

# Annual Report CY 2012



***“Setting the Standard in Logging Professionalism”***

**Preface**

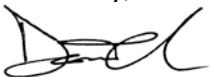
Despite continued economic challenges in the timber industry, 2012 was a successful year for MLEP. This annual report summarizes the program services and activities of the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) for calendar year 2012.

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 799 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 19,604 including 16,209 loggers and 2,511 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  
2012 Board of Directors**

**Rod Enberg, President**

Enberg Logging

**Andrew Arends**

Minnesota DNR

**Jim Marshall**

UPM – Blandin Forestry

**David Hughes, Vice President**

Hughes Timber, Inc.

**Charlie Blinn**

U of M Extension

**Tom McCabe Jr.**

McCabe Forest Products

**Seth Johnson, Secretary**

Johnson Logging, Inc.

**Gordy Dobbs**

Dobbs Logging, Inc.

**Cliff Shermer**

Shermer Logging

**Bill Fleischman, Treasurer**

Izaak Walton League

**Kit Hasbargen**

Hasbargen Logging, Inc.

**Bruce ZumBahlen**

MN Forestry Association

**Dan Lundberg**

Lundberg Forest Products, Inc.

## Membership

MLEP membership is comprised of logging business owners (large and small), wood dealers and associate members. 2012 membership totaled 505 reflecting: 144 small logging business owners, 268 large logging business owners, 6 wood dealers, 69 associates, and 19 new logger applicants.

### Historical Membership Breakdown

<b>Logging Businesses</b>							
<b>Applicants</b>							
Small	11						
Large	7						
Wood Dealer	1						
Total Applicants	19						
<b>Members</b>							
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Small	144	170	158	144	146	105	99
Large	268	280	270	288	305	296	297
Wood Dealer	6	7	6	6	7	6	5
Total Members	418	457	435	456	438	456	407
<b>Associate Members</b>							
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Paid Memberships	69	66	66	66	64	66	61
Mill Individuals	58	68	74	75	74	75	75
Other Individuals	49	44	51	49	51	49	41
Total Individuals	107	110	125	119	125	119	103
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>464</b>

### Program Activity Highlights

- Assisted with design and delivery of a comprehensive logging business owner survey – efforts helped obtain a 57% response rate.
- Updated Timber Sale Design exercises component of the online/computer-based Forest Management Guidelines training package.
- Developed three new workshops based on needs assessment information identified during the strategic planning process: Smartphones and Tablets, QuickBooks, Logger Select Cross Training.
- Provided national guidance & thought leadership on the role of Master Loggers in forest certification.
- Distribute quarterly training record reports to public land managers, mills and others as appropriate.
- Secured \$8,000 grant from Forest Resources Association THAT’S program for Wood Yard Safety Video Production wood safety grant.
- Distributed monthly eUpdate email and MLEP Treeline Newsletter.
- Authored and distributed 2011 annual report of MLEP activities.
- Authored and distributed 2011 annual report of MMLC activities.

### Program Services / Activities

In 2012, 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 2012)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Overall*</u>	<u>Learned**</u>
March 9, 2012	Duluth	FWC-Keeping the forest in the family			
March 9, 2012	Duluth	FWC-Mapping your land with GPS			
March 9, 2012	Duluth	FWC-MN pest detector training			
March 9, 2012	Duluth	FWC-Timber harvest tour	1		
March 10, 2012	Duluth	FWC-Saturday			
March 10, 2012	Duluth	FWC-Saturday	2		
March 19, 2012	Brainerd	MNDOT - Hours of Service			
March 20, 2012	Rochester	LogSafe - OSHA	27		
March 22, 2012	Brainerd	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	22		
March 22, 2012	Brainerd	LogSafe - OSHA	15		
March 23, 2012	Brainerd	MNDOT - Drug & Alcohol Testing			
March 28, 2012	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	67		
March 28, 2012	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	47		
March 29, 2012	Baudette	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	26		

<b>March 29, 2012</b>	Baudette	LogSafe - OSHA	30		
<b>April 3, 2012</b>	Tower	LogSafe - OSHA	135		
<b>April 3, 2012</b>	Tower	MLEP Logger Conference Day One	162	3.1	2.2
<b>April 4, 2012</b>	Tower	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	67		
<b>April 4, 2012</b>	Duluth	Truck Weight Compliance			
<b>April 10, 2012</b>	Walker	LogSafe - OSHA	114		
<b>April 10, 2012</b>	Walker	MLEP Logger Conference Day One	180	2.9	2.7
<b>April 10, 2012</b>	Bemidji	Truck Weight Compliance	14		
<b>April 11, 2012</b>	Walker	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	78		
<b>April 12, 2012</b>	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	47		
<b>April 12, 2012</b>	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	38		
<b>April 16, 2012</b>	Two Harbors	LogSafe - OSHA	24		
<b>April 17, 2012</b>	Two Harbors	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	22		
<b>April 18, 2012</b>	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	9		
<b>April 18, 2012</b>	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	17		
<b>April 18, 2012</b>	Duluth	MNDOT OS/OW Permitting			
<b>April 18, 2012</b>	Brainerd	Road Equipment Safety Seminar	25		
<b>April 19, 2012</b>	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	20		
<b>April 25, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	27		
<b>April 25, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	23		
<b>April 26, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	23		
<b>April 26, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	16		
<b>May 22, 2012</b>	Arden Hills	MNDOT Intro to Trucking Regs			
<b>June 26, 2012</b>	Cloquet	iPads	17	3.7	3.6
<b>July 10, 2012</b>	Grand Marais	Roads	14	3.2	3.1
<b>August 8, 2012</b>	I Falls	iPads	16	2.9	3.0
<b>August 9, 2012</b>	Brainerd	iPads	9	4.0	3.6
<b>August 16, 2012</b>	Orr	Logger Select - DNR	23	3.3	3.2
<b>August 20, 2012</b>	Arden Hills	MNDOT Intro to Trucking Regs			
September 14, 2012	Bigfork	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	28		
<b>September 14, 2012</b>	Grand Rapids	Lubricants	24	3.5	3.4
<b>September 18, 2012</b>	Red Wing	Forest Pest Detector			
<b>September 26, 2012</b>	Grand Rapids	QuickBooks	23	3.4	3.0
<b>October 2, 2012</b>	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	10		
<b>October 2, 2012</b>	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	10		
<b>October 3, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	34		
<b>October 3, 2012</b>	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	9		
October 3, 2012	Grand Rapids	Truck Weight Compliance	3		
<b>October 5, 2012</b>	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	4		
<b>October 5, 2012</b>	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	5		

October 9, 2012	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	29		
October 9, 2012	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	16		
October 18, 2012	Cloquet	Skilled Driver-DOT Audit	13	3.7	3.5
October 23, 2012	Bemidji	Roads	42	2.8	2.7
December 5, 2012	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	22		
December 5, 2012	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	18		
December 6, 2012	Cloquet	Open Lab (1= 8 hrs; 2= 4 hrs)	1	4.0	3.0
December 31, 2012	Online	Online Biomass Guidelines	25		
December 31, 2012	Online	Online DOT Audit Training	10		
December 31, 2012	Online	Online EAB Training	65		
December 31, 2012	Online	Online eFMG Training	41		
December 31, 2012	Online	Online Hazmat Training	22		
December 31, 2012	Online	Online MNDOT CMV	32		
TOTAL/AVERAGE			<b>1843</b>	3.375	3.0833

**Total Participants      1,843**

**\* 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

The Minnesota SFI<sup>®</sup> Implementation Committee (SIC) recognizes MLEP members as “qualified logging professional (QLP)” in Minnesota (as defined in the SFI 2010-2014 Standard). MLEP training addresses Indicators 1a-1j of Objective 16, Performance Measure 16.2 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. A detailed summary of each of the training sessions offered in 2012 is available (<http://www.mlep.org/training2012.htm>).

### **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. 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.

The Minnesota SFI<sup>®</sup> Implementation Committee (SIC) recognizes the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program as meeting the requirements for a credible logger certification program as detailed in Objective 16, Performance Measure 16.2, Indicators 2a-2h of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. Further, a Minnesota Certified Master Logger is recognized by the SIC as a “certified logging professional (CLP)” as defined by the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.

### **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 (<http://www.mlep.org/documents/mmlcannualrept2012.pdf>).

### **CY 2012 MLEP Revenue and Expenses**

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

#### **Support**

Membership fees	\$154,875
Training / Program fees	\$37,929
Grants	\$9,000
Misc.	\$15,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$217,202</b>

#### **Expenses**

Management and General	\$33,335
Program Services	\$184,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$217,815</b>

#### **Staffing**

David Chura, Executive Director

Chris DeRosier, Executive Assistant