on data collected from a stakeholder survey and facilitation of 2 strategic thinking sessions groups.
- Completed development of an online/computer-based Forest Management Guidelines training package.
- Distributed 22 Training Notes from the Woods and Classroom regarding forest management, business management, transportation and safety issues.
- Certified 14 new logging businesses and recertified 1 logging businesses as Minnesota Certified Master Loggers.
- Finalized MMLC Standard revision resulting in new MMLC Standard, audit assessment decision criteria and other improvements to program documents & processes.
- Distribute quarterly training record reports to public land managers, mills and others as appropriate.
- Secured contracts in the amounts of \$10,000 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and \$20,000 for development of online FMG training.
- Secured \$10,000 contract from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program.
- Authored and distributed 2010 annual report of MLEP activities.
- Authored and distributed 2010 annual report of MMLC activities.

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 to 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.

CY 2011 MLEP Revenue and Expenses

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

Support

Membership fees	\$161,125
Training / Program fees	\$20,280
Grants	\$46,353
Misc.	\$11,117
Total	\$238,875

Expenses

Management and General	\$34,325
Program Services	\$190,475
Total	\$224,800

Staffing

David Chura, Executive Director
Chris DeRosier, Executive Assistant