

Annual Report CY 2013



“Setting the Standard in Logging Professionalism”

Preface

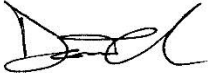
This annual report summarizes the program services and activities of the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) for calendar year 2013.

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 876 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 21,505 including 18,058 loggers and 2,563 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
2013 Board of Directors**

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MN DNR Forestry

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Enberg Logging

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Shermer Logging

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MN Forestry Association

Membership

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.

Historical Membership Breakdown

Logging Businesses								
Applicants								
Small	12							
Large	13							
Wood Dealer	1							
Total Applicants	26							
Members								
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Small	139	144	170	158	144	146	105	99
Large	252	268	280	270	288	305	296	297
Wood Dealer	8	6	7	6	6	7	6	5
Total Members	399	418	457	435	456	438	456	407
Associate Members								
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Paid Memberships	65	69	66	66	66	64	66	61
Mill Individuals	53	58	68	74	75	74	75	75
Other Individuals	53	49	44	51	49	51	49	41
Total Individuals	106	107	110	125	119	125	119	103
Grand Total	490	505	544	541	522	531	522	464

Program Activity Highlights

- Developed new workshops based on needs assessment information identified during the strategic planning process: Technology in the Woods, GIS/GPS.
- Secured \$3,000 contract from Minnesota Forest Resources Council for FMG Pocket Guide focus groups and recommendation report.
- 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.
- Distributed monthly eUpdate email and MLEP Treeline Newsletter.
- Authored and distributed 2012 annual report of MLEP activities.
- Authored and distributed 2012 annual report of MMLC activities.

Program Services / Activities

In 2013, 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 2013)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Overall*</u>	<u>Learned**</u>
January 16, 2013	Detroit Lakes	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
January 23, 2013	Arden Hills	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
January 30, 2013	Alexandria	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
February 7, 2013	Mankato	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
February 13, 2013	St. Cloud	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 5, 2013	Aitkin (Isle)	Aitkin Cty-Managing Black Ash	9		
March 6, 2013	Duluth	Watershed Ditch/Culvert Design	0		
March 9, 2013	Grand Rapids	Landowner Conference	0		
March 20, 2013	Rochester	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	20		
March 20, 2013	Bloomington	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 25, 2013	Two Harbors	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	16		
March 26, 2013	Two Harbors	LogSafe - OSHA	11		
March 26, 2013	Aitkin	DNR-Logger Select	20	3.1	2.9
March 27, 2013	Brainerd	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	24		
March 27, 2013	Brainerd	LogSafe - OSHA	10		
March 27, 2013	Duluth	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
March 28, 2013	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	33		
March 28, 2013	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	10		

April 2, 2013	Baudette	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	37		
April 2, 2013	Baudette	LogSafe - OSHA	31		
April 3, 2013	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	60		
April 3, 2013	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	49		
April 3, 2013	Marshall	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
April 9, 2013	Tower	MLEP Logger Conf Day One	150	2.9	2.6
April 9, 2013	Aitkin	Aitkin County Logger Workshop	22		
April 10, 2013	Tower	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	90		
April 10, 2013	Tower	LogSafe - OSHA	66		
April 10, 2013	TRF	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
April 11, 2013	Brainerd	Road Equipment Safety Seminar	15		
April 16, 2013	Walker	MLEP Logger Conf Day One	149	2.8	2.4
April 17, 2013	Walker	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	94		
April 17, 2013	Walker	LogSafe - OSHA	23		
April 17, 2013	Rochester	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
April 18, 2013	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	32		
April 18, 2013	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	35		
April 24, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	37		
April 24, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	21		
April 24, 2013	Alexandria	Truck Weight Compliance	0		
April 25, 2013	Carlton	Heating the Midwest (3 day)	0		
April 27, 2013	Baudette	DNR Fire Training	7		
May 1, 2013	Northome	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	9		
May 2, 2013	Northome	LogSafe - OSHA	35		
May 8, 2013	Grand Rapids	UPM Day - AM	67		
May 8, 2013	Grand Rapids	UPM Day - PM	70		
May 21, 2013	Bemidji	Survey Focus Group	6		
May 22, 2013	Duluth	Survey Focus Group	6		
May 30, 2013	Bemidji	Potlatch Day - AM	35		
May 30, 2013	Bemidji	Potlatch Day - PM (Rieger)	46		
July 9, 2013	Silver Bay	GPS/GIS	19	3.3	3.2
July 17, 2013	Bemidji	Financial Planning for Loggers	5	3.0	3.0
July 18, 2013	Cloquet	Financial Planning for Loggers	12	3.8	3.7
July 25, 2013	Grand Rapids	Tech in the Woods	13	3.2	3.2
August 9, 2013	Rochester	iPads	6	4.0	3.9
September 4, 2013	Montevideo	Truck Weight Compliance	1		
September 13, 2013	Grand Rapids	Harvester Chain Maintenance	32	3.4	3.4
September 26, 2013	St. Cloud	Truck Weight Compliance	1		
October 2, 2013	I Falls	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	11		
October 2, 2013	I Falls	LogSafe - OSHA	5		

October 2, 2013	Bemidji	Truck Weight Compliance	5		
October 3, 2013	Bemidji	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	37		
October 3, 2013	Bemidji	LogSafe - OSHA	19		
October 9, 2013	Cloquet	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	37		
October 9, 2013	Cloquet	LogSafe - OSHA	14		
October 9, 2013	I Falls	Boise Logger Day	64		
October 10, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	10		
October 10, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	4		
October 16, 2013	Duluth	Forest Pest Detector			
November 5, 2013	Grand Rapids	UPM Day - AM	31		
December 5, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - CPR/First Aid	17		
December 5, 2013	Hibbing	LogSafe - OSHA	11		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online Biomass Guidelines	27		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online DOT Audit Training	24		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online EAB Training	54		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online eFMG Training	38		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online Hazmat Training	18		
December 31, 2013	Online	Online MNDOT CMV	23		
November 26, 2013	Bemidji	iPads	18	3.7	3.5
TOTAL/AVERAGE			1901	3.320*	3.180**

Total Participants 1,901

*** 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® 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 2013 is available (<http://www.mlep.org/training2013.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® 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/mmlcannualrept2013.pdf>).

CY 2013 MLEP Revenue and Expenses

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

Support

Membership fees	\$156,795
Training / Program fees	\$30,064
Grants	\$1,000
Misc.	\$15,597
Total	\$203,456

Expenses

Management and General	\$37,155
Program Services	\$175,553
Total	\$212,708

Staffing

David Chura, Executive Director
Chris DeRosier, Executive Assistant