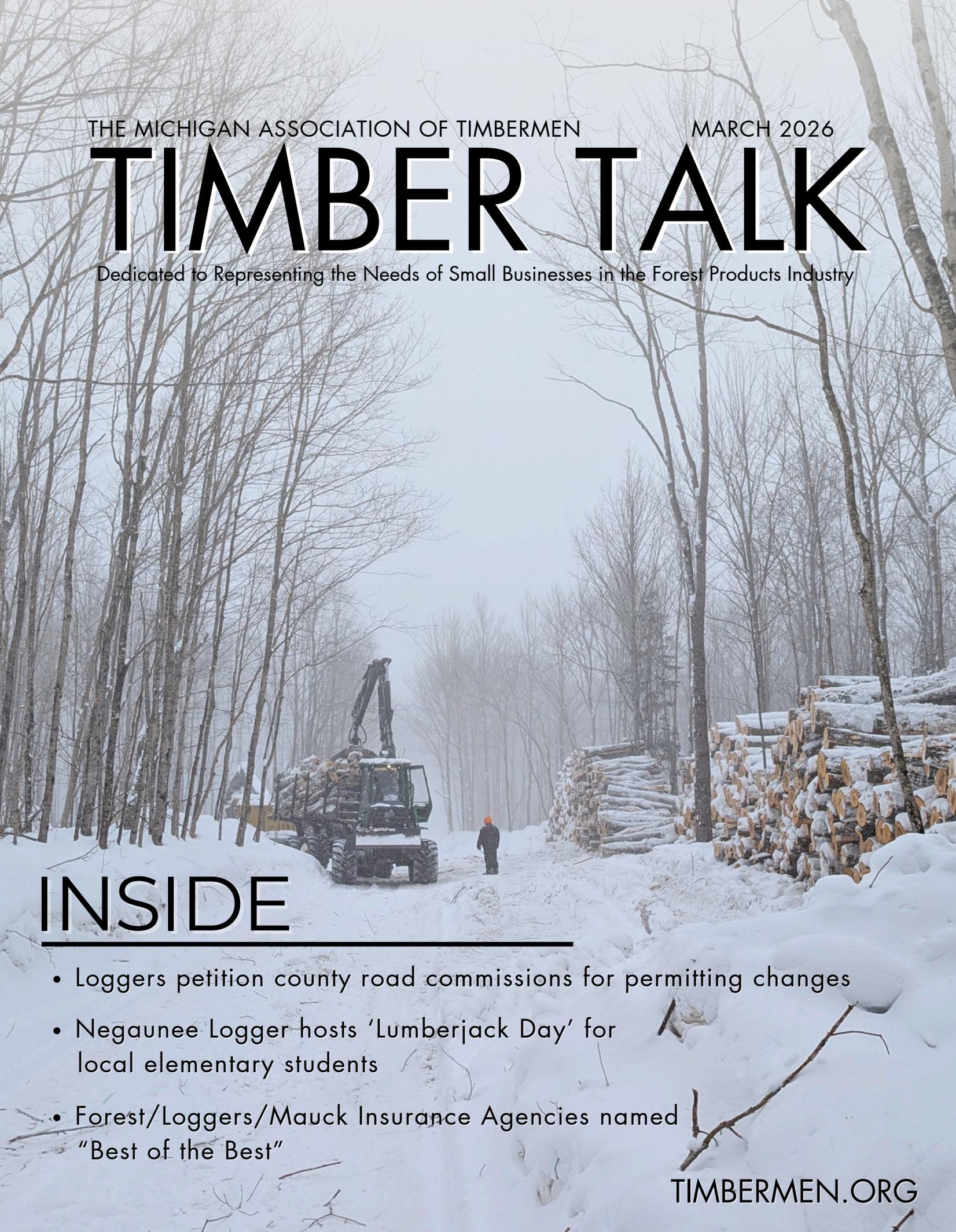


THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

MARCH 2026

TIMBER TALK

Dedicated to Representing the Needs of Small Businesses in the Forest Products Industry

A photograph of a winter forest scene. In the center, a logging machine is loaded with logs. To the right, there are large stacks of cut logs. A person in a dark jacket and orange hat stands in the snow. The trees are bare and covered in snow, creating a misty atmosphere.

INSIDE

- Loggers petition county road commissions for permitting changes
- Negaunee Logger hosts 'Lumberjack Day' for local elementary students
- Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies named "Best of the Best"

TIMBERMEN.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE



MAT Board of Directors at Work

OUR MISSION: The Michigan Association of Timbermen is dedicated to the practice of sustainable forestry, which provides the goods and services we demand without compromising the opportunity to provide the same goods and services for future generations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stewards of Michigan's Forest Resources
Printed by Escanaba Daily Press,
Escanaba, MI on SFI certified paper



PRESIDENT

Vaughn West

Michigan Association of Timbermen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our members.

We are fast approaching the 2026 Convention at Boyne Mountain Resort in April. I hope to see all of you there! Please make sure to visit the vendors who support us tirelessly every year. We truly appreciate them.

Separately, we are hosting 10 SFI training classes, more than usual this year, and some new material – keep an eye out for upcoming communications on those trainings!

We have been busy this year with our political friends and working with the local road commissions on various topics. Proud to say we were able to host a joint meeting with three different road commissions, as well as nearly 20 loggers. We had a very productive meeting. From that meeting we were able to solve some permitting issues. I am hoping MAT will host these meetings on yearly basis, and expand to other counties, working together to solve issues. Working together with people is always more productive than working against people. Kudos to the road commissions who were there and the loggers who participated.

We have a new addition to our staff this year! Please welcome Olivia Mulder as our new Operations Administrator. Make sure to find her at our convention and introduce yourself. She will be a great fit for our team.

Our staff is always working on training and promoting our industry at events across the state. Please talk to them when you see them and get to know Justin and Olivia. They are a good team and are doing a great job of growing and promoting our industry.

We are always looking for new and creative ideas for promoting the forest industry so if you have some new ideas, please let us know and we will help you work towards accomplishing the task.

Looking forward to meeting all of you and promoting the forest industry.

Vaughn West

2026 Timbermen's Convention at Boyne Mountain takes place April 16-17!





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Justin Knepper

Michigan Association of Timbermen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Winter 2025-26 has been both a slow grind and at the same time, it's nearly spring! Up here in the eastern Upper Peninsula, my life has consisted of waking up early, shoveling / snowblowing myself out, work, come home, and shovel / snowblow myself back in! We've gotten a fair bit of snow.

I'm lamenting not being able to fully enjoy winter these days, and I'm sure most of you are in the same boat. How can we take the time to ski, snowmobile, snowshoe, small game hunt, or what-have-you.

That being said, I am grateful for our great state of Michigan, our wonderful weather, our forest products industry, and the few times that I've been able to slow down and enjoy the beauty.

This past month has been a whirl-wind at the Timbermen's Association. We've been continuing our efforts to prepare for our annual convention at Boyne Mountain; we've been preparing for the Michigan Forest Products Show at Gaylord in August; and we've been working on numerous other special projects and individual membership support.

I'm thankful to have a new Operations Administrator, Olivia Mulder, who started in January. She's hustling hard, making phone calls, event planning, and taking care of our financials. I'm also thankful to have a great board of directors. Last month, I got a call from Lansing with a one-day notice to testify before the House Transportation Subcommittee on State and Local Transportation. Without any time to plan, I called Jim Maeder, our Vice President, who dropped everything and ripped down to Lansing, while I worked on talking points. Jim did an excellent job conveying our need for increased Category E forest road funding for counties.

I appreciate our board of directors always being willing to volunteer their time and energy to make a difference for the Industry.

MAT Vice President Jim Maeder testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Local Transportation.

Jim Maeder discussed the need for increased Category E Funding for county-owned roads that serve our working forests.





2026 TIMBERMEN'S CONVENTION



- Annual Awards Ceremonies
- Exhibitors & Networking
- 4 hours of SFI continuing education
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APRIL 16-18, 2026
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To register as an attendee or exhibitor, visit
www.michigantimbermen.com/timbermens-convention
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2026 Timbermen's Convention, Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI April 16-18, 2026



Name _____
 Company/Organization _____
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Attendee Registration/Exhibitor Registration/Pay Online:

Use this registration form or register online at: www.michigantimbermen.com/timbermens-convention

Early (Now through 3/30/26): MAT Members/Spouse: \$260/\$170 | Non-Members: \$335

Regular Registration (After 3/30/26) or At the Door: MAT Members/Spouse: \$300/\$215 | Non-Members: \$430

Other Options: Friday Banquet Only: MAT Members: \$160 | Non-Members: \$190 | Children (under 18) \$30

Exhibitor Registration: ~~Indoor Exhibit \$300 (after 3/30/26 \$450)~~ | Outdoor Exhibit: \$350 (after 3/30/26 \$550)

Exhibitor Meals: MAT members: \$130 (after 3/30/26 \$165) | Non-Members: \$175 (after 3/30/26 \$200)

(Exhibit spaces are first come, first serve with sponsors receiving top choice.)

Please return form with payment to MAT by March 30, 2026 for early registration.

Michigan Association of Timbermen, 7350 M-123, Newberry, MI 49868

Make checks payable to the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

If you cannot get your check processed by that time, we can accept payment at the door or payment by invoice.

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Thank You to Our Members for Your Annual Investment!

MAT was established in 1972 for the purpose of reducing costs and increasing profits of small forest industry businesses while ensuring a continued supply of timber. As a member you should enjoy all the benefits we have to offer.

To join or renew, simply fill out the membership form at www.michigantimbermen.com/join and return to the MAT office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 906.293.3236.

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies Earn Top Agency Recognition from Secura and Fremont

Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies (FLM) are proud to share that in February we received several prestigious designations from both Secura Insurance and Fremont Insurance.

From Secura, FLM earned Premier Designation, recognizing us as one of their top-performing agencies based on profitability, loss ratio, and growth. We also achieved the best hit ratio among all Secura partner agencies, with an outstanding 63% hit ratio in 2025.

In addition, FLM received Five Star and Preferred Status from Fremont Insurance for outstanding accomplishment and for achieving the highest standards in growth, profitability, and business ethics. Along with this honor, we were awarded Fremont's Best of the Best Award for 2025, presented to the top four agencies in Michigan.



Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies recognized with multiple awards for 2025

"These recognitions are a direct reflection of the hard work and consistency our team brings every day," said Jason McLaren, FLM General Manager. "We're proud of the trust our clients place in us, and we're equally proud of the relationships we've built with partners like Secura and Fremont. Awards like these reinforce that we're doing things the right way — with integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to delivering real value."

About FLM & Our Team

Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies are a full-service independent insurance agency with offices in Newberry, Michigan and Niagara, Wisconsin, serving businesses and individuals throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. FLM specializes in commercial insurance for heavy industries including logging, trucking, sawmills, wood products manufacturing, tree removal and service, sand & gravel, and contracting, while also offering personal insurance solutions such as homeowners, auto, life, and recreational coverage. Our team of dedicated insurance professionals takes the time to understand each client's needs, explaining coverage options clearly and helping protect what matters most.



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Olivia Mulder Takes Over as MAT's New Operations Administrator



Olivia Mulder, MAT's new Operations Administrator

The Michigan Association of Timbermen welcomes Olivia Mulder as the organization's new Operations Administrator! Olivia is originally from the Sault Ste. Marie area, and joins the association after attending college and working in banking.

Olivia is focused on taking care of MAT's finances, as well as providing exceptional customer service. She also organizes our conventions, golf outings and other events!

Expect to hear from and see Olivia, also known as "Liv," by way of telephone, email, and at our various events. We are happy to have her on the team! You can reach her at (906)293.3236 or by email at omulder@timbermen.org.

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Ponsse North America opens Baraga, MI Parts Hub!



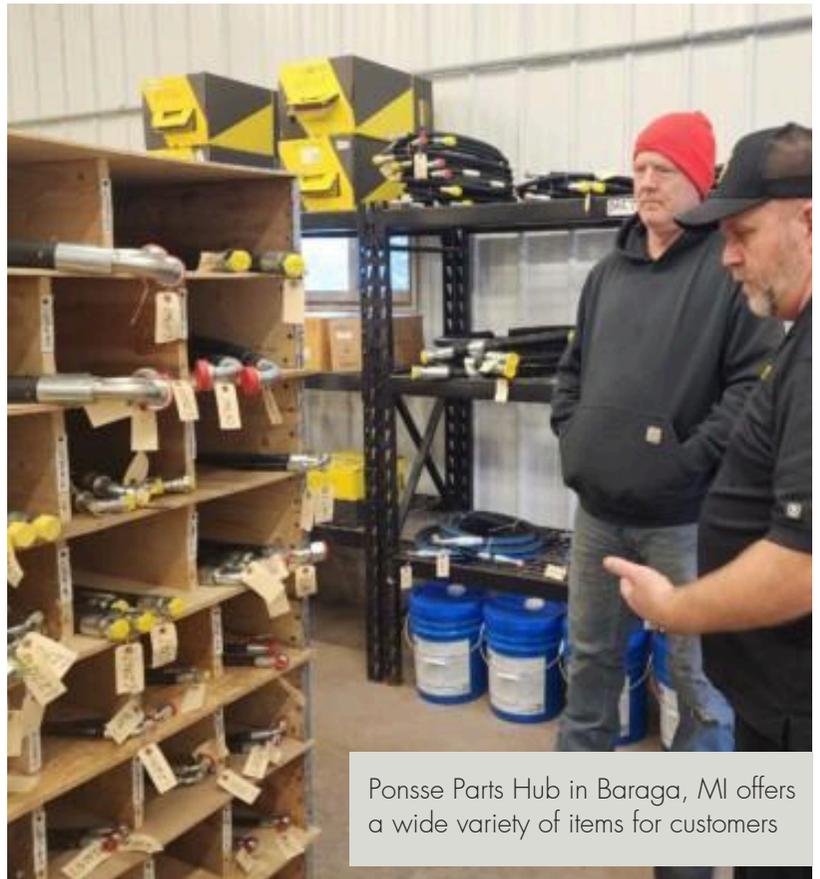
On January 30, 2026, Ponsse – the forest machine company – proudly held the grand opening of a new Parts Hub in Baraga, Michigan, a facility designed to better serve Ponsse’s customers with greater convenience and faster access to the parts they rely on.

“This hub is the direct result of customer feedback,” says Terry Hoffmeyer, Spare Parts

Specialist at Ponsse. “We’ve listened closely to the needs and requests of our operators and contractors, and we are actively adjusting our inventory based on real machine demands. We currently stock 180 line items, and with increased use of the facility, we expect that number to grow rapidly”, he says.

The Parts Hub already includes a wide range of consumables — bars, chains, filter kits, sprockets, oils, hoses, and more. Additional stocked items include saw motors, DEF pumps, DEF filters, harvester head knives, and other essential components. This is only the beginning, and Ponsse will continue expanding their inventory as customer needs evolve.

“We have only been open for a short time, but customers seem to like it, and we are here for our customers,” says Terry Hoffmeyer, based out of our Gladstone, Michigan Service Center. Terry oversees inventory and customer support for the Baraga Parts Hub and plays a key role in ensuring the facility meets customer expectations.



Ponsse Parts Hub in Baraga, MI offers a wide variety of items for customers

Ponsse remains committed to continuous improvement and to listening closely to the people who depend on their machines every day. Ponsse has been manufacturing forest machines in Finland since 1970. The Ponsse Parts Hub is located at 12937 Highway M 38 Baraga, MI 49908.



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New Grant Programs and Incentives for Michigan's Forest Products Industry



BREAKING
FOREST NEWS

Wood innovations
grant funding available.

Timber Production Expansion Program (TPEP)

The Timber Production Expansion Program (TPEP) is a USDA Rural Development initiative that helps timber and wood-processing businesses establish, expand, modernize, or reopen sawmills and related facilities — particularly those supporting forest restoration efforts.

TPEP provides loan guarantees of up to 90% on loans up to \$25 million, offering competitive terms to strengthen rural timber infrastructure, including sawmills and biomass facilities.

Apply by reaching out to your local USDA Rural Development office here:
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/find-your-local-area-office>.

The USDA Forest Service's Wood Innovations Grant Program is open for 2026 and offers competitive funding to support projects that expand wood products markets, promote innovative uses of domestically sourced wood, and grow wood energy and forest products manufacturing capacity nationwide.

These funds are a great opportunity for MAT members looking to invest in new wood markets, expand capacity, or pilot value-added products and technologies using forest resources.

Key Details

Application Deadline: April 22, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET via Grants.gov.

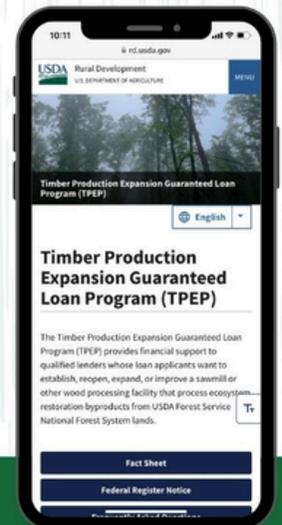
Match Requirement: Applicants must generally provide a 1:1 match of non-federal funds.

How to Apply: Register and submit your proposal through Grants.gov.

Grant Amount: \$300,000+

PARTNER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program





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Loggers Engage with Road Commissions for Overwidth Permits During Frost Restrictions



Left to right: Travis Muma, Dalton Muma, Shawn Muma, Kirk Cameron, and John Muma at the Gladwin Co. Road Commission

Members of the forest products industry recently met with representatives from the Clare, Isabella, and Gladwin County Road Commissions to address concerns related to overwidth hauling permits during seasonal frost law restrictions.

The discussion centered on finding a workable solution for transporting overwidth — but not overweight — logging equipment during frost law periods. Current policies have created significant operational challenges for loggers who must move equipment between job sites while complying with seasonal road weight restrictions.

Road Commission officials provided an overview of existing frost law policies, including restrictions governing both overweight and overwidth hauling. Industry representatives then outlined how these limitations affect forestry operations, highlighting safety considerations, economic impacts, and logistical difficulties that arise when equipment movement is restricted.

A primary focus of the meeting was exploring practical permit modifications that would allow overwidth equipment to move under controlled conditions without compromising road integrity. Potential solutions discussed included:

- Case-by-case or conditional overwidth permits
- Route-specific approvals
- Time-of-day movement allowances
- Consideration of axle configurations or tire types
- Monitoring and enforcement safeguards

The conversation was constructive and solution-oriented, with both sides recognizing the importance of protecting county road infrastructure while also supporting the economic vitality of the local forest products industry.

While the Clare County Road Commission and Isabella County Road Commission continue evaluating potential adjustments, Gladwin County Road Commission Manager David Pettersch advanced the discussion by placing the issue on his Board's January agenda.

On January 28, 2026, several Michigan Association of Timbermen members attended the Gladwin County Road Commission meeting. Those present included Board Member Dalton Muma and Shawn Muma of Shawn Muma Forest Products; Travis Muma and John Muma representing Chris Muma Forest Products; and Kirk Cameron of Kirk Cameron Forest Products. MAT Executive Director Justin Knepper also attended and spoke on behalf of the industry.

After hearing testimony from Timbermen representatives and local loggers, the Gladwin County Road Commission voted to modify its current practices regarding overwidth hauling during frost law restrictions. The Board approved the creation of a special permit allowing the movement of overwidth — but not overweight — equipment during frost law season, subject to substantial conditions.

Under the revised policy:

- Permits are limited to Class A roads
- Loggers must request equipment movement at least 24 hours in advance
- Operators must coordinate routes directly with Road Commission staff

The Gladwin County Road Commission's action reflects ongoing collaboration between local government and the logging community to balance responsible infrastructure management with the operational realities of Michigan's forest industry.

While the outcome does not resolve every concern, the Michigan Association of Timbermen views this decision as a meaningful step forward in developing practical solutions that help keep Michigan's critical wood supply moving to market year-round.



Gladwin Co. Road Commissioners listen to testimony from loggers and Michigan Association of Timbermen staff at Jan. 2026 meeting.

Marvelous Maples by Bill Cook



Bill Cook, retired MSU
Extension forester/biologist

Maples are the largest genus of Michigan trees, as measured by wood volume. Botanical classification of Lake States trees, is not, perhaps, the most interesting topic but there exist some real gems among all the sciency stuff.

Michigan sports eight species of maples (*Acer* spp.), with only one alien, Norway maple. Together, maples comprise about one third of all the forest wood volume in Michigan. Maples have huge impacts on forest health, forest ecology, and our collective economy. And, of course, don't forget maple syrup! Maybe that is why Canada is so sweet with a maple leaf on their national flag?

The iconic sugar maple, by itself, occupies 16 percent of wood volume, followed closely by red maple at 14 percent. Both species are on the rise. So, it may behoove forest lovers to learn more about these wonderful trees. The other maple species are silver maple, boxelder (or ash-leaved maple), Norway maple, black maple, striped maple, and mountain maple. Silver maples prefer to occupy floodplains and similar soils. Boxelders grow just about anywhere and everywhere. They're sometimes considered weeds. Norway maple, the lone non-native, frequents urban and residential areas, but has become somewhat invasive in some places. Black maple looks a whole lot like sugar maple and grows in Michigan's southern counties. Striped and mountain maple are shrubs that occur sporadically in the state. Striped maple, or moosewood, is particularly fun with its green bark and white stripes. Mountain maple leaves look like those of thimbleberry, if that helps anyone.

Thinking of leaves, maples have veins in a "palmate" pattern, except for boxelder. Sugar maple leaves have smooth edges and red maple has edges with teeth, making it easy to tell them apart. And the branching is "opposite", meaning leaves, twigs, and bud scars all occur on the opposite side of a branch. Only maples,



Only maples, dogwoods, ashes, and horse-chestnut have this identification key among trees. The brown end buds of sugar maple are quite pointy, while those of red maple are more rounded and reddish.

Sugar maple is Michigan's highest money-earner, known for flooring and a very wide range of other uses. The annual NCAA final four basketball games are played on maple flooring made by a company near Amasa. Sugar maple was once more common prior to Euro-American settlement but has gradually been reclaiming the "pole position".



Seedlings can tolerate shade, so under certain environmental conditions, they can invade and take-over many forest stands. Red maple is a softer wood and, perhaps, an underutilized species. Like its cousin, red maple can invade understories and gradually dominate a stand. It also stump sprouts more readily than sugar maple. Red maple has a wider soil spectrum, so does well on a variety of soils. It also grows more rapidly than sugar maple.

Flowers are generally wind-pollinated but insects will sometimes serve that role. Flower size is small and occurs early in the season. Sugar maple blooms irregularly. When they do, a soft greenish cast occurs throughout the canopy just prior to leaf break. Red maple has good seed years almost annually.



All maples have characteristic helicopter fruit. Sugar maple produces seed in the fall and red maple in the early summer. Sugar maple seeds, from the previous fall, will often germinate through the snow at a temperature around 34 degrees. Boxelder is a bit peculiar with having different male and female trees, although this often occurs in red maple, too.

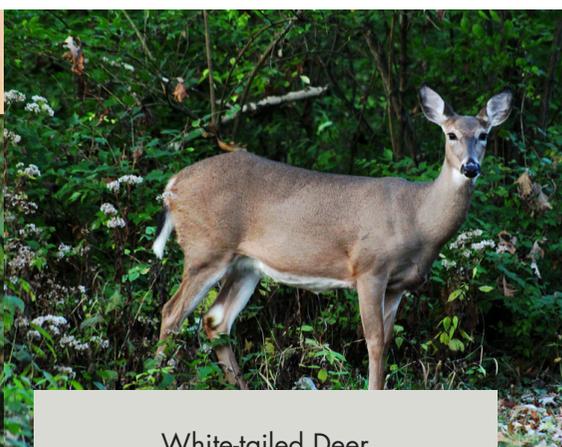
I had to groan when “sycamore” was the answer to a recent crossword clue about maples. While sycamore has maple-like leaves, it’s not even remotely related to the maples. It lies within a different genus, family, and order. Somebody failed to fact-check that one!

While maples are prolific, they do have many enemies and challenges. A combination of drying soils and loss of humus due to earthworms (which are not native) threaten sugar maple regeneration. Deer browse has all but eliminated maples in some areas. Yet, the bull in the china shop is the prospect of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). This beautiful and large beetle has a long list of host species but it particularly likes maples. ALB is not known to be in Michigan, but has been found in Illinois, Ontario, and Ohio. And, it is not something that we want to see! - *Bill Cook*

Threats to Maple Trees



Earthworm



White-tailed Deer



Asian Long-Horned Beetle

Pat's Heavy Equipment Named Authorized Tigercat–TCi Dealer for Upper Michigan and Wisconsin



In August 2025, Tigercat Industries appointed Pat's Heavy Equipment as the authorized Tigercat–TCi dealer for Upper Michigan and Wisconsin, marking a major expansion of forestry equipment sales and support across the region.

Now, as the dealership moves through its first year representing Tigercat, Pat's Heavy Equipment has continued to grow its presence and customer base, building on the same reputation that has defined the company for decades: strong relationships, dependable support, and service that keeps professional logging operations running.

Pat's Heavy Equipment owner Kip McIntyre said the partnership aligned well with the company's long-standing commitment to customers, and that he looks forward to working alongside a great partner that provides top-of-the-line forestry equipment.

Pat's Heavy Equipment has built its business on repeat customers and referrals, living out its motto: "Where His Customers Send Their Best Friends." In addition to equipment sales, the company is widely known for its strong after-sale support, including a parts and service team recognized for fast, accurate, and reliable assistance — a critical factor for contractors working in the woods.

"Tigercat makes a product that its customers can rely on," McIntyre added. "The growth of Tigercat cut-to-length equipment in the U.P. [and the rest of Michigan] was something we were excited to expand."

Tigercat also welcomed the partnership. Kevin Selby, Vice President of Sales USA for Tigercat, said Pat's Heavy Equipment's customer service reputation would play an important role as Tigercat continues strengthening its presence in the region.



Pat's Heavy Equipment Owner Kip McIntyre (left) and team



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Timbertalk Legislative Update – Winter of 2026

In 2025, the Michigan Legislature produced a record low of public acts totaling just 74, which is the lowest number during a regular legislative session since the founding of our state. As we look ahead to 2026, it is likely that we will continue to see a low number of new laws getting passed.

Governor Whitmer delivered her budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 on February 11th. The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) made up of the House Fiscal Agency, Senate Fiscal Agency and State Budget Office estimates that revenues will be down \$779 million in 2026 and \$1.1 billion in 2027.

Governor Whitmer Unveils her Last Budget Recommendation

Governor Whitmer recently unveiled her eighth and final budget recommendation, totaling roughly \$88 billion. The budget proposal is made up of \$800 million dollars in tax increases, \$630 million in spending cuts and tapping into the state's Budget Stabilization Fund or "Rainy Day Fund" to the tune of \$400 million. The plan focused on preventing cuts to Medicaid as less dollars flow in from the federal government.



Jason Wadaga
MAT Lobbyist



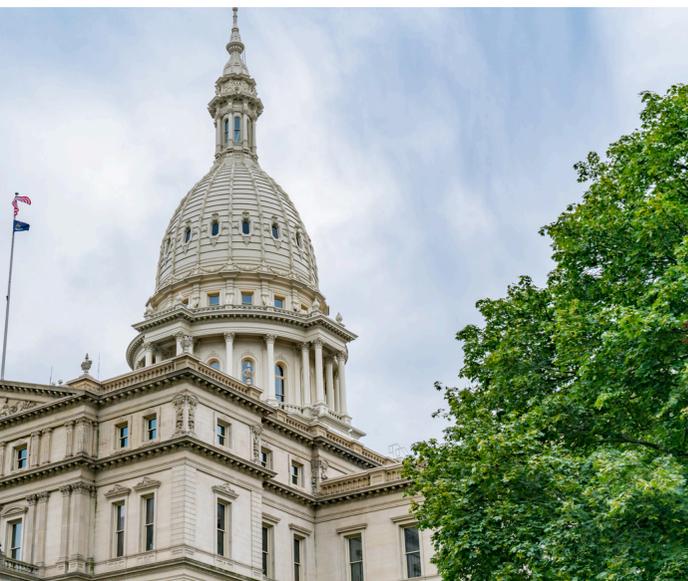
Within the proposal were six new taxes or tax increases including:

- A tobacco tax increase estimated to generate \$232 million in revenue
- An electronic cigarette tax (Vape Tax) estimated to generate \$95 million in new revenue
- A new internet gaming tax on large casinos that would generate \$135.5 million in new revenue
- A “per-wager” sports betting tax that would generate \$38.8 million
- Elimination of “free-play” deduction in gaming that would generate \$21.1 million
- A digital advertising tax that would generate \$282 million

To add to the budget constraints, the Governor has proposed a property tax relief plan for seniors while the House Republicans have proposed \$90 million in property tax relief for Michiganders. Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Chairwoman, Sarah Anthony, recently wrote an op-ed in the Detroit News calling for property tax relief. With the administration and both chambers of the legislature making property tax cuts a priority, the money to replace that hole will need to come from either new revenue or more cuts to spending.

Following the governor’s presentation, the Speaker of the House Matt Hall opposed any new tax increases and prefers the budget be balanced by looking at “waste, fraud and abuse.”

The budget presentation was the first step in a long, and what appears to be, contentious Fiscal Year ‘26 & ‘27 budget process. The final budget is due October 1, 2026.



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Cain Brothers Logging Hosts “Lumberjack Day” at Lakeview Elementary in Negaunee

Just before Christmas 2025, Timbermen member Cain Brothers Logging brought the forest to the classroom for a “Lumberjack Day” at Lakeview Elementary School in Negaunee. The event gave fourth grade students a hands-on introduction to Michigan’s forest products industry and the many people who help keep it thriving.



Ashlee Cain and Glen Tolksdorf participate in TV interview about Lumberjack Day

The day was filled with interactive learning opportunities designed to make forestry education fun and memorable. The event was the brainchild of Ashlee Cain, with help and support from owner Mark Cain and the rest of the Cain Brothers Logging team.

One of the biggest highlights was the harvesting simulator brought in by Jim Charlier and Todd Gustafson Jr. of Ponsse North America. Each student had the chance to operate the simulator, experiencing firsthand what it’s like to run modern logging equipment. The technology gave students a glimpse into how advanced and skill-driven today’s logging operations truly are. Students also participated in a forestry game organized by Brian Backhaus, a forester with American Forest Management, Inc. (AFM). The activity helped explain key forestry concepts in a way that was engaging and easy to understand, reinforcing the importance of responsible forest management.



Jim Charlier and Todd Gustafson Jr. with Ponsse North America interact with students



Lakeview Elementary students enjoy for a "Lumberjack Breakfast" at school



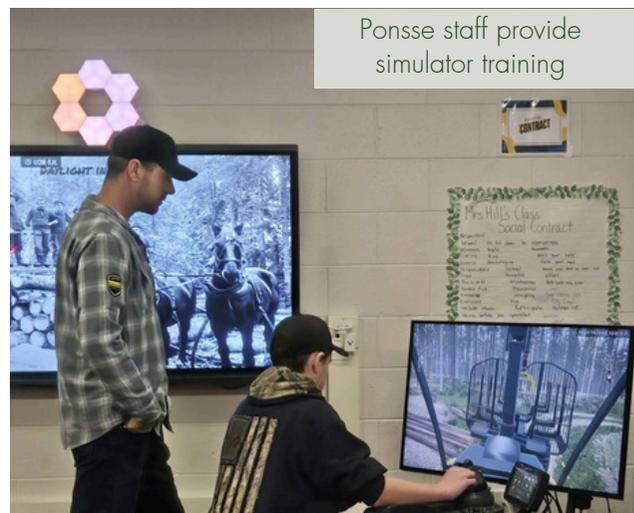
Student materials provided by DNR

Supporting the educational experience, Mike Smalligan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources provided forestry-themed coloring books, stickers, pencils, and additional training resources for the students to take home. These materials helped extend the learning beyond the classroom.

Representing the Michigan Association of Timbermen, Region 1 Board Member Glen Talksdorf attended to answer student questions and offer additional insight into careers and opportunities within the forest products industry.

The event was truly a team effort. The Lakeview Elementary School Parent Teacher Partnership (LPTP) played a vital role by providing lunch, soil, tree seeds, potting cups, and overall support to ensure students could participate in hands-on planting activities as part of the day's lessons. Cain Brothers Logging was started by Mark Cain back in 1977, who formed the company right out of high school. He and his brother Chris Cain have worked tirelessly to grow the company into one of the Negaunee area's most active logging operations.

Thanks to Mark, Chris, Ashlee, and their dedicated team as they continue to demonstrate what community leadership looks like in the Upper Peninsula's forest products industry. By partnering with local educators and industry professionals, they are helping inspire the next generation to better understand—and perhaps one day join—the forestry workforce.



Ponsse staff provide simulator training

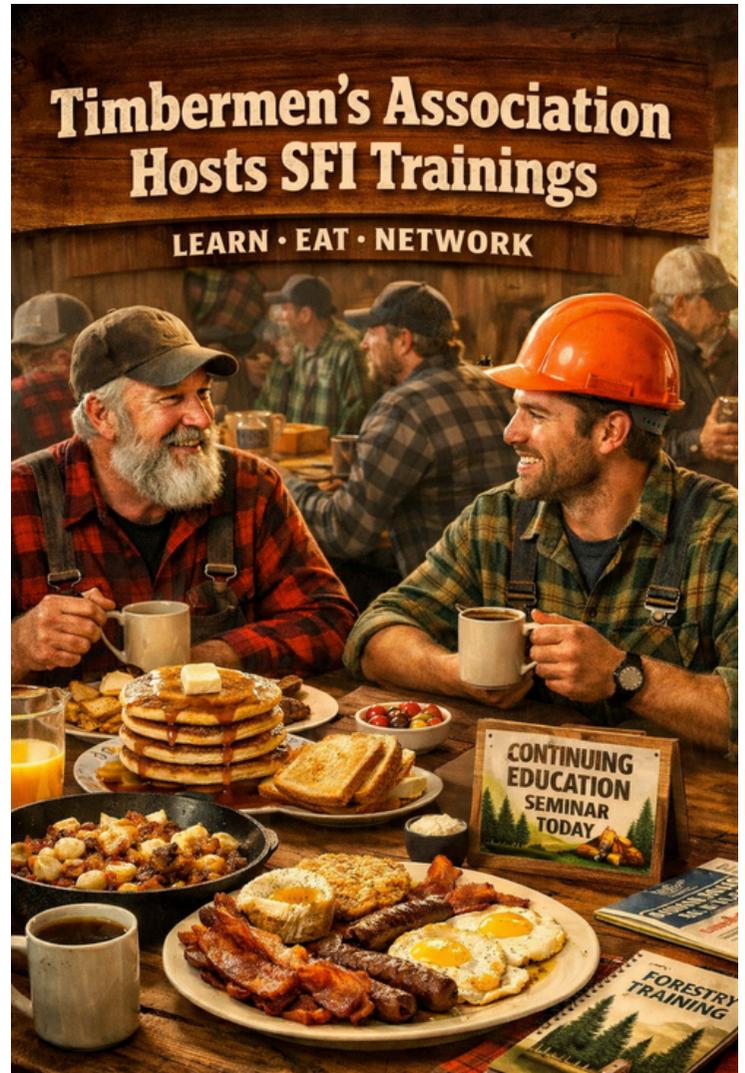
MAT Hosts 10 Bigger and Better SFI Continuing Education Classes

Good training. Good food. Good conversation.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen's 2026 SFI Training Series brings loggers and forestry professionals together across the state for practical education, meaningful networking, and a chance to connect face-to-face with others who understand the work.

Each session includes breakfast or lunch, giving attendees time to visit with fellow operators, landowners, suppliers, and industry partners before diving into relevant, real-world topics. From mechanized equipment best practices and water crossings to timber tax guidance, safety compliance, and emerging market trends, these trainings are designed to deliver information you can put to work immediately.

Whether you're looking to sharpen your operation, stay current on regulations, or strengthen relationships within Michigan's forest products community, the 2026 SFI Series delivers.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

April 7, 2026, Ojibwa Casino

16449 Michigan Ave.
Baraga, MI 49908

April 9, 2026, Northwoods Conference Ctr.

E21800 Wolf Lake Rd.
Watersmeet, MI 49969

April 17, 2026, Boyne Mountain Resort

1 Boyne Mountain Rd.
Boyne Falls, MI 49713

April 23, 2026, EUP Wood Shavings

16888 S. Hugginin St.
Kincheloe, MI 49788

May 12, 2026, Lutke Rental Hall

9290 E 14 1/4 Rd.
Manton, MI 49663

May 14, 2026, Team Wieland

3165 Wolf Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601

October 6, 2026, Northern Energy

231 S Indiana Ave.
Gaylord, MI 49735

October 8, 2026, PCA

2246 Udell St.
Filer City, MI 49634

October 13, 2026

Felch Community Center

4243 M-69
Felch, MI 49831

October 15, 2026

LP – Newberry

7299 Co. Road 403
Newberry, MI 49868



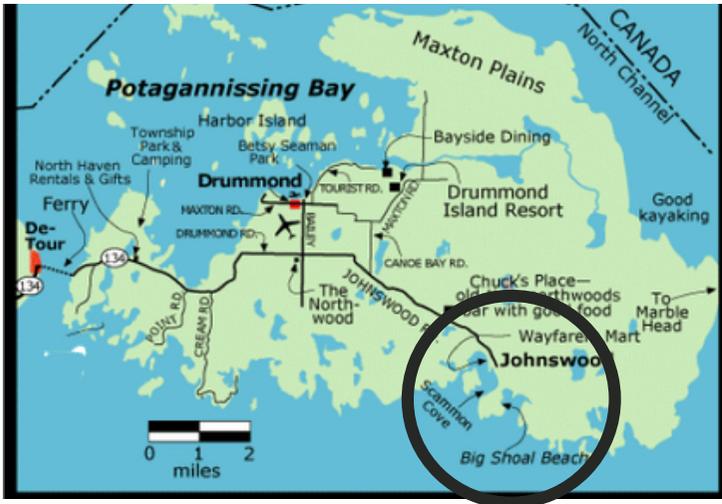
www.sfimi.org/sessions

History Across Michigan's Regions: Region 2

The History of Drummond Island's Logging Ghost Town

Compiled by Justin Knepper, Michigan Association of Timbermen

Along the shoreline of Scammon Cove on Drummond Island once stood Johnswood—a logging settlement built around one of the most advanced sawmills of its time and a vital source of hardwood for piano manufacturers. While almost nothing remains today, Johnswood was a central part of Michigan's logging economy in the early 20th century.



Map of Drummond Island and historic Johnswood location

Early Roots in Scammon Cove

Logging operations began at Scammon Cove in 1883 when the Island Cedar Company set up a mill. A post office followed in 1884. The Island Cedar Company left in 1890, and the mill was taken over by the H.C. Johnson Co., owned by Harold C. Johnson ([Northern Michigan University Archives](#)).

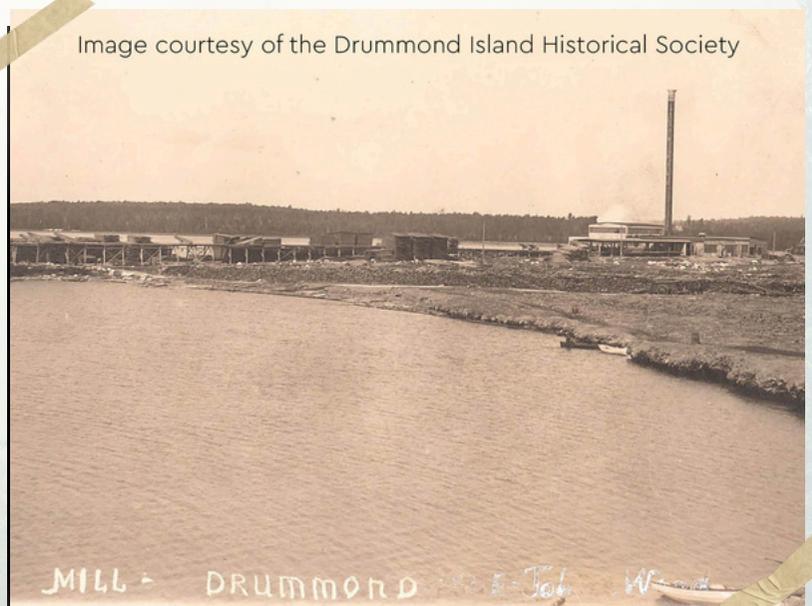
In 1902, Maggie Walz, a government land agent originally from Finland, began recruiting Finnish workers to settle in the area. By 1905, Walz had become postmaster and the settlement had its own name: Kreetan, after her Finnish nickname, Kreetta.

Shift to Hardwood and Industrial Expansion

By the mid-1910s, the island's white pine and cedar had mostly been logged. However, large stands of hardwood, especially maple, remained. According to the Mackinac Journal (February 2025 edition), "Tremendous amounts of maple are necessary to manufacture piano actions. The Drummond maple caught the eye of Charles H. Wood and Brooks Co., makers of piano actions."

Charles H. Wood arrived on Drummond Island in 1913 and partnered with one Harold Johnson. Together, they expanded operations around the growing demand for maple hardwood. Johnson was already constructing a new mill at the time, which the Journal described as "one of the most modern sawmills in the northern Great Lakes

Image courtesy of the Drummond Island Historical Society



Historic Johnswood sawmill

area.” The facility included two band mills with a combined capacity of 60,000 board feet of hardwood—or 80,000 board feet of softwood—per 10-hour shift.

Wood purchased the mill outright in 1916 and renamed the company the Kreetan Company. Shortly afterward, the name of the post office was changed to Johnswood—a portmanteau of Johnson and Wood (NMU Archives).

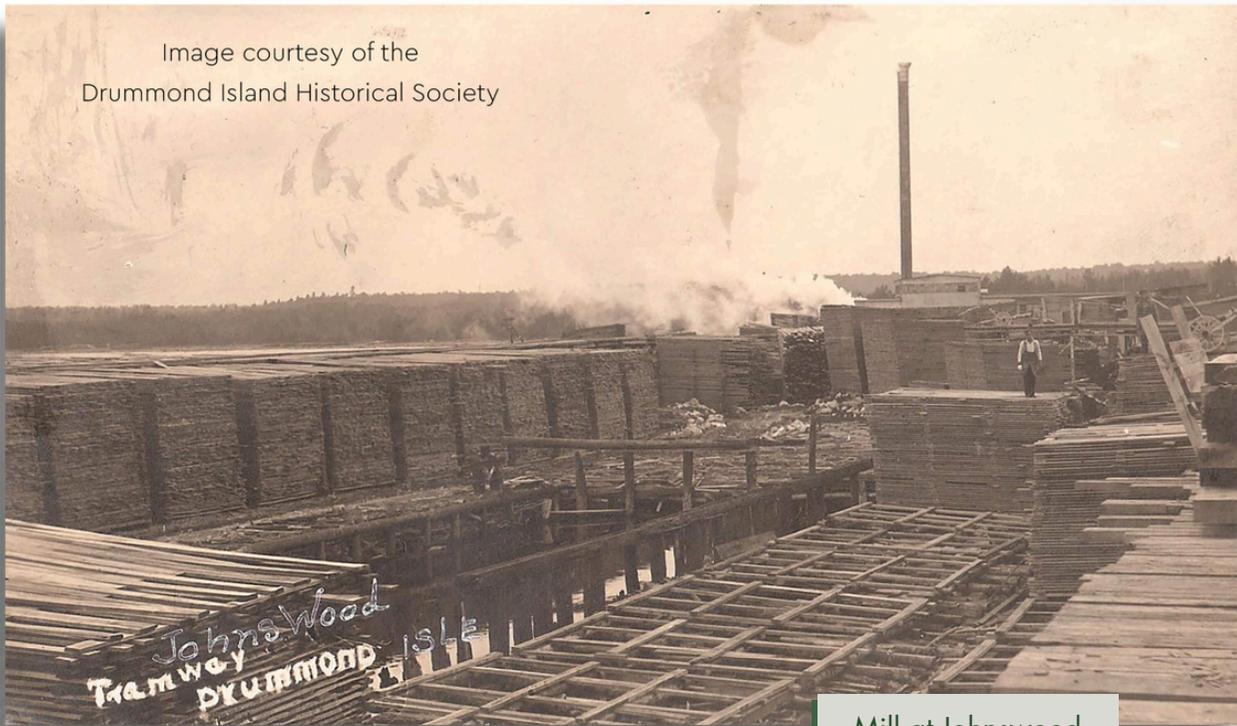
A Company Town

Johnswood developed into a full-service logging town. According to the NMU Archives, it included a company store, theater with silent films, a boarding house, school, clubhouse, doctor’s house, and a small hospital. Logging operations included not just company camps but also local landowners who sold timber to the mill. Nearly 30 miles of rail were laid to move logs to the site, and lumber was shipped from the dock at Scammon Cove.

The first sawmill was all-electric, but it burned down in 1918. A steam-powered mill replaced it and expanded into producing shingles, lathe, box wood, and lumber.

Decline and Abandonment

Operations continued until 1925, when a combination of a major forest fire and declining lumber markets forced the shutdown of the mill. The NMU Archives notes that the post office closed in 1927 and the school shut down in 1928, as most families had already left the area. By the early 1930s, the mill and its steamboats were sold. The buildings were dismantled, with



Mill at Johnswood

materials reused elsewhere on the island. A brief attempt to reopen the company store under the name Wayfarer's Mart failed. After World War II, the land was sold to the State of Michigan.

Two shipwrecks connected to the mill remain in Scammon Cove:

- The Troy, a schooner barge that reportedly burned during the 1920 mill fire.
- The Silver Spray, a tugboat abandoned when the mill closed. Both vessels' lower hulls are still visible.

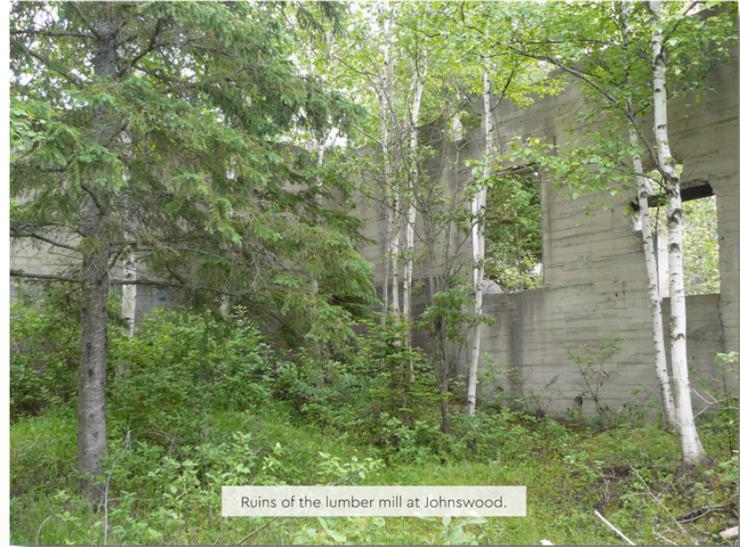
What Remains

Today, only Harold Johnson's Stone House and the Wayfarer's Mart building remain standing. The rest of Johnswood has been reclaimed by nature. Though short-lived, the town played a critical role in early 20th-century logging, especially in supplying piano manufacturers with high-quality maple hardwood.

Sources

Northern Michigan University Archives. "Johnswood." Ghost Towns of the Upper Peninsula. Shift to Hardwood and Industrial Expansion

Mackinac Journal. "Visiting Johnswood's Past – 1915 and 1932." Mackinac Journal, February 2025 edition



Ruins of the lumber mill at Johnswood.



Peninsula on Scammon Cove where the mill and dock were located in Johnswood.

Members at Work, Winter 2025-26

Zellar Excavating & Sons
near McMillan



Tuffy & Son near
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