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WINTER 2020

TIMBER TALK

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FUTURE OF MICHIGAN'S WOOD PRODUCT INDUSTRY: 2021

GLEN TOLKSDORF, FORESTER/BROKER/APPRaiser, MAT BOARD MEMBER

As we enter 2021, with COVID-19 vaccines now being produced and distributed worldwide, there is hope that an end to the pandemic is in sight. The pandemic has affected our industry with a reduction in economic activity throughout the world. Our industry has also been negatively affected by pulp mill closures in Wisconsin and Minnesota, which has resulted in an oversupply of pulpwood to both Verso mills in Quinnesec and Escanaba. However, the wood products industry remains stable in Michigan, with much opportunity for growth.

The development of new wood products and uses is vital to keeping our industry moving forward. This has been ongoing with buildings constructed with laminated wood beams, and wood fiber materials used in the production of telephone poles, pallets, furniture, containers and so forth. The wood bio-industry is also important with the usage of wood products to produce electricity from bioenergy facilities and the possible future production of bio-ethanol to be added to gasoline and airplane fuels, and in the development of pharmaceutical products. If we can continue to be innovative with new products from wood, Michigan can grow this industry substantially in the future.



GLEN TOLKSDORF

There are many other ways we can work together to help grow our wood products industry. Stay informed on what is going on in your community with future construction and job growth. Attend public meetings that may increase the use of wood within your region. Contact your local, state, and national representatives to encourage them to increase wood product development projects within our state. This could include recommending that public buildings, bridges, and recreational sites be constructed from laminated wood beams and other wood products.

Additional research and design of wood products can be developed at colleges and universities in our state. This needs to be encouraged and expanded upon. Research is needed to produce new products, but research alone isn't enough—we must also continue to develop these products into a manufacturing phase, which will promote job growth.

Working together as representatives of our industry, we can promote wood product industries and facilities. The forests of Michigan, which produce this renewable resource, will be around for generations to come. 🌲




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**46th MAT/MATSIF Annual Convention
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI
April 22 & 23, 2021**



*******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 31st</u>
Member Adult 18 +	_____ @ \$180 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$200 = \$ _____
Member Spouse (Includes all meals)	_____ @ \$100 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$120 = \$ _____
All Friday Meals Child Under 18	_____ @ \$25 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$25 = \$ _____
Friday Banquet Only Adult 18+	_____ @ \$75 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$ 75 = \$ _____
Non Member—Full Registration	_____ @ \$ 250 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$ 250 = \$ _____
Non Member—Banquet Only	_____ @ \$ 100 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$ 125 = \$ _____
Children Under 4 No Charge	_____	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE - \$ _____

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

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No refunds 10 days prior to convention

Make checks payable to

MAT and return registration form with full payment to :

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**46th MAT/MATSIF Annual Convention
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Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email : _____

Industry _____

	<u>Pre Registration</u>	<u>After March 31st</u>
Indoor Exhibit Table 1- 8' table w/skirt and 2 chairs	_____ @ \$200 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$250 = \$ _____
Outdoor Exhibit Space	_____ @ \$200 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$250 = \$ _____
Exhibitor Meals	_____ @ \$ 80 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$100 = \$ _____
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	

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LET'S GET STARTED

There are many unknowns facing our Logging Families following the 2020 elections and for most of us, there are many unanswered questions that we would like to have answers to. Will the new appointees installed by the new administration effect what we do as Loggers? Will the changes in the agencies that are involved in Logging and Trucking reverse the gains that we witnessed in the last four years? Will we see more regulations on our industry that have negative impacts on our operations?

Of particular interest to many of us in the Western States and other federal timber sale dependent communities across the United States is the improvements that we have seen over the past four years in the ability of the U.S. Forest Service to put up timber sales with more success and to actually increase the volumes being offered. Will that continue? Stay tuned.

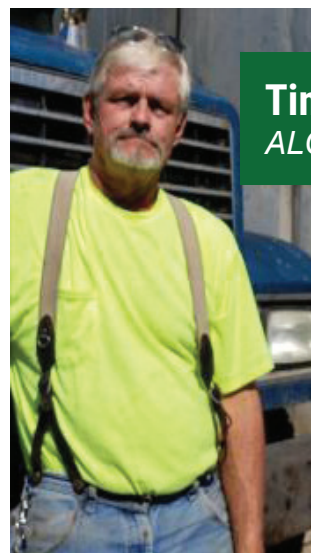
As of this writing, today, we received notice that the COVID Relief package being voted on this afternoon contains a \$200 million dollar component that is being set aside for logging and log trucking businesses across the U.S. that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. How will this be distributed? What determines your eligibility? The American Loggers Council and its many state and regional associations have been working to have those logging and log hauling businesses included in the package, but with success comes more questions, again... stay tuned!

Once the Presidential election is finally confirmed, we will know who we are working with and we will start a plan of attack to get our Logging and Trucking issues back on the table, working with whichever administration is in the White House. So far we have weathered Administration changes over the past 26 years and have been able to work with decision makers on both sides of the aisle on multiple issues. Our job is and will remain to educate those incoming legislators on our industry while keeping those veterans in

Washington, DC updated on the issues that are impacting us the most.

In the meantime take a look at our website, www.amloggers.com, and take the 2020 ALC Logger survey while you're there. Our Facebook page also contains information on the American Loggers Council and what we are up to. Both these pages will keep you updated on what's going on at the ALC. You can also find the latest information on what programs and how to apply for relief allowed in the COVID Relief package as they becomes available. 🌲

Tim Christopherson is the co-owner of Dabco, Inc. based out of Kamiah, Idaho and serves as the President of the American Loggers Council and Past President and Board Member of the Associated Logging Contractors, Inc. in Idaho. For the past several years he has walked the halls of Congress in Washington, DC with members of the American Loggers Council advocating for issues that would benefit the logging and log trucking profession.



Tim Christopherson
ALC President



Your Health Matters!



Dr. Phil's 3 Tips to Avoid Injury While Chaining Up

As a driving professional, you know your truck, and your duties inside and out. As a Physical Therapist, I know how your duties can negatively impact your body if not executed correctly. After studying the chaining up process, I want to give you some recommendations that will keep you pain free for the upcoming holiday festivities and beyond. From what I have seen, it's not a process drivers love to do, but is a crucial part of the job in the winter months. Chaining up can be a pain, but that last thing anyone wants is a painful injury as a result of this necessary safety precaution. Here a few ways to avoid preventable injury while chaining up.



Tip #1: Keep The Work Close To You

The chaining up process already requires the driver to get into some interesting positions to complete the job. Minimizing the stress placed on the muscles of the lower back as much as possible is key. By getting your body as close as you can when reaching around the tires, and getting up and under the trailer, the stress placed on the lower and mid back over that time will be less. This is best achieved by being on one knee in a lunge position when possible instead of bending over. If the driver is having a hard time and starts to get some fatigue or discomfort in the position they are in, stop, take a small break and then reset closer to the work. This allows the driver to reduce risk of a muscle spasm or strain.

Tip #2: Use The Back Last and Least

This tip goes nicely with Tip #1. If the driver keeps themselves close to the work this will happen more naturally. As just discussed, the lunge/kneeling position will keep the driver close to their work. When the driver has to lean forward to get lower around the tire, start by hinging at the hips. This makes most of that motion come from the hips with slight rounding in the spine. Bending or rounding the spine is not dangerous but when done repetitively with weight, it sets us up for pain down the road. It's never a bad idea to spread the wealth when it comes to repetitive stress placed on our body.

Tip #3: Slow It Down

Trying to rush through anything that puts our body in a funky position and asks it to work, is begging for an avoidable injury. The conditions aren't always pretty when the chains have to be put on, but the driver is more likely to complete the task successfully if they take their time. This will keep them and others on the road safe, while also preventing pain and injury that could interfere with the ability to earn a living, and spend quality time living life outside of work.

When safety is on the line, no corners can be cut. That stands true for chaining up, and taking care of the body while doing it. Drivers chain up to ensure safety on the road and, if done right, the task can be completed without pain. Follow these three simple tips to keep doing what you love, with who you love! 🌿

Dr. Philip Finemore, PT, DPT founded WorkFitME, LLC Mobile Physical Therapy to help busy Maine professionals improve their physical performance so they can live a happy, healthy, and wealthy life with their loved ones. He is passionate about helping people ensure their number one asset in life (their body and health) gives them the biggest return on investment: an abundant life doing what they love with who they love.





Keep your eye on the money.

Tax season is just around the corner, and the events of 2020 could have a major impact on your return. Fortunately, the tax experts at GreenStone are available to review your books now, to avoid any surprises when it's time to file. Contact your local GreenStone tax specialist for an appointment today!

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Michigan COVID-19 Vaccination Interim Prioritization Guidance

Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine

Updated January 6, 2021

Vaccination for COVID-19 is the path forward to controlling the disease and protecting Michigan residents. This guidance outlines the strategy for vaccine prioritization for the State of Michigan and will be used by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), as well as public health and health care, to allocate and administer vaccines. This guidance may change as information evolves and more vaccine types become available.

MICHIGAN VACCINATION PHASES AND PRIORITY GROUPS

MDHHS has set an initial operational goal of vaccinating 70% of people age 16 years of age and older, or about 5.6 million people, for COVID-19 by the end of 2021. This goal will be adjusted as population effectiveness studies become available and guidance changes.

Michigan has prioritized vaccine allocation within CDC's Phases, with an emphasis on both protecting people at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness and ensuring the continuing functioning of the health care system and essential services in the community. *These prioritizations may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccination products become available.*

The federal government recognizes that it is not necessary to fully complete vaccination in one phase before moving on to next phase. There may be vaccination of individuals in different phases that occurs simultaneously. The timing of the start of vaccination in a phase is dependent on the supply of vaccine from the manufacturer, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to Michigan, and the capacity to administer the vaccine to populations. *Decisions on moving to the next phase will be made at the state level.*

MDHHS has revised the implementation schedule to achieve the following goals:

- **Efficiency.** To vaccinate rapidly, MDHHS has limited the use of complex eligibility rules, including reducing complexity of rules to determine who is a frontline or essential worker. For the next stage of the rollout, MDHHS has limited the Phase 1B essential worker category to workers who have high levels of personal exposure (Phase 1B, Group B).
- **Effectiveness.** While moving quickly, MDHHS is also targeting vaccine to those at greatest risk of severe events. To date, 80% of deaths have occurred among those age 65 and older. In addition to vaccinating Michiganders who are 75+ in Phase 1B (Phase 1B, Group A), MDHHS is accelerating to vaccinate individuals 65-74 years old in Phase 1C.
- **Equity.** MDHHS is accelerating vaccination of individuals 65-74 years due to concern around disparity in life expectancy by race/ethnicity for this group (Phase 1C, Group A). The simplicity of criteria will limit differential access to the system based on income or privilege.

MICHIGAN COVID-19 VACCINATION IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The anticipated implementation schedule for moving through the CDC Phases is illustrated below. This schedule is provisional and will change over time.

Preliminary vaccination timeline

(**EXPECTED TO CHANGE BASED ON VACCINE AVAILABILITY**)

■ Core vaccine administration period ■ Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated

		Estimated schedule for first doses administered												
Phase	People covered	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1A	Healthcare workers	Core vaccine administration period												
	Long term care residents and staff		Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated											
1B	75 years and over not covered in Phase 1a		Core vaccine administration period											
	Frontline State/Federal responders		Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated											
	School and child care staff		Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated											
	Corrections staff		Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated											
1C	Other essential frontline workers													
	65-74 years old		Core vaccine administration period											
	16-64 with COVID-19 risk factors/pre-existing conditions													
2	All remaining essential workers		Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated											
	16 to 64 years not covered above		Core vaccine administration period											

By Jan. 11, 2021, all areas of the state may, as vaccine supplies are available, implement vaccination of people who are health care workers or working or residing in long-term care facilities (Phase 1A Priority One and Three), age 65 years or older (Phase 1 B Group A and Phase 1C Group A), or frontline workers whose work role has frequent or intense exposure, and, due to the nature of the work, are not able to maintain social distance (including frontline responders, school and child care staff, or corrections staff) (Phase 1B Group B). Vaccination will take place in different phases that occurs simultaneously.

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LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

by Jason Wadaga, MAT Lobbyist

January 3rd, 2005 was my first day working in the Michigan Legislature. Because of my familiarity with northern Michigan, I was hired for a specific purpose; to be the field staff for Republican House members starting in Clare and everything north of there.

While it seems like a lot of territory, In reality I spent most of my time with two state representatives. Rep. Tim Moore from Farwell (who's office I would later work in) and Rep. Tom Casperson from Escanaba.

Being a boy from the U.P. it was exciting and a little intimidating getting to work with the great Tom Casperson. His reputation was already larger than life in the U.P. and Lansing at that point and everyone was well of aware of the near impossible upset he pulled off to win his first election, when he beat Congressman Bart Stupak's wife in an election no one other than Tom and his grassroots supporters expected him to win. Any anxiety I had in meeting him went away the first time I met and that never changed until his untimely death.

I spent time working with him in the House of Representatives and was on staff in the Senate when he served there. After leaving to join the lobby corps, I still always enjoyed seeing and talking with Tom. If I knew I had a meeting with him I would always be sure to put on my Dallas Cowboys cuff links that morning knowing I would be met with his exaggerated head roll followed by a "Go Pack Go."

One of the first meetings I had representing MAT (and the last time I saw Tom face-to-face) was with his successor, Sen. Ed McBroom, whom Tom worked for at the time. I was there with some MAT members to discuss a potential issue that was rumored to be coming up. I have to admit I failed the association that day. I saw Tom sitting at his desk and never even made it to Sen. McBroom's office. We talked about the



normal topics for a half hour. Those that new his politics knew he wanted government out of peoples lives as much as possible and wanted to talk about it. That, and football.

As a kid, Tom started his "labor of love" working in the family logging business, Casperson & Sons Logging. He spent nearly three decades in the family business, "driving" his first log truck at 11 years of age. Prior to being elected to the State House, he spent 12 as the owner of the family company started by his grandfather. "Of all of his accomplishments the thing he was most proud of was him time in the logging industry," said Marty Fittante, his childhood friend and long-time staffer who now serves as the Executive Director of InvestUP. "The time working alongside his dad and other family members was his favorite time professionally," said Fittante.

In 2002, following a fatal accident involving a log truck industry colleague, Tom was determined to help implement safety measures for the industry so this tragedy would not repeat itself. One of those safety measures was for what is now known as the "crib trailer." At the time, the state would not license this design. A State employee went so far as to say to Tom "if you don't like the law, you should change it." So that he did.

He ran for the Michigan House of Representatives in 2002 pulling off what is still known as one of the biggest political upsets in Michigan History. He was re-elected to the House in 2004 and 2006. He was elected to represent nearly all of the Upper Peninsula as it's state senator in 2010, making him the first Republican to represent the 38th District. He was re-elected again in 2014 before being termed out of office.

The first thing that everyone realized when they met Tom in Lansing was that there was no ego. There was no arrogance. He was warm and welcoming to everyone. He always made people feel like they were the most important person in the room and that wasn't done intentionally. He wasn't that way because he had to be...because he was a politician. That was just his personality. "Tom was the absolute definition of genuine", said Rory Lafferty who worked for Tom in the House and now serves as the Director of Government Affairs for the Health Alliance Plan. "Regardless of whether you were a friend, colleague, staff, political opponent or even a stranger, he treated everyone with an authentic respect through thoughtfulness and attentiveness that made you feel special."

He was exactly as most of us Yoopers see ourselves, but don't all live up to (myself included). I never saw him "big time" anyone. I never heard him raise his voice. I never saw him lose his cool even when it would've been well understood. I never saw him refuse to talk to someone... which is why he was perpetually late.

In Tom's time in the legislature, he had over 100 Public Acts signed into law. His legislative passion was also his professional passion, the sustainable use of natural resources. But he also dedicated himself to so much more during his time in Lansing. The accomplishments he was most proud of during his time in the legislature was legislation that led to the closing of Eagle Mine in Marquette, which has now seen over a billion dollars of investment in to the Upper Peninsula economy and the creation of over 400 jobs. It was a contentious issue when



Tom was first elected in 2002, but though in leadership, legislation was unanimously passed in the House and Senate and signed by Democratic Governor, Jennifer Granholm.

He was recognized for his dedication to his constituents and residents of this state. He was named the 2014 "Legislator of the Year" by Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS), a daily news publication that covers the Michigan Capitol. He was known for his dedication to his constituents. In fact, he arguably changed the game of the interaction and accessibility that is now expected of UP Legislators, such as holding 13 Townhalls during his first spring-break in the Senate. Tom received many awards and recognition for his legislative service, which was in part a reflection of his tireless work ethic, a work ethic reflective of his upbringing in the logging industry. It's why his first campaign there was so appropriate: A working man, working for you. Despite all the awards, humility was a

defining trait, and thus it was no surprise that his obituary didn't mention a single award.

While Tom loved his work in the woods and was an incredibly effective legislator, anyone that was ever in a car with him knew what he really wanted to be, a NASCAR driver.

The Tom Casperson driving stories are legendary. If you were following him to an event and you didn't know where it was at, you'd better have had it in your GPS because you weren't keeping up with him. I recall driving to the U.P. with the late Frank Egeler (a former staffer also and long-time friend) on I-75. He wasn't happy with my driving and I got the lecture "You're lucky you're not with Casperson. He'd be all over your ass for not driving fast enough in the fast lane." Following his death, he was remembered fondly by political friends and foes alike.



"I wouldn't have even thought about running for office had he not heard me speak in 2009 and approached me afterward," Sen. Ed McBroom said. "Over the years, we shared our faith, our ideals and our politics . . . He was such a friend, like a brother, almost like a father to me in terms of politics."

"I think the world of his dedication to the U.P. I can only hope I can accomplish half as much as he was able to accomplish in his 14 years of

public service," McBroom said.

Rep. Beau LaFave, who represents Casperson's former 108th House District, noted that the 118 bills Casperson got signed into law is more than most legislators could accomplish in 40 years.

"He was the man the U.P. needed at exactly the right time in history," LaFave said.

"Intelligent, humble and funny. When the history books are written about U.P. political giants, it will read 'Dominic Jacobetti, Joe Mack and Tom Casperson.'

"This is terribly sad news and we're devastated to hear of Tom's passing. If you knew one thing about Tom, it was how much he loved the U.P. and everyone who lives there, Said Sen. Jim Ananich, the Senate Democrats leader. He brought that passion for his community to the Legislature every single day that he served. Andrea and I send our love and support to his family as they mourn this great loss."

Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered the U.S. and Michigan flags within the State Capitol Complex to be lowered to half-staff on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, to honor the life and service. Perhaps what summed up Tom best wasn't what his colleagues thought of him, but those staffers and unelected individuals who are at times faceless and nameless in this process.

I recall when I first started in the House of Representatives that one of our side responsibilities was to interview candidates that were considering running for office. I was a nobody in the meetings, just there to learn. They were run by Al Mann, a long time Lansing political staffer and founder of one of Lansing's largest consulting firms, Marketing Research Group (MRG). After the meetings we would grade the candidates based on several categories. Often times (he never said it but you could feel it) Al felt like he had just wasted a half hour of his life...but not with Tom. I was not part of Tom's candidate interview, but Al told the story so many times about meeting Tom Casperson close to the



Mackinac Bridge. After taking a wrong turn and therefore running on “Casperson Time,” which saw him perpetually late, Tom finally arrived with the slap to the head that Yoopers always do when they’ve done something stupid. Tom and Al spent two-and-a-half hours together. In over three decades of conducting these interviews Al would always tell anyone that would listen that it was his best interview ever... because of Tom’s personality.

“I remember when he found out that I had cancer for the second time, said Patrick Yockey, the long-time Senate Majority Photographer. “He pulled me in a room off the side of the Senate floor to tell me he was praying for me even though I know he was struggling with his own. Can there be any better measure of a man?”

He was grounded in his strong faith, love of family and care for others. Especially Yoopers. He had a wonderful family. He and his wife Diane (a two-time cancer survivor herself, who wrote a book to inspire others) had four beautiful children and five grandchildren. Diane was like Tom. Always welcoming to everyone that visited. I remember her telling us a few times that even before they started dating she knew there was something special about him. They were married 38 years prior to Tom’s death.

There are two stories that I’ll always remember

Tom by that I’ve told many times.

While serving as his field staff I recall going to an event at a senior center in Dickinson County. After doing the political thing and shaking hands and meeting with everyone (most that already knew him by name) he stayed and helped put every table and ever chair away until the event was entirely cleaned up. He didn’t do it because he was a politician, he did it because he couldn’t stand to watch other people work and wanted to help others. He truly cared about everyone. It’s probably why even though he was a mad man behind the wheel, he was again, always late. I also never understood the popularity of Tom until the first time I spent a day with him in his district. We stopped at a fast food place in Iron Mountain for lunch. He walked to the counter, ordered his food, and walked away. I walked to the counter and the young lady taking my order asked me “Is that really him?” while pointing in his direction. I responded, “Is that really who.” She said, “Tom Casperson?” I couldn’t help but to chuckle, but it was my first realization that being with Tom in the U.P. was like hanging with Elvis – and, ironically, Tom did a Elvis impersonation and loved his music!

I know he’ll be remembered by everyone that came in contact with him the same way. As a truly great human being that we wish we were more like.

There never will be another Tom Casperson, personally or professionally. 🌲



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CORDS AND BOARDS

By Bill Cook

Loggers, foresters, and wood mills use specialized units of measurement to describe wood in both standing trees and cut forest products. Cords, boards, MBF, bolts, and tons are a few of the more common terms. Obtaining market-suitable volumes from tapered, irregular cylinders pose geometrical and processing challenges.

Tree stems come in a variety of shapes, tapers, diameters, lengths, and other size elements. Trees are not uniform in their geometry. Forest management, genetics, soil conditions, and other factors influence the shape of a tree and its trunk. Sometimes it's important to estimate wood volume of an entire stand of trees. Other times, it's important to estimate a usable volume within individual standing trees or logs. Many measurements include only the wood in the trunk. Other measurements also include branches, roots, or both.

A logger manufactures "roundwood" volumes from standing trees, and then sells those products to different mills. A healthy market environment allows a logger to sell more of a tree to area mills, such as those that make veneer, lumber, pulp and paper, utility poles, heating products, and others. Having volume measurements are essential to the buying and selling of wood. For some products, weight is used.

The **merchantable "bole"** (stem, trunk) has been the traditional focus of measurements. Minimum diameters at dbh (diameter at 4.5 feet) are typically five inches. Hardwood (broad-leaf trees) sawtimber trees typically have at least an eleven-inch dbh and a nine-inch top diameter inside-bark (dib). Softwood (conifers) sawtimber trees typically have at least a nine-inch dbh with a dib of seven inches. Building construction has driven these specifications. Other measurements for raw wood exist with increased use of wood for non-solid wood products, such as fuelwood, composites, and chemical extraction.



Bill Cook

MSU EXTENSION FORESTER/
BIOLOGIST, RETIRED

A **cord** is a stack of small logs, called "sticks" or pulpwood, that are generally unmarketable for higher value products, although in some regions, sawtimber and veneer logs are also sold in cord units. Dimensions are a 4x4 foot face of eight-foot sticks (actually, 100 inches) with a minimum small-end diameter of 4-5 inches. Of course, a cord contains a lot of air space, variable with the diameters of the sticks. Typically, the solid wood conversion is 79 or 80 cubic feet. Note that a "**face cord**" is a firewood measure that usually has a 4x8 foot face but the length of cut-and-split wood can be almost anything, but often 16-24 inches. Standard firewood volumes don't exist, so it's more of a buyer-beware market.



A **cubic foot** is the volume equivalent of a block of wood 12x12x12 inches. It does not account for reductions for sawing or other processing, so it's a measurement of all the wood inside the bark of the merchantable portion of a tree trunk. Cubic foot volume doesn't typically include branches or roots. The U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis unit uses cubic feet to help describe American forests. In most other countries, cubic meters are used as a standard measure.

A **board foot** is the volume equivalent of a block of wood 1x12x12 inches. The estimate of board feet in a tree or log includes reductions for saw kerf (width of a saw cut that becomes sawdust), sweep (curvy logs or trees), and tree taper. So, the volume consumed to produce twelve board feet would not fit into a cubic foot box. Stated another way, a cubic foot has about 9.8 board feet due to sawdust volume from a 1/4-inch kerf. Board foot volumes are usually expressed as "thousand board feet" or "**MBF**". Different scales are used to estimate the MBF in logs versus trees. For logs, a scale stick is used on the small end of the log, inside the bark, knowing the log length. For example, a 12-inch dib log, 10-feet long, would contain about 55 board feet of lumber. For whole trees, dbh and the number of eight-foot (or sixteen-foot) logs are used.

There are three major scales, Scribner, International, and Doyle. The most common in the Lake States is the International 1/4-inch rule (1/4-inch kerf). Scribner tends to be more accurate for smaller logs and Doyle more accurate for larger logs.

Sawlogs are larger, higher quality cut products used to produce lumber. Typically, there are three quality grades. Logs of particularly high quality and desired specifications can be sold as **veneer logs**. Veneer is a thin ply of wood commonly used for panels and furniture exteriors.

Other logs that don't quite meet mill requirements, are undesirable species, or have some other characteristic are called "**bolts**".



Posts, piles, and utility poles are among other specialty products that can sometimes carry high monetary value. In the Lake States, high value red pine is usually used for utility poles.

Length and width of boards are described in feet and inches but the thickness is sometimes described by "**quarters**", or quarter-inches. This is largely industry lingo. So, a "five-quarter" board would be five quarter-inches thick or an inch and a quarter. A 2x4 at the lumber yard isn't the full size due to the value-added processes of planing and drying. The rough-cut board had the full dimensions.

Another peculiar term is a "**cant**", which is a squared-off log, ready to be sawn into boards. Railroad ties are cants with specific dimensions and wood specifications.

Weight is sometimes used as a measurement, usually as **tons** or **tonnes**. A "ton" is more familiar, at 2000 pounds. A "tonne" (or metric tonne) is 1000 kilograms, or about 1.1 U.S. tons. Biomass is measured in tons or tonnes. Because wood density varies by species, the weights per unit volume will vary. A cord of wood will weigh about 2.3 tons, give or take a few decimal points. A thousand board feet will weigh from 2500 to 5500 pounds, green weight. Lumber or dry weight will be 15 to 50 percent lighter, depending upon the species. Wood pellets and wood chips are generally delivered in "tons". Pulp mills often buy wood in tons, rather than cords.



It's been said that the forest industry is so efficient that every part of a tree is used except the shadow. While lumber may be cut from the largest portion of a log, the slabs, bark, and sawdust all have markets, at least in a region with a vibrant forest economy. Pulp mills use only the "clean" wood but the bark is used to help produce the heat and power for the paper-making process.

Research continues to offer new ways to use wood, sometimes to replace non-wood

products whose manufacturing consumes far more energy and other resources. Cross-laminated timber can replace steel and concrete in building construction. Car bodies, "plastic" bottles, medical supplies, clothing fibers, vehicle tires, and many other products may be made from trees in the near future through the use of innovative technologies. Wood is the most environmentally-friendly raw material, especially when considering energy and water inputs, as well as atmospheric carbon balances. 🌿

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