

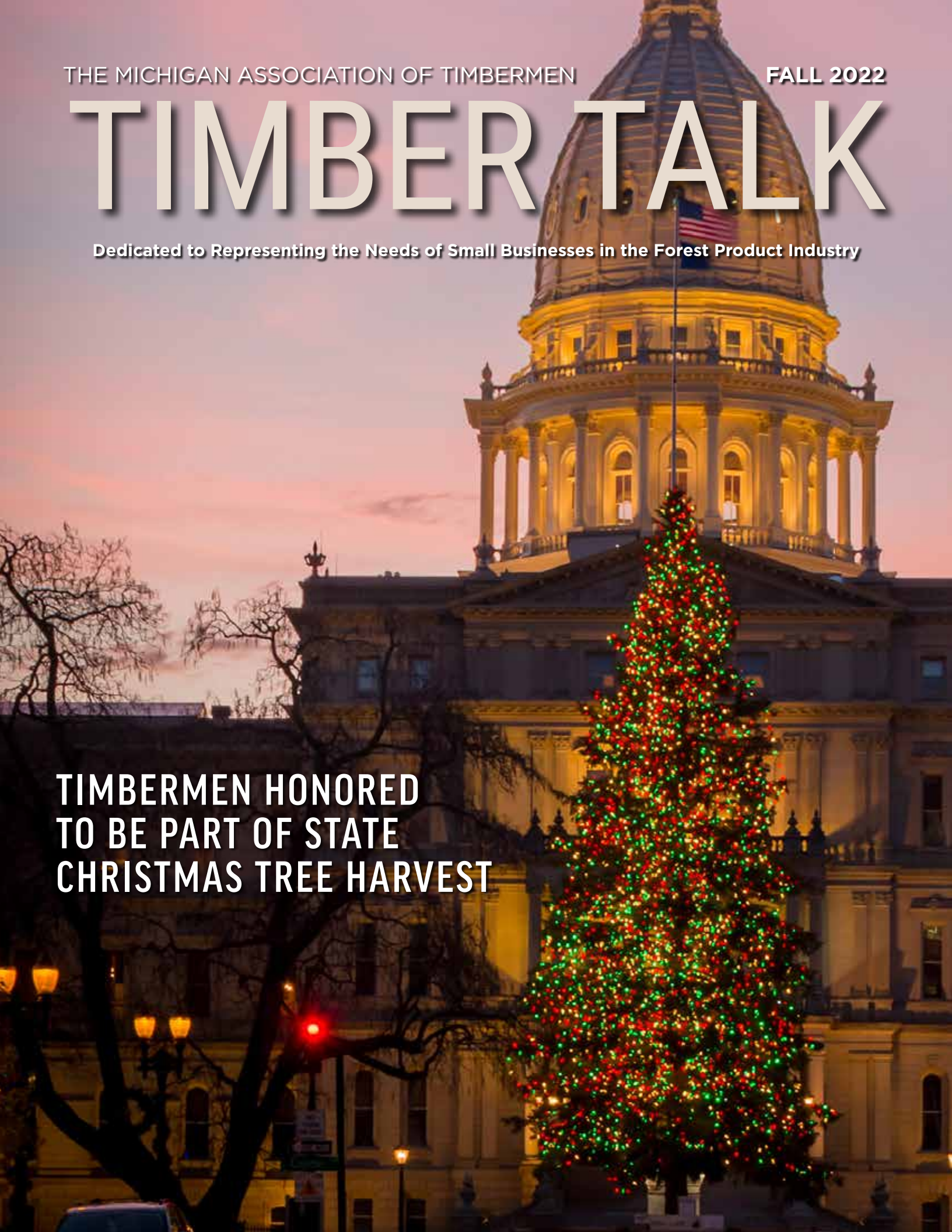
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FALL 2022

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TO BE PART OF STATE
CHRISTMAS TREE HARVEST**



FALL

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STATE CHRISTMAS TREE 2022

The Michigan Association of Timbermen is honored to be a part of the state Christmas tree harvest since the beginning. The official 2022 state Christmas tree, a 63-foot spruce selected by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB), was harvested from St. Johns in Michigan's Lower Peninsula on Friday, Oct. 28. The spruce was donated by mother and daughter business partners, Mary Ann and Caitlin Beck.

This was Michigan's 36th official Christmas tree; the tradition was started in 1986 by lobbyist Judy Augenstein. This was the 12th tree to be harvested from Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The tree harvesting ceremony was filled with much celebration. To start with, two local marching bands played a combination of songs to an excited crowd of all ages. Kids from two local elementary schools filled the closed-off street and many hometown spectators filled the rest of the open area. One of the elementary kids ran on stage, the back of a truck, and led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. The state legislature spoke a prayer of blessing and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ, the reason for the season.

MAT president, Joe Doyle from Doyle Forest Products transported the tree to the Capital grounds on Saturday, Oct. 29 where it will remain for the holiday season. Hudsonville Trailer arranged with Justin Oomen at Oomen Farms to assist in the transport by donating the trailer to haul the 63-foot spruce. Once the tree arrived at the Capitol, the local Boy Scout troops untied the tree and the Michigan Capital Commission and the Lansing Board of Water and Light started planning the decoration scheme.

Christyn Herman with the State of Michigan writes that the entire journey culminates with a tree lighting ceremony Friday, Nov. 18, at the 38th Annual Silver Bells in the City celebration. Rain or shine, dignitaries will flip the switch that turns on thousands of twinkling lights at approximately 7:30 p.m. As one of Michigan's premiere holiday events, Silver Bells includes an electric light parade featuring over 60 entries decked out with thousands of lights, high school marching bands, horse drawn carriages, and the arrival of Santa Claus with live reindeer; lighting of the state tree; community sing; and drone holiday light show. The event concludes with a fireworks display over the Capitol. 🌲





**A VIEW FROM
YOUR STUMP**
BY BOB WILLIAMS

LOGGING'S ONGOING PUBLIC RELATIONS BATTLE

Most forest landowners understand the critical role logging plays in the long-term ownership and conservation of their forest resources, both from an ecological and economic perspective.

The Britannica definition of logging is “the process of harvesting trees, sawing them into appropriate lengths and transporting them to a sawmill.” Of course, there is some variation. Yet both media and extremist environmentalists have successfully redefined logging in the public’s minds as the wanton destruction of forests. Over the last forty years, logging, which is a component of some forestry practices, has been used to demonize our management and use of forest natural resources.

Any reference to logging in the mainstream media usually has a negative connotation. It’s as if there’s some other, more environmentally-friendly way to harvest trees. Just as people don’t like to think of how their animal food is harvested, they apparently don’t want to recognize how trees become lumber.

With the recent passage of the national infrastructure bill, many needed billions of dollars will be dedicated to funding needed forest restoration of our national forests. Already there are efforts in Congress to stop the utilization of this funding to save our national forests from “logging” in the name of fuel reduction, forest restoration, and wildfire prevention.

Full disclosure: I am a forester and over my long career have made decisions to log millions of trees on tens of thousands

of acres of forest land across North America. I am proud of the work loggers did on these projects and today, beautiful forests cover all of those lands.

Today, there are significant forest practice standards that ensure logging is done correctly. Yet logging is the primary tool used by extremists to limit, obstruct or prohibit tree harvesting anywhere for any reason. They use the word logging like a battle ax to demean, criticize, or ridicule any forest management activity that involves tree cutting.

continues on pg. 7



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- Registration will include four hot meals, one beverage break, and three social gatherings.
- Indoor and outdoor SFE credit seminars for a more interactive learning experience.
- Indoor and outdoor exhibitors, including heavy machinery and wood carving.
- Informational and engaging industry related seminars.
- Friday night banquet dinner, awards, and keynote speaker Bobby Goodson from Swamp Loggers!
- Plus lots of great vendors.

See Page 18 & 19 for Registration



Their hypocrisy is staggering. They refuse to speak of the essential use of wood fiber by every single human being on this planet every single day. We humans are a forest-dependent species, no different than a wood thrush songbird or a gray squirrel. We need forests to survive and sustain our high quality of life for us and generations to come.

The political/social climate of forestry today does not support the management of our forest resources on any level whether public or private.

The latest battle cry to save forests from "logging" is the climate crisis. Most extremists now view the climate issue as the silver bullet they have long tried to manufacture, to prohibit or obstruct the cutting of any tree for any reason.

Most people agree that the world's forests are critical to sustaining our climate. Trees play a critical role in extracting and storing carbon stocks. Yet when they scream to protect the trees, their hypocrisy grows even louder.

If one understands that wood fiber resources are essential to sustaining our everyday quality of life, how can the extremists be credible if they refuse to address or even mention how and where

that wood fiber can or should come from? It is a level of hypocrisy not seen before and simply irresponsible. They all depend on wood every day of their lives yet oppose the sustainable use of wood.

Forest landowners need to pay attention to any proposed climate policy that will impact forest use. People in the forestry world need to participate as these policies evolve. We need to help the public understand that they need to support a balanced approach that provides for the critically needed goods and services that our forests provide.

Locking forests down is a policy that is both irresponsible and will result in severe negative social and environmental impacts.

The utilization of wood fiber has always and will continue to play a critical role in sustaining both a healthy climate and a healthy economy. This is just a fact that their hypocrisy will one day have to confront. 🌲

Bob Williams is a longtime forester and president of Pine Creek Forestry L.L.C., (pinecreekforestry.com) in Laurel Springs, New Jersey.

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THE AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL MET VIRTUALLY WITH WHITE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE FUEL CRISIS

SCOTT DANE (AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL) AND TODD MARTIN (SOUTHERN LOGGERS COOPERATIVE) MET WITH THE FOLLOWING WHITE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS FUEL PRICES AND LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS:

Diesel Prices have escalated significantly. Over the past 3-4 months, they have stabilized and dropped slightly. However, current supply and demand imbalances project that prices will increase again and may even result in limited availability in certain regions.

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Will McIntee: Executive Office of the President, Office of Public Engagement, Associate Director of Public Engagement



Austin Brown: Executive Office of the President, Office of Domestic Climate Policy, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Senior Director for Transportation Emissions



Zach Butterworth: Executive Office of the President, Director of Private Sector Engagement



Lisa Hansmann: Executive Office of the President, National Economic Council, Senior Policy Advisor



MEMBER BENEFITS FALL 2022

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.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITHIN MAT PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Free membership to American Loggers Council (ALC) and the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM)
- MAT provides multiple opportunities to earn free SFI credits throughout various sponsored events.
- MAT represents member's issues with local, state and federal departments such as MDOT, MDNR, CRA and Townships as well as Federal Motor Carrier issues.
- As a MAT member, you qualify for rebates thru Western Star, Peterbilt, International Truck, and Clark Tracks as well as other discounts from various other firms/programs.
- TIMSER Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MAT owns Forest Insurance Center, Loggers Insurance Agency II LLC and Mauck Insurance Agency. Supporting these agencies helps provide funding for association programs.
- MAT endorses Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste. Marie as the Health Insurance Provider for association members.
- MAT retains KDA Consulting, a full service Lobbying firm, to assist with legislative issues.

To join, simply fill out the membership form at
www.michigantimbermen.com/join
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If you have any questions,
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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 template. 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 Technological University's School of Forestry and Environmental Science Advisory Committee and also a Steering Committee for its new Forest Bio-materials Initiative Program.

A very active participant in the legislative and sustainable forestry community for the loggers, Warren was a member of the Timber Producers Association. Board member of Michigan Association of Timbermen for over 20 years (where he served as President and Secretary-Treasurer), and member of the Michigan Forest Biomaterials Institute. Appointed to the Great Lakes Timber Alliance. Served on the Forest Management Advisory Committee, Western U.P. Citizen's Advisory Committee to the DNR, American and Michigan Farm Bureau Forestry committee, Forest Stewardship Committee and Forest Legacy Subcommittee to the Michigan DNR, and is a member of the GLTPA Board.

Warren has served in many other ways and won numerous awards for his service and time given to an industry that he has watched change drastically from the time his career started. The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to recognize his dedication to an industry that has grown and advanced in many ways due to the dedication and knowledge of industry supporters like himself, with a Lifetime Service Award. Please join us at the Annual Convention on April 21, 2023 to participate in the presentation of this award. 🌲

The independent loggers and truckers, a vital link in the forest products supply chain, are limited in their ability to “pass” these costs on to the “end user” (i.e., mills and other facilities that consume timber fiber). This is due to the consumer dictating prices since there are no binding supply agreements with fuel escalators built in to adjust for fluctuations in fuel prices.

There have been discussions regarding the suspension of state and federal fuel taxes. This would reduce the price at the pumps from .45 cents to .75 cents per gallon. However, this may increase demand, increasing prices and proving counterproductive. The long-term solution is matching supply to demand.

Instead of reducing prices, another option would be to increase fuel efficiency by reducing the miles traveled and increasing the MPG of the equipment. This can easily be done by allowing logging and other agricultural trucks to access the federal interstate system at the same weights they drive on local and state roads. There is precedent for this, with Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire running 100,000 pounds on the federal interstate. In 2015, Minnesota secured a 23-mile corridor on the federal interstate allowing for 99,000 pounds around the cities of Duluth and Cloquet. Other segments of state roads absorbed into the federal interstate system have been grandfathered in at the previously practiced weights in those states. This option is estimated to increase fuel efficiency by 10% - 20%.

An additional benefit is the documented and proven safety benefits of reducing accidents. Forest resources professors with the University of Minnesota studying timber routes in central and eastern Wisconsin found interstate travel would reduce the time they take by more than 20%, reduce fuel consumption by between 6% - 14%, and eliminate school zones from the routes. The most significant difference lies in the vast reduction in the number of intersections and traffic lights the truckers would encounter on interstates. Researchers found they would be down between 64% - 88%. The findings echoed similar research from the University of Georgia and Mississippi State University.



THE TIMBER HARVESTING AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS CANNOT SURVIVE ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION IN DIESEL PRICES.

The timber harvesting and transportation sectors cannot survive another significant escalation in diesel prices. The last price spike resulted in logging and trucking companies going out of business. Some of those that survived will not survive another spike in diesel prices.

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AS WE SEE IT

THANKSGIVING PERSPECTIVE

It is a matter of perspective, we can either look at the glass as half full or half empty. Either way it is the same glass, it just depends upon how we choose to look at it. If you are thirsty, you can be grateful for half a glass of water, or you can be resentful that it wasn't a full glass of water. That is how life, particularly in the woods, can be. Loggers and truckers tend to be "glass half full" optimists.

There are few "easy" days in the woods or hauling timber. The challenges are daily, sometimes hourly. But if you have been in the timber industry, it is a way of life. Honestly, that may be what drives loggers and truckers to do what they do. It is a life most others cannot or will not live. As such you have overcome insurmountable challenges and threats; you have replenished your glass and never let it be empty.

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving celebration, remember that it dates back to colonial times and the harvest feast. When settlers and Native Americans came together

and shared a meal. The New England colonists regularly celebrated "days of prayer thanking God for blessings". Later, a national Thanksgiving Day was officially designated by President Lincoln to promote unity during the Civil War.

If there has been a time since the Civil War that the United States needed unity, it is today. Despite all of the division, vitriol and conflict today's United States can take a lesson from 400 years ago, when two vastly different cultures, who were at times warring factions, sat together, ate together and gave thanks TOGETHER. This historic demonstration of unity is an example of what America needs today, and a reminder that we still have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving Day.

The timber industry is comprised of competing factions, including loggers vying for the same timber tract, mill laborers, and trucking capacity. Yet most come together to work towards a common mutual benefit of a sustainable timber industry through their membership in state

continues on pg. 16



Scott Dane
Executive Director,
American Loggers Council



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and national organizations. They recognize that through unity a greater good can be achieved. Perhaps there should be more loggers and truckers running the country. Men and women who face the daily challenges of harvesting timber and transporting it, who can solve problems, who are focused on the common good, who build instead of destroy, who focus on the good not the bad, who are thankful for the blessings they have received.

Whether we choose to look at all of the blessings we enjoy today, or if we choose to look at the challenges, differences, threats and disagreements that divide us, is up to each of us.

GRATITUDE AND ATTITUDE ARE NOT CHALLENGES; THEY ARE CHOICES.

Thanksgiving is about unity, unity of country, but more importantly, Thanksgiving is about giving thanks to the source of our blessings – God.

Ephesians 6:12 – For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Charles Spurgeon said, “The Lord’s mercy often rides to the door of our heart upon the black horse of affliction.”

"THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS IS TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
WHILE OTHERS ARE ADDING UP THEIR TROUBLES."

—WILLIAM PENN
(AMERICAN COLONIALIST)



During the Thanksgiving holiday, be sure to have the right perspective, count your blessings – your health, your family, your business and give thanks to the One from whom all blessings flow. Even in the challenges be thankful.

**BE THANKFUL FOR EVERY
NEW CHALLENGE. IT WILL
BUILD STRENGTH, WISDOM,
AND CHARACTER.**

With that perspective, in times of blessings and in times of challenges, we can be thankful and give thanks. 🍀



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48th MAT/MATSIF/FLM Annual Convention
Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI
April 20 & 21, 2023



*******PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE*******

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Member _____ Non Member _____ E-Mail _____

	<u>Early Registration</u>	<u>After March 30th</u>
Member Adult 18 + (membership includes all employees)	_____ @ \$210 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$250 = \$ _____
Member Spouse (Includes all meals)	_____ @ \$120 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$165 = \$ _____
All Friday Meals Child Under 18	_____ @ \$30 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$30 = \$ _____
Friday Banquet Only Adult 18+	_____ @ \$110 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$140 = \$ _____
Non Member—Full Registration	_____ @ \$285 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$380 = \$ _____
Non Member—Banquet Only	_____ @ \$140 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$195 = \$ _____
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	No charge for children under 4	

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Please check which events you will be attending	# attending
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THURSDAY Welcome Reception	
THURSDAY Night MATSIF Award Banquet	
FRIDAY Breakfast Buffet	
FRIDAY Lunch	
FRIDAY SFE Classes	
FRIDAY Spouses Event	
FRIDAY Night MAT Awards Banquet	

Reserve your rooms as soon as possible!

To book your reservation, call Boyne Mountain Central Reservations at 800-462-6963 and ask for the MI Assn of Timbermen group. Please note that after the cut-off date of 3/20/2023 after that rooms will be given based on availability.

No refunds 10 days prior to convention / Those paying with credit card will pay 5% Convenience Fee

Make checks payable to MAT and return registration form with full payment to :
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**48th MAT/MATSIF/FLM Annual Convention
 Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI
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Exhibitor Form

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email : _____

Industry _____

	<u>Pre Registration</u>	<u>After March 30th</u>
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Outdoor Exhibit Space <small>One piece of equipment per space</small>	_____ @ \$300 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$500 = \$ _____
Exhibitor Meals	_____ @ \$ 125 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$150 = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE - \$ _____		

Please include the number of who will be participating in:	# Attendees
THURSDAY Welcome Reception	
THURSDAY Night MATSIF Awards Banquet	
FRIDAY Breakfast Buffet	
FRIDAY Lunch	
FRIDAY Night MAT Awards Banquet	

Please let us know if you have any special diet requirements—timbermen1972@gmail.com

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