

# THE LOG

February / March 2017

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## LAKE STATES LUMBER ASSOCIATION

**Address:**  
P.O. Box 8724  
Green Bay, WI 54308-8724

**Website:**  
[www.lsla.com](http://www.lsla.com)

**Email:**  
[lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com)

**Phone:**  
920-884-0409

**Fax:**  
920-455-7705

## From the President

First off, I am pleased to say we had a very successful Winter Meeting this year. Total registration was 133, with almost two thirds of those attending the Wednesday night Welcome Reception. I am especially excited about how well the Welcome Reception went on the additional night. What a great addition. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the additional networking time and the opportunity to get together with a close group after the reception to enjoy a nice meal from one of the local restaurants. Next year, with moving the Winter Meeting to Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI, there will be significantly more options within walking distance. This will make it more conducive to the networking environment that we are trying to create which will make our meeting more valuable to our members. We also had a successful auction again this year, raising \$14,516, enough to support our Hardwood Federation dues and associated expenses. Thank you again to all those that supported our auction through donations; without your support, this is not possible. All told, the Winter Meeting yielded a net profit of \$10,536. This makes 2017 our second most successful meeting in the last 10 years.

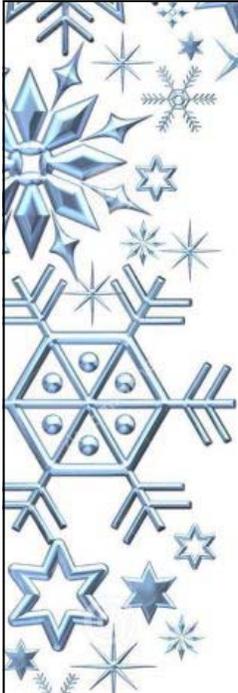
Moving on, I happen to be writing this article on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Groundhog Day. This means that the country waits to get its weather report for the balance of winter from a rodent who lives on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. I guess that is not so crazy since I find his forecasts as reliable as the majority of the other sources out there. As I listened with anticipation for the prognostication from our furry friend, the local announcer indicated that Phil is 123 years old. I could not help but think, "I wonder how many Phils they have gone through?". Anyway, this year, the little fella saw his shadow again. That of course means six more weeks of winter or in the case of most of us, six more weeks of logging. That is probably a good thing since the last six weeks of logging have not been all that great. The industry always seems to find a way though. One thing we are definitely good at is creating supply. What we cannot do, which is what we need, is to create demand; only the marketplace can do that. Based on the activity I have seen thus far though, I remain cautiously optimistic about 2017. Manufacturers seem busy, and overall business confidence appears positive.

Lastly, a quick reflection on the first two weeks of President Trump's term; I think unorthodox would be an accurate

*Continued on page 3*



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**LSLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 15, 2017**  
 Board Meeting—Appleton, WI

**April 21, 2017**  
 LSLA Education Seminar: Risk Management  
 Antigo, WI

**May 2017 (date TBD)**  
 Board Meeting—Lansing, MI

**July 19 & 20, 2017**  
 Golf Outing—Minocqua, WI

*Watch for details of these and other  
 upcoming events*

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Back Row (left to right): Brady Francois (Snowbelt Hardwoods), Dennis Gustafson (Besse Forest Products Group), Gus Welter (Granite Valley Forest Products), Butch Fisher (AJD Forest Products), Pete Johnson (AAA Hardwoods). Front Row (left to right): Larry Krueger (Krueger Lumber), Margaret Minerick (Sagola Hardwoods), Maryanne Dainsberg (LSLA Admin Coord), Jennifer Lu (WI DATCP), Rob Paradise (Devereaux Sawmill). Not pictured: Jim Maltese (Stella-Jones Corp). Photo courtesy of Wayne Miller, Miller Publications.

*The Log* is published bi-monthly by the Lake States Lumber Association, Inc. For address corrections or to contribute news articles, opinion pages, classified ads, or advertising, contact us at:

P.O. Box 8724  
 Green Bay, WI 54308-8724  
 920-884-0409  
 Email: [lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com)

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# CAN REGULATORY REFORM HAPPEN IN 2017?

By Dana Lee Cole—Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

A primary theme coursing through campaign rhetoric last year at both Presidential and Congressional levels was the need to scale back the sheer number of regulations layered upon the business community and simplify what has come to be seen as an overly complex labyrinth of often conflicting federal regulatory requirements. While the “regulatory reform” talking point was ubiquitous on the campaign trail, few specifics surfaced about what exactly would be reformed and how a new streamlined regulatory process would work. Much like “tax reform”—another popular campaign talking point—regulatory reform has been a concept discussed in nebulous terms by both sides of the aisle for decades in Washington with very little meaningful legislative action to show for the rhetoric.

Certainly history will be the final arbiter on whether 2017 will be the year that regulatory reform finally happens, but the new 115<sup>th</sup> Congress has come out of the gate with a bit of a swagger on this formidable issue, passing H.R. 5 in the very first week that Congress was in town. This comprehensive legislation is a combination of a number of bills that have passed the House over the last few legislative sessions. Among other things, the bill requires federal agencies to choose the lowest-cost rulemaking alternative that satisfies existing legal requirements and requires greater opportunity for public input. In addition the bill would require agencies to account for the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of new regulations on small businesses—and find flexible ways to reduce them. What’s more, this nearly 100 page bill would bar new billion-dollar rules from taking effect until courts can resolve timely-filed litigation challenging their promulgation. H.R. 5 would force agencies to publish online, timely information about regulations in development and their expected nature, costs, and timing. And finally, the bill would require federal agencies to publish plain-language, online summaries of new proposed rules, so the public can understand what agencies actually propose to facilitate better public input.

Just before House passage, Speaker Paul Ryan signaled that regulatory reform would be among the top tier policy objectives of the incoming Trump administration and Congress and had this to say: “If we are to going to get our economy back on track, we need to give people the freedom they need, we need to get the government out of the way of hardworking people so we can create jobs in this country. This is what regulatory reform is all about, and it will be one of the highest priorities for this new unified Republican government”.

*Continued on next page*



## Logistics Coordinator

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

description. I said here a couple of articles ago that it would be different if Trump won. It would appear that will certainly be the case. It is obviously way too early to tell whether it will be good different or bad different, but it will be different. Early indications are that the Trump Effect might be positive for the economy, so I remain hopeful. I did find myself making one new adjustment to the new normal—I downloaded and joined Twitter. I cannot say that I have ever had much interest in that particular piece of social media, and my following list is

extremely short, it consists of a single entry @realDonaldTrump. Twitter certainly is not the way that I would communicate as President of the United States, but given that it is one of his primary methods, I cannot help but follow. Who knows, he just might put this thing back on the right track for all of us.

Gus Welter, LSLA President  
Direct: 920-250-5678  
Cell: 608-778-5505  
Email: [gwelter@granitevalley.com](mailto:gwelter@granitevalley.com)

## REGULATORY REFORM (CONT'D)

The current state of play is that H.R. 5 passed the House the day Speaker Ryan made these remarks and now awaits action in the Senate. Shortly after the House acted on this bill, they turned to H.R. 26, the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny or REINS Act and passed that as well. This bill simply requires major rules to be approved by Congress before they take effect. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) and 29 other cosponsors introduced a REINS Act companion bill in the Senate (S.21). So the bottom line is we have a lot of activity right out of the gate in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress in this space. Keep in mind though that the Senate presents a much steeper climb than the House when it comes to passing legislation. Generally speaking, it takes 60 votes to move a bill through the upper chamber. Republicans currently hold 52 seats and there are few conservative Democrats that can be counted upon to vote with the majority. However, getting from 52 to 60 votes will inevitably require serious negotiation and compromise by Leader McConnell and his team.

In addition to legislation reforming the way prospective regulations are developed and adopted, look for action in the first quarter of this year on a resolution overturning some of the Obama Administration's rulemakings that were proposed in the last 6 months of his administration. The vehicle to accomplish this is the Congressional Review Act process, and several proposed rules are in the

cross hairs. Topping many lists is the overtime rule. Issued in May last year, the proposal more than doubles – from \$23,660 to \$47,476 – the annual salary threshold under which workers generally qualify for time-and-a-half pay when working more than 40 hours in a week.

If interest remains high in effecting true regulatory reform, doubtless there will be a number of proposed changes that will impact the hardwood industry. We will keep focus on legislation as it is introduced and moves through Congress. We will also be looking for rules that specifically impact hardwood companies and do our best to work with our congressional allies to create the best possible economic environment for the industry. Please let us know if you have ideas! ♦

**Ben Laski**

Phone: 763.391.6710

benlaski@midwesthardwood.com

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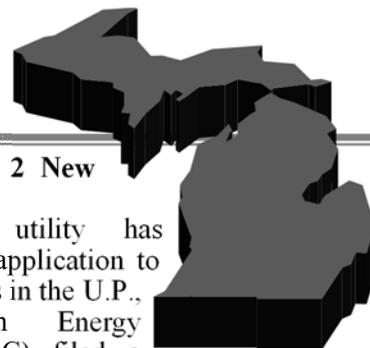
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# THE MICHIGAN REPORT

By Scott Everett, LSLA Michigan Legislative Consultant



## ROAD COMMISSION PERMITS

SB 702, 706, 707, 708 (Casperson, Escanaba) legislation proposed to prevent local road commissions from denying or creating unreasonable payments/demands/permits upon those harvesting timber and using roads/driveways. In a nutshell, if state law allows certain weight/length/width, the county road commission cannot require additional regulations. The legislation was signed by the Governor on 12/30/16 into PA 453, 454, 455, 456 of 2016 without immediate effect. Meaning, the legislation will be law on April 1, 2017

## SB 39 AND 40 "Land Plan"

As last reported, SB 39 and 40 (Casperson/Booher) were stuck in the House Natural Resources Committee with the committee chair unwilling to move the bills to the House Floor. Consequently SB 39 and 40 died. Expect re-introduction in the near future. The committee chair who held this legislation up was term limited and is no longer serving in the legislature.

## WORKERS COMPENSATION

HB 5506 (Goike, Ray Township) proposed to require all workers at a company that processed wood products in a sawmill or pallet facility where 3 or more workers are employed to be covered by worker's compensation. The bill officially died at the end of December seeing no action.

## Process Starts To Build 2 New Power Plants In U.P.

An Upper Peninsula utility has announced a filing of an application to build two natural gas plants in the U.P.. The Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corp. (UMERC) filed a certificate of necessity application with the state to build the plants, which would be located in Baraga and Marquette counties. This announcement is the next step in a deal approved last summer to replace the generation that will be lost to the retiring Presque Isle Power Plant.

## Schuette Tops List Of Early GOP Gubernatorial Possibilities

An iCaucus survey of 507 Republican Party activists at least considering going to their county party conventions found that a 26.59 percent plurality of respondents prefer Attorney General Bill SCHUETTE as the party's next gubernatorial nominee. Lt. Gov. Brian CALLEY came out with the second-highest percent at 11.83 percent, former Republican National Committeeman Dave AGEMA third at 8.88 percent, Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice MILLER 8.28 percent, Sen. Patrick COLBECK 7.89 percent, Secretary of State Ruth JOHNSON 4.54 percent, former House Speaker Jase BOLGER 1.58 percent and Dr. Jim HINES, the only candidate formally in the race, 1.18 percent.

*Continued on Page 6*

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# THE WISCONSIN REPORT

By Gunnar Bergersen, LSLA Wisconsin Legislative Consultant

## Northern Legislator Proposes DNR Break Up

On the heels of the DNR implementing its own internal realignment of working groups, Representative Adam Jarchow (R) of Balsam Lake wants to divide the Department of Natural Resources into two separate agencies. His plan calls for a Fish and Wildlife agency that manages and promotes hunting and fishing and a separate agency that monitors Environmental Protection.

Under Jarchow's plan the Division of Forestry moves to the Department of Agriculture. The plan also calls for the Division of Parks to move to the Department of Tourism with the Department of Administration handling legal matters. When he ran for re-election, Jarchow promised he would introduce bold reforms to the DNR to get it to work better.

The timing of Jarchow's proposal, immediately following the roll out of DNR's own internal reorganization, gets in the way of a look see at the governors plan. DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp said she would be pleased if the Legislature gave the DNR a chance to implement a recent reorganization plan, more than a year in the making, before acting on a proposal to scatter department programs among five state agencies.

## Transportation

LSLA is keenly interested in transportation funding because Wisconsin bridges are in such poor shape restricting expansion of more efficient truck routes.

The legislature is gearing up to resolve transportation funding when it takes up the state's two year budget this month. The most contentious issue facing the Republican controlled legislature is transportation funding.

All legislators recognize that current funding can't get the job done and bonding for transportation projects commits too many dollars for debt service. Major transportation projects in Wisconsin have been put on hold or slowed down due chronic transportation fund shortfalls.

An approach heard in the halls of the capital calls for an increase in the gas tax supported by enough votes to override a veto by the governor who has vowed not to increase taxes unless there is a corresponding decrease elsewhere in state government. This will be an interesting issue to follow this session.

## Division of Forestry to Northern Wisconsin?

Whether or not the division of forestry stays in DNR or is moved to the Department of Agriculture, it's headquarters' location is in play because of prior legislation authorizing a study to determine the cost of moving the division of forestry to a northern location.

The figures for moving the division headquarters North are in and the question on the table is, "Does the legislature want to spend the money for the move?" Gene Francisco, retired DNR Forestry Division Administrator, cautioned that top forestry management should be at the table in Madison. However, Francisco noted that it was difficult to make promotions for capable foresters residing in northern Wisconsin because they did not want to move to Madison. Francisco says those positions would be easier to fill if some of those functions were headquartered in northern Wisconsin. ♦

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# THE MICHIGAN REPORT (CONT'D)

## Upton Considering U.S. Senate Bid Against Stabenow

One of Michigan's United States Senators is up for election in 2018, and Republicans are looking high and low for a top-tier candidate to challenge U.S. Sen. Debbie STABENOW (D-Lansing). And there just might be one. It's being reported that U.S. Rep. Fred UPTON (R-St. Joseph) is considering abandoning the chance of a 16th term in Congress to challenge the three-term incumbent.

Upton, 63, has gained a reputation in Washington, D.C. and back home as hard-working moderate. He chaired the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the past three congressional sessions, beginning in 2011. The committee has handled major policy debates such as those surrounding the Affordable Care Act and the Keystone XL pipeline. Upton continues to serve as a member of the committee. ♦



# LSLA EDUCATION REPORT

Each year at their Board meeting in January, the Board of LSLA Education reviews requests for funding that various organizations have submitted to LSLA Education. Since 2008, LSLA Education has granted over \$22,000 of funding to organizations such as Trees for Tomorrow, Kemp Natural Resources Station, Northcentral Technical College Foundation, WoodLINKS Wisconsin, and WI Association of Agricultural Educators. All of the funds given have been used for forestry education for elementary, high school, or college students.

In January of this year, the Board of LSLA Education again considered requests for funding and awarded the following:

**To *Trees for Tomorrow*:** \$1,500 to be used for scholarships for high school students from WI and MI to attend educational field workshops.

**To *Northcentral Technical College Foundation*:** \$1,500 to be used to support NTC's Wood Technology Discovery Days, which gives high school students the opportunity to explore career opportunities within the forest products industry.

**To *Kemp Natural Resources Station*:** \$2,500 to be used to support field days for students in grades 4 and 6, where the students will learn about forest management and forest products.

Each year, on the LSLA membership renewal invoice, a voluntary contribution option is listed to give \$25 to LSLA Education. These voluntary contributions are used to help LSLA Education give funding to the organizations listed above. Other sources of money for the funding are the raffles at the Winter Meeting and Golf Outing, and workshops offered by LSLA Education.

At the January LSLA Education Board meeting, plans were also made for the educational workshops that will be offered this year. On April 21, a workshop on risk management will be offered in Antigo. More details about that will be forthcoming.

Other educational opportunities planned for 2017 are Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Courses and Sawing, Edging and Trimming Classes. Watch your inbox, mailbox, and upcoming issue of *The Log* for details. ♦

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## WINTER MEETING WRAP-UP

LSLA's 2017 Winter Meeting was held on January 11-13 in Green Bay, WI. This year featured a new addition to the schedule — a Wednesday evening "Welcome Reception" sponsored by Granite Valley Forest Products. The reception provided opportunity to network, meet customers and suppliers, along with the new WI Chief State Forester. From the response we've had to the Welcome Reception, it looks like it will become a regular part of our Winter Meetings.

Thursday morning kicked off with sessions on exporting and worker's compensation. Following lunch the new WI Chief State Forester spoke on issues of importance to our industry. The daytime meetings wrapped up with a session on intermodal transportation.

Thursday evening was the cocktail hour, followed by dinner, award presentations, and our annual auction, which was a great success. We had overwhelming and heartwarming response from many kind and generous individuals and companies who donated items for the auction. All those who donated items for the auction are listed in this issue of *The Log*.

The award presentations at the Thursday dinner were the following:

Carl Danielson Scholarship:

Walters Brothers Lumber Mfg.

Al Andersen Memorial Attendee Award:

Lowell Peterson, Rockland Flooring

Golf Outing (2 free registrations):

Brady Francois, Snowbelt Hardwoods

Friday morning, over a hearty breakfast, our annual member business meeting and election was held. Two new members were elected to the LSLA Board of Directors (Margaret Minerick, Sagola Hardwoods; Jim Maltese, Stella-Jones Corp). Two members of the LSLA Education Board were re-elected (Tim Kassis, Kretz Lumber; Travis Allen, NTC). Following the business meeting, our legislative consultants from MI and WI gave reports on issues affecting our industry at the state level, and Dana Cole from the Hardwood Federation reported on issues at the federal level.

To all the attendees, we want to say "Thank You"! We hope each of you found the meeting very enjoyable and informative.

To each of our sponsors listed in this issue, we want to say "THANK YOU" for making our meeting a success. It would not have happened without your generosity.

As you look over the list, we ask that you remember these businesses and individuals who have donated to support Lake States Lumber Association, and may we support them in return.

Sincerely,

2017 Winter Meeting Planning Committee

(Larry Krueger, Dave Schroeder, Brady Francois, Jim Maltese, Maryanne Dainsberg)

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Jay's Sporting Goods	Stillmank Brewing Co.
Jennifer Lu	The Waters of Minocqua
Kalahari Resort	Timber Ridge Golf Course, Minocqua
Kloes Custom Furniture	Trappers Turn Golf Club (Wisconsin Dells)
Kwik Trip	Uncle Josh Bait Co.
Lakeview Hotel & Conference Center (Shanty Creek Resort)	Wagner Meters
Larry Krueger	Watson Ace Hardware, Jefferson/Lake Mills
Logger's Shopper	Weekly Hardwood Review Magazine
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	Wild Ridge Golf Course

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MLC Transportation	White City Lumber
Northwest Hardwoods	WI Lift Truck

## **Cold Snap! Wisconsin's Trees Adapted to Winter**

**By Scott Bowe—Professor of Wood Products, Kemp Natural Resources Station**

Last month, we had some cool temperatures. I can't say cold, because I am from Wisconsin and the temperatures have to fall into the -20s before I'll admit that it's cold outside! What do I do when it gets cold outside? I put on my long underwear and put another log on the fire. But what do trees do? Long underwear is not an option for them, and putting another log on the fire would go against the average tree's sensibilities. What I would like to discuss today is how trees in Wisconsin have adapted to our cool and sometimes cold winter environment.

Interestingly, the fossil record shows that early tree life on earth did not have to deal with freezing temperatures. The earth was a much warmer place about 385 million years ago when the first forests formed. There was no ice to be found, so no strategies were needed to deal with freezing temperatures. Moving ahead in time, the earth

began to cool, so trees at higher latitudes and altitudes needed to evolve strategies to cope with freezing temperatures.

There are two main areas where freezing temperatures cause problems for trees: in the leaves and in the stems.

First, we have all seen what happens to plant leaves when they freeze. Think of the damage a late spring frost will do to your garden plants or that bunch of lettuce that gets pushed too far back in the refrigerator. Freezing temperatures will cause the leaves to wilt and turn black. There is a great deal of water in plants. The water exists inside the plant's cells and in the spaces between the plant's cells. When the temperature falls, two things can happen. First, the water inside the plant's cells can freeze, forming ice crystals. The freezing and expanding ice

## Cold Snap! (cont'd)

crystals rupture the cell walls, destroying the plant tissue. Second, the water between the plant cells can freeze, drawing water out of the cells and severely dehydrating the cells. Both are bad and damage the plant.

The second problem occurs in the tree's stem during freezing temperatures. Trees move water up the stem through a collection of hollow cells called vessels in deciduous trees and tracheids in needled trees. Water moves up the tree from the roots, to the main stem, to the branches, and finally to the leaves. The capillary force in the narrow tube-like cells helps counteract the force of gravity pulling down on the water column. Positive pressure in the root system pushes on the water column and evaporation in the leaves pulls on the water column. When water freezes in these transport cells, the ice does not cause damage to the strong wood cells; however, gasses dissolved in the water form tiny bubbles in the ice. When the ice melts, the gas bubbles combine to form embolisms in the water column, disrupting the water flow.

So how do trees in Wisconsin deal with these two issues – freezing in the leaves and embolisms in the stems?

Let's talk about leaves first. Most Wisconsin trees don't have leaves during the winter. Deciduous broad leaf trees, like our oaks and maples, lose their leaves in the fall and go dormant in the winter. This prevents leaf tissue damage caused by freezing. Of course, trees can be impacted by late spring frosts. Their young leaves can freeze, causing damage. This is a stress on the tree since it may have to devote a great deal of energy to re-establish new leaves.

What about the other trees in Wisconsin – the needled trees? Pines, spruces, and firs hold onto their needles during the winter. These needled trees produce a type of anti-freeze. By increasing the sugar content in their needles, they lower the freezing point of water. Remember back to high school chemistry, when you add a solute (like sugar) to a solvent (like water), you lower the freezing point of the solvent. This is why we salt our roads in the winter. Salt (the solute) lowers the freezing point of water (the solvent) well below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, lowering the freezing point to near 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Similarly, by increasing the sugar content in the needles, the freezing point is lowered, and ice crystals will not form.

To address the second problem of gas bubbles in the water conducting cells, trees in cold climates have evolved with much narrower conducting cells; small diameter tracheids in softwoods and small diameter vessels in hardwoods. If you look at tree species in tropical climates, they have extremely large diameter vessels, which can be 3 or 4 times larger than the vessels in their cold climate

cousins. Through the magic of physics, fewer gas bubbles form in narrow vessels, limiting disruptions to the water column when the ice melts. Some of our cold climate trees, like red oak, even hedge their bets by forming both large and small vessels in the same tree, so they can transport water quickly in growing season, yet also preserve some vessels that can function after freezing.

Let's review: leaf drop in the fall is an adaptation for deciduous trees, high sugar content is an adaptation for needled trees, and narrow vessels or tracheids is an adaptation for both deciduous and needled trees.

Frost cracks are one final issue that may impact trees in cold climates. If you have ever been out in the forest on a very cold day, you may have heard a loud pop or even a bang! On sunny days in the winter, bark will warm up, causing the cells to expand in the bark and in the wood directly below the bark. When the sun sets, or a cloud covers the sun, temperatures drop quickly, causing the bark and the adjacent wood to cool and contract. The wood in the center of the tree does not cool as quickly, causing the bark and outer wood to split as it shrinks. Frost cracks may first appear on very young trees that have not developed a thick layer of bark. The sunny side of trees are most susceptible to frost cracks. Once damaged, the injured area can split back open on very cold, winter days. So even with the best cold weather adaptive strategies, trees can't win every battle against the cold.

Your challenge this week is to put on your long underwear and get out into the forest. You will appreciate that log on the fire even more after a brisk winter hike. ♦

*Scott Bowe is a professor of wood products from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Kemp Natural Resources Station.*

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# WHERE IS DAVID BRADLEY?

Well, David B never made it out of Lansing. His 2016 owner, Sen. Tom Casperson, was unable to get David B back to Green Bay to be auctioned off to a new owner for 2017. So, Sen. Casperson has once again purchased ownership of David B for a year.

Which means that David B will be hob-knobbing with Michigan legislators for another year. Here's hoping he can use his weighty influence to promote state legislation favorable to the forest industry.

We'll have to wait another year to see David B back in his natural element — the forest. In the meantime, stay tuned to see just where David B turns up in Lansing.

Here, he is perched on a windowsill in Casperson's office overlooking the state capitol building.



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