

THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

SPRING 2023

# TIMBER TALK

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



# 2023 CONVENTION

## PHOTOS & ANNUAL AWARDS

SEE PAGES 10-12

# MAT 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.

## LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Joe Doyle  
*Doyle Forest Products, Inc., Paris, MI*

**Vice President:** Jim Maeder  
*James Maeder Timber Consulting, LLC, Weidman, MI*

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Anne Harmon  
*Harmon Logging, Inc., Mikado, MI*

**Board Member:** Glen Tolksdorf  
*Tolksdorf Forestry, Marquette, MI*

**Board Member:** Steve Anderson  
*Steve Anderson Forest Products, LLC, Felch, MI*

**Board Member:** Warren Suchovsky  
*Suchovsky Logging, LLC, Stephenson, MI*

**Board Member:** Brian Nelson  
*Nelson Logging, Cornell, MI*

**Board Member:** Charley MacIntosh  
*Kretz Lumber Co., Inc. Nahma, MI*

**Board Member:** Paul Burton  
*Paul Burton Forestry, Newberry, MI*

**Board Member:** Bob Bazuin  
*Roger Bazuin & Sons, Inc., McBain, MI*

**Board Member:** Wes Windover  
*Biewer Sawmill, Inc., McBain, MI*

**Board Member:** John Fowler  
*DT Fowler Mfg, Inc., Lapeer, MI*

**Board Member:** Vaughn West  
*AIS Forestry Division, Williamsburg, MI*

## STAFF

**Justin Knepper**, Executive Director,  
[jknepper@timbermen.org](mailto:jknepper@timbermen.org)

**Michelle Sears**, Office Administrator,  
[msears@timbermen.org](mailto:msears@timbermen.org)

### MAT Contact Information

7350 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
(906) 293-3236

# INSIDE.....

- 4 President's Message  
Executive Director's Report
- 5 Welcome New Members
- 9 Timbermen Convention Photos, Award Winners
- 14 Society of Foresters Award announcement  
– Brock Van Oss
- 15 Wadaga Legislative Update
- 16 As we See It
- 18 Scholarship Award Announcement
- 19 History from Across Michigan's Regions



# INSURANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY OPERATORS

Insurance you can trust for  
loggers, log haulers, tree service,  
excavators, and more.

- Our experienced agents come to you
- No obligation review and quoting
- Serving Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa
- Exclusive Master Logger & SFI Discounts
- Preferred rates on newer equipment
- Fast and fair claim handling
- Coverage tailored to your needs



**SECURA**  
INSURANCE COMPANIES

**FOREST INSURANCE CENTER  
LOGGERS INSURANCE AGENCY  
MAUCK INSURANCE AGENCY**



Working Together to Meet Your Insurance Needs

## Contact us:

**Forest Insurance**  
800-272-7805

**Mauck Insurance**  
888-763-0003

**Loggers Insurance**  
866-LOGGERS  
(866-564-4377)



---

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---



What a great start to 2023! MAT staff, board members, and volunteers have just pulled off one of the best Annual conventions in recent memory. Thank you to all those that attended. MAT, Forest Loggers Mauck, MATSIF staff worked hard to put together an annual convention that was informative, entertaining as well as honoring to our award winners.

It is always a pleasure to see familiar faces and get reac-

quainted with the good people in our industry as well as networking with folks that will be important allies to each of our businesses in the future.

I had a particularly nice time visiting with the Shamions at lunch on Friday, we got caught up on each family member's position in the company. I have many good memories of their family at Convention for over 40 years. Isn't it good to see a multi generation company in our industry? We have many of them.

Now that the heavy work of convention has passed, the real work begins. Justin and Michelle have a busy schedule laid out for this summer; expect a call from Justin, he has been eager to meet members of the Association.

Starting this month Justin will be traveling with board members and visiting members in their region. As usual, there are many challenges coming down the pike. The leadership of MAT must come up with positions and answers for each one of them. Guess what experts we talk with to get educated? – YOU- our members. These site and plant visits are crucial to the development of Justin's awareness of our industry. I am asking for your help. Give Justin the time to really get a feel for our industry.

I am pleased with his first 100 days, and I am encouraged with his steadfastness to grow value for our members. I see a great future for MAT. Our goals are to strengthen our position as an organizational leader while expanding our

outreach to other industry groups. There is a reason your windshield is much larger than your rear-view mirror, let's look ahead. Let's do the work to make each other successful.

Whether you are involved in a sawmill, logging or trucking co or secondary manufacturing, the next few months will probably spell out what our markets will look like for the rest of 2023. I encourage you to call your peers, your suppliers, your customers, you may never know what tidbit you learn that may help you in the future. Lastly, on behalf of the board, thank you for your commitment to MAT. We are committed to you, let us know how we can help. 🌲

---

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

---



Spring is in full swing across the State (there's still a bit of snow sticking around near our Newberry office), and the Michigan Association of Timbermen board and staff just finished hosting our 48th annual convention, which took place on April 20-21 at Boyne Mountain.

It was an awesome time; more than 300 attendees traveled from all corners of the

State to network, attend informative training courses, receive annual awards, and hear from terrific speakers. We were honored to feature a keynote speaker, famed Detroit Redwings commentator and hall of fame player Mickey Redmond. Mickey Redmond talked about his time with the Redwings, as well as his passion for forest management on his land in the eastern Upper Peninsula. He also "wowed" us with his terrific auctioneering skills!

One of the biggest reasons our convention was a success was due to our wonderful sponsors, vendors, silent auction and raffle donors, and volunteers. We simply couldn't do what we do without their support, with more than 20 Timbermen members financially sponsoring our organization this year, and probably another 20 to 30 members donating items for our Convention auction and raffle.

Finally, I wanted to say how terrific it was to team up with MATSIF and Forest Insurance Agency staff to plan the Convention. We had a great time hearing from Jackie Schummer at MATSIF's awards banquet Thursday night, celebrating worker's compensation policy-holding businesses that have been accident free, some for more than 35 years! On Friday night, we heard from Tom Buckingham at Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies as he recognized his terrific staff on their hard work over this past year.

We're looking forward to a great summer as we travel the State, meet with our members, and represent your business. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, ideas or concerns. You can reach me at the office at (906)293-3236, or on my cell phone at (906)630-0579. 🌲



# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



**Horn Logging Company**  
Shawnee Horn  
Manton, MI



**Northern Mat**  
Nelson Stutzman  
Clare, MI



**Allen Logging LLC**  
Richard Allen  
Sturgis, MI



**Northern Energy**  
Mike Martin  
Gaylord, MI



**James Maeder Timber Consulting LLC**  
James Maeder  
Weidman, MI

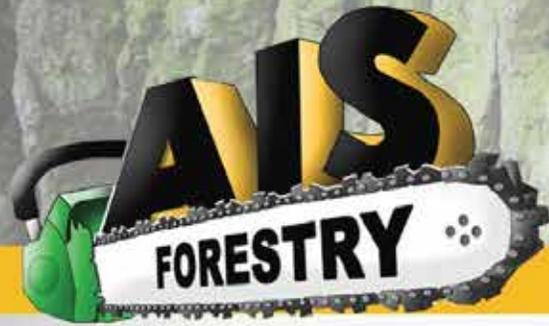
MAT was established in 1972 for the purpose of reducing costs and increasing profits of small forest industry businesses while ensuring a continued supply of timber. As a member you should enjoy all the benefits we have to offer.

**Becoming a member of the Michigan Association of Timbermen guarantees the following opportunities:**

- Automatic enrollment as a member of the American Loggers Council ([www.amloggers.com](http://www.amloggers.com)) and the Small Business Association of Michigan ([www.sbam.org](http://www.sbam.org)).
- Multiple opportunities to earn Sustainable Forestry Initiative ([www.forests.org](http://www.forests.org)) credits
- Representation on issues with local, state and federal departments such as MDOT, MDNR, county road commissions and townships as well as federal motor carrier issues.
- Opportunities for rebates thru Western Star, Peterbilt, International Truck, and Clark Tracks as well as other discounts (available through our members only webpage)
- Unmatched workers compensation insurance opportunities through the Michigan Association of Timbermen Self-insurers Fund ([www.matsif.com](http://www.matsif.com)).
- Quality home, auto, life, and other insurance opportunities through MAT's own subsidiary companies Forest Insurance Center ([www.forestinsurancecenter.com](http://www.forestinsurancecenter.com)), as well as Loggers Insurance Agency, and Mauck Insurance Agency.
- Health insurance opportunities through Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

To join, simply fill out the membership form at [www.michigantimbermen.com/join](http://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**



**231-714-6427**

**www.aisequip.com**

# LEGENDARY PARTS AND

**\$12 MILLION IN INVENTORY**  
**ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS, ALL THE TIME**  
**EXTENSIVE USED PARTS WAREHOUSE**



# SERVICE

**ON SITE IN 4 HOURS OR LESS**  
**COVERING THE ENTIRE STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS, ALL THE TIME**  
**65 SERVICE TRUCKS IN OUR FLEET**

## AIS CERTIFICATION

- ✓ **EXTENSIVE MULTI POINT INSPECTION PERFORMED BY TRAINED TECHNICIANS**
- ✓ **MEETS OR EXCEEDS WEAR CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION CLASS**
- ✓ **WARRANTY OPTIONS AVAILABLE**
- ✓ **500 HOUR SERVICE COMPLETED**
- ✓ **ALL MACHINE ARE WORK READY**





# LOG TRUCK SAFETY

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN  
CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

WITH JIMMIE LOCKLEAR

## SFI QLP CE COURSE SCHEDULE

### PRESENTED BY FOREST INSURANCE CENTER'S LOSS CONTROL REPRESENTATIVE, JIMMIE LOCKLEAR

Mr. Locklear is an experienced instructor who has more than 30 years of experience in log truck safety and best practices. He has given presentations for the American Loggers Council, the Forest Resources Association, as well as most logging associations across the United States.

### COURSE CONTENT

- Driver Safety
- Compliance
- Risk Control
- Best Practices
- Current and New Requirements

### FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

Michigan Association of Timbermen  
7350 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
(906)293-3236  
msears@timbermen.org

EARN **FOUR** SFI QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS



FOREST INSURANCE CENTER  
LOGGERS INSURANCE AGENCY  
MAUCK INSURANCE AGENCY



Working Together to Meet Your Insurance Needs

DATE: APRIL 11, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: BARAGA LAKESIDE INN  
ADDRESS: 900 HWY 41 SOUTH, BARAGA

DATE: MAY 9, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: LMAS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ADDRESS: 14150 HAMILTON LAKE RD, NEWBERRY

DATE: MAY 10, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: LYME GREAT LAKES TIMBERLANDS  
ADDRESS: 7467 CO 426 M.5 RD, GLADSTONE

DATE: JUNE 13, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: LUTKE RENTAL HALL  
ADDRESS: 9290 E 14 1/4 RD, MANTON

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: RUNNIN GEARS, INC.  
ADDRESS: 2500 MAJOR MOUNTAIN RD, HARRISON

DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023  
TIME: 8AM-12PM  
LOCATION: ROGER BAZUIN & SONS, INC.  
ADDRESS: 240 CHERRY DRIVE, MCBAIN



# TEAM WIELAND TRUCK & TRAILER

Team Wieland is your go-to dealer for top quality

DELOUPE logging trailers.

53 ft. 7 & 8 axles in stock.

Many other configurations avail.

Galvanized bulkheads & stakes.

Rear push bumper, tow loop , tool box

[www.wielandtrucks.com](http://www.wielandtrucks.com)

(800) 875-4455

I-75 exit 151, SAGINAW



# deloupe

LOG TRAILERS





# TIMBERMEN CONVENTION 2023



# 2022 EXCELLENCE IN TRUCKING

ROGER BAZUIN & SONS, INC.



The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to congratulate Roger Bazuin & Sons, Inc. as the recipient of the 2022 Excellence in Trucking award. Roger started his trucking career after purchasing a new Kenworth in 1978 and hauled cattle across the west coast.

In 1985, Biewer Sawmill was built in Roger's hometown, and he began hauling chips from the mill. Roger then purchased two trucks and built six chip vans to keep up with the mill's growing production. In 2013, Roger's truck shop had suffered a fire caused by one of the

trucks parked inside; he then moved his trucking operation down the road to land he owned closer to Biewer Sawmill.

Since then, Roger's trucking operation has grown drastically. He has built a modern truck shop where many of their trucks are built in-house. Roger's two sons, Bob, and Jerry Bazuin, along with mechanic, Keith Richardson, who started with the company in 1988, keep the company in the woods and on the road. Roger's wife Mae and granddaughter Kalyn Watson run the office side of the company.

Roger Bazuin & Sons, Inc. has grown their business to include over 40 employees, 5 self-loader log trucks that haul off the 4 logging crews, and 20 chip trucks hauling from Biewer Sawmill. Roger Bazuin & Sons, Inc. averages over 225 loads per week of logs, chips, sawdust and bark.

Roger contributes his success to his employees, in which many have been with him for 20-30 years. The business will continue with Roger's successors, with the hard work and dedication that he built his business on. 🌲



## 2022 EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING MIDWEST TRACTOR

The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to announce Midwest Tractor as our 2022 Excellence in Manufacturing award recipient.

Founded by Larry Cade and Jim Jurik in Buckley, Michigan, Midwest Tractor has become the go-to supplier for Michigan's logging, sawmill, and trucking companies since 1979. Drawing upon his logging career experience in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula, Larry built a shop for his own trucks and equipment. He recognized the need for a business specializing in repairing and fabricating log trucks. Upon Jim's retirement, Larry's son, Jeff, has become the Vice President and handles service as well as sales.

Today, Midwest Tractor has grown to 14 employees and is the leading supplier of custom-built self-loading trucks in the Great Lakes region. The company has designed and assembled over 500 log trucks since 1979 and continues to strive to make them safer and more reliable every time. Larry has brainstormed with log truck customers to solve day to day issues. Through the relationships they have built being member of MAT and MATSIF, there are few members who have not been touched by Larry's perseverance toward success for everyone.

Many of the improvements to log trucks were founded by need of a logger to do it better and safer. Most of us in this Association benefit daily from Larry and Jeff's constant work to improve forestry transportation needs.

Midwest Tractor is a full line dealer for Serco loaders, Chambers delimitators, and Eager Beaver trailers. Timbermen would like to congratulate Larry and Jeff Cade on earning the Excellence in Manufacturing award and for their contributions to the forestry industry in Michigan. 🌲



## 2022 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR SENATOR JOHN CHERRY

Senator John Cherry is fighting every day to lower costs for working families, protect our water, and strengthen our infrastructure. He is serving his first term in the Michigan Senate.

A two-term State Representative and the grandson of UAW retirees and generations of outdoorsmen, Cherry values conserving our environment and making sure that Michigan always preserves its wilderness while supporting job growth and smart urban development.

Prior to his service in the Michigan House of Representatives and inspired by friends and family who instilled in him the importance of public service, he served as vice chair of the Flint Charter Commission, which proposed Flint's first new charter in more than 40 years.

Cherry has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and environment and a master's degree in public policy, both from the University of Michigan. He lives in Flint, with his wife, daughter and infant son. 🌲

## 2022 LOGGER OF THE YEAR WOODSTAR FORESTRY



The Michigan association of Timbermen would like to congratulate Woodstar Forestry as the 2022 Logger of the Year. Brothers Jason and Phil Helsel have been in the woods all their lives. Since the 1800's Helsels have been logging in Northern Michigan.

Jason and Phil started as kids doing firewood and pruning Christmas trees. When the brothers were in their teens and early twenties their dad went back into logging and they followed. Throughout their early careers they worked for local logging companies.

In February of 2007 the brothers decided to start their own business. "We each owned a chainsaw and we each had a pick up truck," said Phil Helsel. They purchased a Valmet forwarder, called a Woodstar. "That is how we got our name. We were trying to come up

with one that would set us apart from our family name. We didn't want to be confused with Christmas trees." "Using the Woodstar meant we didn't have to change the name on the stickers," joked Jason Helsel.

Having a forwarder wasn't enough; they would need someone to run it so both brothers could hand cut. They hired Terry Shepler, who has been with the company since day one. "We really appreciate him taking the leap with us," said Jason.

Fast forward sixteen years and there is no Valmet forwarder or full time hand cutting, but three crews of new John Deere forwarders and harvesters. One crew cutting red pine and two cutting mixed species. Jason and Phil have left the chainsaws and spend most of their days in a harvester or the loader truck. The company now employs 10 full-time

men along with a couple part time teenagers.

"The reason we are where we are today is because of our guys. They are a great group of men. They are honest, hard-working, and want us all to succeed. Everyday Jason and I are motivated by them to continue to grow our company and be a positive part of our community and industry," said Phil Helsel.

Over the last sixteen years Jason and Phil have dedicated their lives to making their company a top forestry producer. They have built a reputation of honesty and top-quality work through dedication to those who work for them and those they produce for. Phil and Jason concluded by saying, "We love working and living in Northern Michigan and are blessed that we are able to provide for our families in such a wonderful area." 🌲

# WARREN SUCHOVSKY

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Warren was born in Stephenson MI growing up on the family dairy farm and logging the timber on their property. With over 60 years of logging experience, he has gone from cutting with a Finn saw and skidding by horse to using the advanced mechanical logging machines of today. He attended MSU earning a Bachelor of Science in Dairy Products and a Vocational Agriculture Teaching Certificate. Continuing his education, he earned a Master of Science in Agriculture Economics from North Carolina State University. Moving back to Stephenson, Warren worked the farm with his father and taught VO AG in the high school as well as forestry. Eventually buying his father out, he ran the dairy farm until 1990 when he moved into logging full time and leased the farmland to another farmer. Warren owned and operated Suchovsky Logging, LLC until his son, Karl, came back from college and they became partners. Suchovsky Logging, LLC has worked state and private sales managing a variety of timber types and topography from the Eastern Central Upper Peninsula to eastern Wisconsin, and from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior. Karl has been running the company since Warren was in his mid 50's where he switched his focus from harvesting to the forestry side of the business.

His involvement in the forestry community extended to his active promotion of education and training for professional loggers. Warren authored the first version of the Michigan Master Logger Certification Program templet. Suchovsky Logging has maintained its Master Logger status for many years and Warren was the Master Logger program administrator the last three years. He has trained and overseen field audits of Master Logger applicants in MI, MN and WI. His involvement in promoting excellence in the industry also found him participating in The Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementing Committee for several years and very active on the Sustainable Forestry Education Committee. He was a member of the audit team that evaluated adherence and revision to the Michigan BMPs for Soil and Water Quality. He also served on Michigan Technolog-



ical University's School of Forestry and Environmental Science Advisory Committee and also a Steering Committee for its new Forest Biomaterials Initiative Program.

Cody Nelson is our 2023 Warren Suchovsky Scholarship Fund recipient. He is a senior this year and will be graduating from Escanaba Area High School in May. After graduation, Cody plans on getting his CDL and driving log truck like his dad and brother.

During his high school career, he played four years of football and three years of hockey and has been on the honor roll for four years, the last two years receiving all A's. In his spare time, Cody loves hunting, fishing, and playing hockey. 🌲

**BIEWER LUMBER™**  
**BUYERS OF ALL PINE SPECIES**  
**PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSISTANCE**  
**Biewer Forest Management, LLC**  
6400 West Gerwoude Dr. • McBain, MI 49657  
Ph: 231.825.2855 ext. 117 • Fax: 231.825.0169  
biewerlumber.com

**MICHIGAN BIOMASS**  
Reliable renewable energy  
Markets for forest residuals & mill byproducts  
Part of sustainable forests management  
www.michiganbiomass.com • 989.763.0672  
f t y



# Nahma Golf Club

Located one mile east of downtown Nahma on the shores of Lake Michigan's Big Bay de Noc, we offer affordable golf for all skill levels, plus a full bar, limited menu, and a great place to relax year-around.

---

9-hole men's league each Tuesday at 6pm  
9-hole women's league each Thursday at 6pm  
9 hole scramble each Wednesday starting in June at 6pm

---

## **Regular Memberships (59 and under)**

Single - \$325   Couples - \$400   Families - \$450 (includes children 18 and under)

## **Senior Memberships (60+)**

Single - \$300   Couples - \$375

---

Cart Shed / Trail Fee  
Annual Cart Trail Fee: \$50 (all carts not stored in shed)  
Annual Cart Shed Fee: \$150



**8588 LL Road**  
**Nahma, MI 49878**  
**[nahmagolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:nahmagolfclub@gmail.com) (906)644-2648**



1948

# THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTERS



WE  
join YOU



## BROCK VANOSS RECEIVES 2023 STEWARDSHIP FORESTER AWARD

*by Mike Smalligan, Michigan DNR, condensed by MAT staff*

The 2023 Stewardship Forester is Brock VanOss of VanOss Forestry Services LLC in Crystal Falls. Brock was given the award in February to recognize his great customer service to woodland owners, work with local schools and training Michigan Master Loggers.

The Stewardship Forester award recognizes the important role of 155 private sector foresters who serve Michigan's 400,000 family forest landowners. The award is given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters.

Like other consulting foresters, Brock helps family forest landowners take good care of their woods. However, his exemplary work with Master Loggers in both Michigan and Wisconsin set him apart from his forestry peers to earn the 2023 Stewardship Forester award. Brock has written forest management plans for several hundred landowners covering thousands of acres in Michigan and Wisconsin since starting his consulting

forestry business in 2001. Brock's clients use their plans to achieve their goals and do projects in their woods like planting trees or harvesting timber to improve wildlife habitat.

Brock benefited professionally from his three years working for Minerick Logging and continues to help good loggers be even better. He provides chainsaw safety classes for landowners and loggers with Safety and Woods Worker (SAWW) training. Brock helps administer the Master Logger Certification programs in both Michigan and Wisconsin. He conducts field audits in the woods to help loggers improve their safety, productivity and protection of the environment. He provides classroom training for loggers that is required by forest certification programs like the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council.

Brock has numerous credentials to document his forestry skills and help landowners manage, protect and enjoy

their woods. He is a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of American Foresters, Michigan Association of Timbermen, Michigan Registered Forester, Technical Service Provider, Qualified Forester and Wisconsin Cooperating Forester. Brock is the Deputy Supervisor for Mansfield Township in Iron County and serves on several other county committees and community boards.

The Forest Stewardship Program is funded by the USDA Forest Service and administered in Michigan by the Department of Natural Resources. All partners are equal opportunity providers and employers.

For more information, contact Mike Smalligan at [SmalliganM@Michigan.gov](mailto:SmalliganM@Michigan.gov) or 517-449-5666.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - MAY 2023



**Jason Wadaga,**  
MAT Lobbyist

The new Democrat majorities in the Michigan Legislature spent much of the first few months of the legislative session focused on addressing their top priorities for 2023. The repeal of right-to-work, reinstatement of the prevailing wage, repeal of the 1931 abortion ban, expansion of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and various gun control measures have already passed the legislature and been signed into law by Gov. Whitmer.

Moving into the spring, the legislature has begun to turn its attention to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 state budget and other priorities. One of those higher priorities is looking to adopt legislation to move Michigan toward carbon neutrality.

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO REMOVE BIOMASS AS A RENEWABLE ENERGY

As part of their "Clean Energy Future Plan", the Senate Democrats introduced a seven-bill package last month that aims to achieve a 100% clean energy grid by 2035. Included in that package of legislation is Senate Bill 271 which would remove the definition of biomass as a clean and renewable energy.

Eliminating wood and wood-processing wastes as a renewable energy be of great detriment to our industry. Biomass is a renewable material that can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It has played a vital role in providing electricity generation to the grid. Any elimination of biomass as a "clean energy" will remove an important energy source from our electric grid that cannot be fully powered by wind and solar power. It also shifts a huge cost burden back onto our mills.

MAT will continue to monitor this legislation and work with legislators on a more balanced approach that keeps biomass in the fold as an important piece of the complex energy puzzle.

## SPENDING PLAN APPROVED TO BRING FORD EV PLANT TO MARSHALL

The legislature approved a \$1.338 billion supplemental budget a few months ago. This was the second supplemental of 2023 and was aimed at attracting a new Ford electric vehicle (EV) plant to the Marshall area. Included in the funding is \$330 million for transportation infrastructure for the project, \$300 million to get the land ready for development and an additional \$170 million for the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund for the project.

## Some of the other spending projects in the supplement included:

- \$212 million for energy efficient upgrades for eligible homeowners and landlords.
- \$75 million in federal money for hospitals to hire and train new workers.
- \$67 million in federal money to boost staffing at long-term care nursing facilities.
- \$63.5 million (\$14.5 million General Fund) for a 2% reimbursement increase in long-term care services.
- \$60 million in federal grants to improve the facilities of before-or after-school centers, workforce training facilities, athletic gyms and fields, or senior homes.
- \$25 million from the General Fund to cover low-income municipal water customers.
- \$10 million for community violence intervention grants.
- \$10 million in federal money to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen levels in Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay.

## MAT TO TESTIFY IN HOUSE COMMITTEE

MAT has been invited along with other industry partners to testify in front of the Michigan House of Representatives Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

The hearing will be held on May 18th. We are looking forward to educating the committee members on our industry, our association and our legislative priorities for 2023.

We will update the membership on our progress following the hearing. 🌲



**Superior Cedar Products, Inc.**

---

**YEAR-ROUND MARKET**

**For Cedar Posts**

**100" Post - 4" Up**

**100" Bolts 7" Up**

**100" Cedar Pulpwood - Any Size**

---

**Phone 906-639-2107**

**Ask For Tim Bruce - For More Info.**

**Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. C.S.T.**



AS WE SEE IT: APRIL 2023

# FROM THE WOODS TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY WAY OF CAPITOL HILL

Recently the American Loggers Council hosted the first DC Congressional Fly-In in four years. Seventy-five timber industry representatives from twenty-one states held nearly one-hundred Congressional Meetings.

The Day on the Hill saw timber industry representatives from Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho, Louisiana, Oregon, and Maryland meet directly with their respective state Congressional Representatives and their staff. Timber industry representatives left their logging operations in the woods, traveled from across the country, and waded into the “swamp” of Washington DC, not for personal gain, but to bring all the U.S. timber industry’s voice to be heard through the halls of Congress and to the doors of the White House.

The bank robber Willie Sutton, when he was caught, was asked why he robbed banks. He replied, “Because that is where the money is.” Why do we go to Washington, DC? Because that is where the policy and legislation (money) is made that affects the logging industry. Same concept.

The ALC prepared a comprehensive 24-page Congressional Briefing Package that provided background on the legislative priorities and served as informational literature to share with the Congressional Offices. The issues advocated for include:

- Biomass inclusion in the Renewable Fuel Standard
- Future Logging Careers
- Interstate Access
- Truck Driver Incentive
- Elimination of the Federal Excise
- National Loggers Day
- Increased Federal Forest Management

Capping off the Fly-In was a White House tour for 45 ALC members, including Ponsse President of North America Pekka Ruuskanen.

The consensus from all states was that their meetings and interaction were met favorably, and the Congressional Representatives and staff were more engaged and supportive than in some prior meetings. Those that attended and participated opened doors that the ALC will continue to take advantage of in our follow-up and push to pass our legislative priorities.

The ALC representatives provided Congress and the Administration with the information and opportunity to address some of the threats and challenges to the timber industry. Some of these Bills have been introduced with bipartisan support in both the

Senate and the House.

## **FUTURE LOGGING CAREERS ACT**

*Introduced in the Senate and House on March 7th, 2023, by Senator Risch (ID), Senator King (ME), Congressman Thompson (PA), and Congressman Golden (ME). Additional cosponsors include Senators Crapo (ID), Senator Collins (ME), Senator Scott (SC), Senator Cornyn (TX), Congressman Fulcher (ID), and Congressman Pingree (ME). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will allow logging families the same opportunity to pass on experience as farming families can as they prepare for the succession of these multigenerational family businesses.*

## **SAFE ROUTES ACT**

*Bipartisan support (Congressman Gallagher (WI) and Congressman Golden (ME)) for the Safe Routes Act was demonstrated with the recent introduction in the House of Representatives.*

*This is a safety bill, first and foremost. It would simply allow (as has been established by precedent in numerous states) for current state weight limits for logging trucks operating on non-federal roadways to be extended to the interstate system. Representative Gallagher drove in a logging truck transiting the current non-interstate route through communities, rural roads, school zones, intersections, and single-lane routes and then the alternative interstate route this legislation would allow.*

***“It’s crazy how inefficient it is,” Gallagher said. “it’s bad for the truck, it’s bad for the trucker, it’s bad for the road, it’s bad for the environment, it’s less safe, so it absolutely makes no sense.”***

## **SAFE, MODERN TRUCKS ACT**

*With bipartisan Congressional support from Congressman LaMalfa (CA) and Congressman Pappas (NH) the Safe, Modern Trucks Act was introduced. This legislation recognizes that the 100-year-old 12% federal excise tax on new trucks and trailers de-incentivizes investment in new trucks by adding \$30,000 to the price. The excise tax on heavy trucks is the highest excise tax levied on any product in the country. Half of America’s trucking fleet is over 10 years old, is less fuel efficient, and emits greater emissions. “On one hand, regulators want operators out of older trucks, but on the other hand, this tax penalizes them for trying to update their equipment,” said Congressman LaMalfa. Co-sponsoring the Bill are Congressman LaHood (IL) and Congressman Blumenauer (OR).*

***“If Congress is serious about creating jobs, reducing emissions, and improving highway safety, then repealing the Federal Excise Tax should be a priority.” Chris Spear, American Trucker Associations, President and CEO.***

American Loggers Council representatives present House Speaker Kevin McCarthy a new gavel made from various hardwoods found across the Continent.



### **Strengthening Supply Chains Through Truck Driver Incentives Act**

*Introduced by U.S. Representatives Spanberger (VA) and Gallagher (WI) the Strengthening Supply Chains Through Truck Driver Incentives Act, the legislation would provide a short-term, fast and straightforward incentive to attract and retain new drivers.*

*“During the pandemic, truckers didn’t have any remote options – yet they went to work every single day to keep our economy moving and our communities strong. Our country needs to step up and recognize their hard work – and we need to encourage more Americans to enter this industry,” said Spanberger.*

*The Bill would create a two-year refundable tax credit of up to \$7,500 for drivers with valid CDL-A who drive at least 1900 hours per year. It would also create a new refundable tax credit of up to \$10,000 for new truck drivers enrolled in a registered trucking apprenticeship and who meet other requirements.*

The “Ask” was for Congressional Representatives to support and sign onto these pieces of legislation. The goals and objectives are to get some, if not all, of these legislative priorities across the finish line (President’s desk).

Without the successful inclusion of these priorities and the positive message it will convey to the struggling timber industry,

the logging and trucking infrastructure will be hard-pressed to remain invested in the future of the forest products industry.

The message was - We are here to represent a vital sector of the forest products and forest management team. Without us, none of the other environmental, economic, or forest management benefits are possible. For the most part, we are not asking for money, we are just asking you to pass legislation that allows us to do our job, make a living, create jobs, improve safety, protect the forests, and recognize the contribution we make to improving the environment and economy.

There is nothing more persuasive than for Congressional Representatives to hear firsthand from the men and women that actually work in the woods and drive logging trucks about the challenges that they face and how Congress can help ensure this vital industry survives.

The world is run by those that show up. If you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu. The American Logging Council members showed up and were at the table. But the work is not finished. All timber industry representatives are encouraged to contact their respective Congressional Representatives and request their support and sponsorship of the Bills referenced. 🍀

# WARREN SUCHOVSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENT

Cody Nelson is our 2023 Warren Suchovsky Scholarship Fund recipient. He is a senior this year and will be graduating from Escanaba Area High School in May. After graduation, Cody plans on getting his CDL and driving log truck like his dad and brother.

During his high school career, he played four years of football and three years of hockey and has been on the honor roll for four years, the last two years receiving all A's. In his spare time, Cody loves hunting, fishing, and playing hockey. 🍀



**MICHIGAN  
KENWORTH**  
A CSM Company

**THE WORLD'S BEST**

For all your truck needs, contact your local Michigan Kenworth Dealer today.

|   |                                   |                                  |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>CLINTON TOWNSHIP</b><br>(586) 468-6301 | <b>DEARBORN</b><br>(800) 793-0555 | <b>GAYLORD</b><br>(888) 544-7493 |
| <b>GRAND RAPIDS</b><br>(800) 306-0200     | <b>SAGINAW</b><br>(989) 754-4500  |                                  |

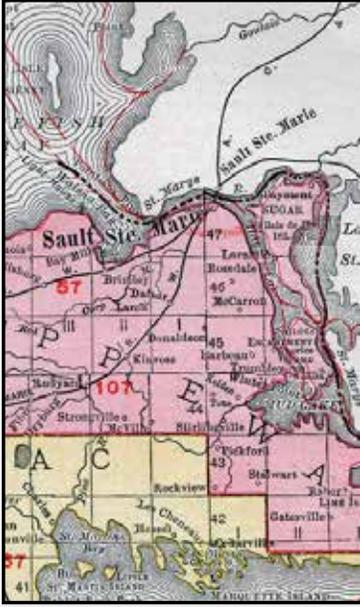
[www.csmtruck.com](http://www.csmtruck.com)

**WELCH  
LAND & TIMBER**  
Harvesting NE MI forests since 1985.

Buyers of Standing Timber – Land Owner Management Plans  
Logging – Firewood – Forester on Staff  
SFI Certified – Master Logger  
989.848.5197

# HISTORY FROM ACROSS MICHIGAN'S REGIONS

## Region Two: Eastern Upper Peninsula



The following excerpt was provided through the Chippewa County Historical Society's book collection, from the chapter entitled "The Lumbermen," in Rena Thompson's book, "A History of Kinross Township," written in 1981. This excerpt offers a look into the lumbering industry in areas around Kinross and Rudyard, Michigan during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Learn more about the Chippewa County Historical Society at [www.cchsmi.com](http://www.cchsmi.com).

"...Very little has been written about lumbering in the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula so we must piece the story together from references made by some of the men who lived and worked here.

Much of the lumbering done was incidental to clearing the land for plowing, which kept a number of mills going. Most of the homesteads had only an acre or two cleared when they were settled, so the men cut off and sold the timber...

[A diary from] John Daley reported, "Around 1884 the Miles Brothers came from Saginaw and started to lumber at Kinross. They paid \$30.00 per month. They also built a mill at DeTour. I was there with them for \$2.00 per day. They cut 100,000 board feet a day. I helped them to take out their drive."

Also in 1884, the Mackinaw Lumber Company had a camp on the Pine River near what is now Rudyard. In 1888 Albert and Alfred Curtis worked in the woods camp of the Chicago Lumber Company, 40 miles [south] of the Soo at Pte. Aux Frenes. They hauled cedar posts, ties and telephone poles and peeled bark...

In 1891 Carman and Bromley Shingle Company came from Lower Michigan and located a shingle mill two miles south and five miles east of Dukes Lake in Kinross. Then they built another shingle mill on Dukes Lake, a mile east of

the first mill. They had a big camp with one hundred men or more all the time. White pine was hauled and loaded at the gravel pit [near Kinross] – it was all woods then. No one lived in Kinross except the section foreman, McCormick, and his crew. The railroad went through in 1888, but the local train stopped running in 1890, Albert Curtis reported.

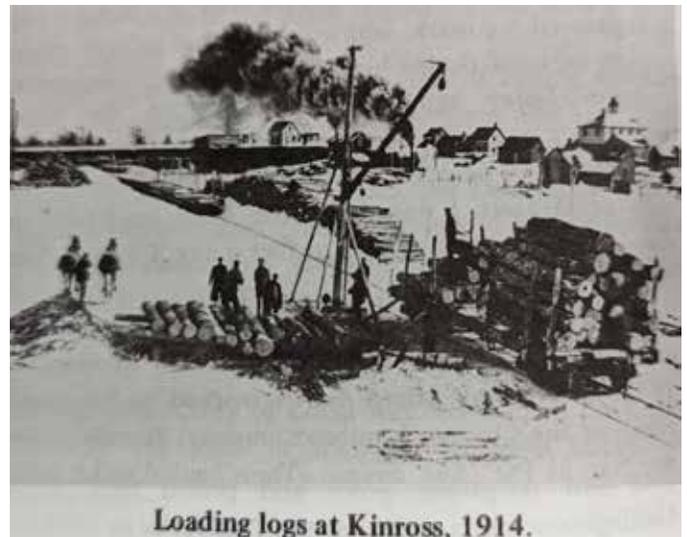
[Another early camp] in the area was the Davidson camp started in the spring of 1892. The lumber to build the camp was hauled from the Pinery, a sawmill one mile south of Dukes Lake. The camp was located near the old Wyatt farm in Rudyard, where the community's tennis courts are today [as of 1981].

In 1900, Curtis and Bonner had a camp in Alexandria near Trout Lake and employed 80 to 100 men. A.T. Bound, for whom Bound Road is named, was a big lumber man in the area [as

well]. John Pope Sr. as a timber cruiser and worked for a Mr. Mulholland, who had a sawmill in Kinross in 1918. It was across from the Kinross Mercantile Store, and employed 10 to 12 men.

The White Lumber Company had a camp one-half mile north of Thompson Road and one-half mile west of Tilson Road, which in 1924 employed 200 men. There were 40 teams of horses, two big steam engines and many flat cars, and some diesel trucks. The lumber was shipped out to the Soo Lumber Company and to Manistique. There were several families at the camp and one year the township ran a school for the camp children...

Forests are our only self-renewing natural resource, so it is good to know that the lumber industry is still alive and well in Kinross Township." – A History of Kinross Township by Rena T. Thompson, 1981.





PRSR STD  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 SAULT STE MARIE MI  
 PERMIT NO 74



YOUR PREMIER WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROVIDER



The Michigan Association of Timberman Self-Insurers' Fund (MATSIF) is Michigan's first group self-insurance fund for workers' compensation. We have a 45+ year history of providing a quality workers' compensation program to businesses in the wood products industry.

MATSIF has established itself as one of the premier workers' compensation funds in the nation providing a comprehensive package of services focused on reducing injuries and increasing member profitability. Our knowledge of the wood products industry's characteristics, needs and market influences enables us to meet the needs of our members. We continue to develop and offer value-added services designed to help control the overall cost of your workers' compensation program.

**Program Advantages:**

- ▶ Customized "Think Safety" Program
- ▶ Skilled Loss Control Representatives
- ▶ Industry Specific Training and Knowledge
- ▶ Onsite Safety Meetings Available
- ▶ Aggressive Claims Management

**Financial Advantages:**

- ▶ Competitive Class Rates
- ▶ Return of Surplus Premium
- ▶ Mod Rate Reduction with Loss Control Services
- ▶ Decrease in Employee Injuries
- ▶ Governed by a Board of Trustees Elected by the Membership
- ▶ Low Administrative Costs

*Michigan's first group self-insured fund*

