

# THE LOG

October / November 2018

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## LAKE STATES LUMBER ASSOCIATION

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Suite 2  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

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

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920-455-7705

## From the President

We can all agree it has been very difficult hiring new qualified employees. Some will argue that the lack of the current labor workforce is correlated to the baby boomer generation reaching retirement, and others will argue it's due to poor work ethic of the "younger" generation. While both of these factors may contribute to the large sum of Help Wanted ads found in local newspapers and numerous Help Wanted signs and billboards plastered throughout our small towns and communities, it is a sure sign unemployment levels are at all-time lows due to a growing economy. According to the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey conducted by the Labor Department, current unemployment rates are close to an 18-year low (3.9% July 2018) and July 2018 job openings increased to 6.9 million openings. Throw these two factors together and you create a market of opportunity for the US labor force.

Ten years ago, after the collapse of the housing market and recession, if an employer were to place a help wanted ad in their local newspaper they would receive multiple qualified candidates seeking the position overnight. Fast forward to the present, where we have extremely low unemployment levels and a growing economy whose manufacturing industries are seeking more bodies to fill open positions, the competition for qualified candidates has never been tighter. The US labor force is shopping their current job in hopes of securing a higher paying job that offers more perks and benefits than what their current employer is offering. The Labor Department also noted 3.58 million employees quit their jobs in July of 2018.

As I mentioned earlier, we can all relate to the current challenge of filling open positions with qualified candidates, however there are some things we can do to ensure our current employees are retained and not tempted to see if the grass is greener elsewhere:

- \* **Rewarding Financially:** This could be as simple as offering a 401k plan for employees or a profit-sharing program, both of which offer a means of savings for retirement. Another idea is to provide financial performance goals.

*Continued on page 3*



**LAKE STATES LUMBER ASSOCIATION, INC. . .  
 PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION TO ASSURE  
 THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES**



**2018 LSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Back Row (left to right): Jim Maltese (Stella-Jones Corp.), Fred "Butch" Fisher (AJD Forest Products), Dennis "Gus" Gustafson (Besse Forest Products), Gus Welter (Granite Valley Forest Products), Steve Peters (Rockland Flooring), Pete Johnson (AAA Hardwoods).

Front Row (left to right): Larry Krueger (Krueger Lumber), Margaret Minerick (Sagola Hardwoods), Brady Francois (Snowbelt Hardwoods), Rob Paradise (Devereaux Sawmill), Jennifer Lu (WI DATCP), Maryanne Dainsberg (LSLA Admin. Coord.). Photo courtesy of Zach 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:

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- Rob Paradise ..... Director

# HARDWOOD FEDERATION UPDATE

By Rick Degen (Bennett Hardwoods) - LSLA Representative to the Hardwood Federation

On September 11-13, 2018 the Hardwood Federation held their annual Fly-In to lobby Congress at the Nation's Capital.

To kick off the event, a networking lunch provided young industry future leaders under age 40 the opportunity to meet with members of the Hardwood Federation Board of directors.

86 people representing various forest products industry associations that make up the Federation attended and participated in 125 meetings with members of Congress and their staff, the Secretary of Agriculture's staff, the staff of the US Trade Ambassador and advisors to Vice President Pence.

A team representing the Lake States region consisting of Rick Degen [representing LSLA], Troy Brown [NHLA], Dan Corullo [MFMA], Jon Johnson [HPVA], Amy Snell [WCMA] and Luke Brogger met with the following:

- The senior policy advisor and legislative coordinator to Sen. Gary Peters [MI];
- The senior policy advisor to Sen. Tammy Baldwin [WI];
- The senior staff advisor to Sen. Debbie Stabenow [MI], who assists her on the Senate Agriculture Committee;

- Senator Ron Johnson [WI];
- Rep. Mike Gallagher [WI];
- Rep. Tim Walberg [MI];
- Rep. Jack Bergman [MI];
- Rep. Rick Nolan [MN];

40 Republican Congressmen and Senators attended an evening reception and 20 Democrat Congressmen and Senators attended a breakfast reception.

During meetings the Congressmen and Senators or their staff were presented with white papers on several issues. International trade and the impact of proposed tariffs on the hardwood lumber industry were major topics. While Congress has no control over tariffs, they need to be aware of what we're experiencing as a result of the President's actions.

The House version of the proposed Farm Bill contains Federal Forest Management improvements, including minor NEPA reforms that are not in the Senate version. We asked Senators and staff to support the House version. Democrat Senate staff told us those reforms will not get Democrat support in the Senate because their constituent base, the environmental movement, will not support them.

*Continued on next page*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

- \* Internal Employee Development: Promoting within our company whenever possible providing for advancement within the company.
- \* Employee Development: Continued education such as offering management classes or specialized schooling and training such as NHLA Grading School or even short courses provided by LSLA Education.
- \* Small Perks: Cater lunch once a month for your employees and coffee and doughnuts on Friday mornings.

We will continue to have employment issues in our industry for the foreseeable future, so it is critical we can offer competitive pay and benefits to attract new employees. It is also very critical to retain our current employees as they are the ones that keep the day to day operations moving and set examples of work ethic and culture of your company that progresses to new employees.

Brady Francois  
Snowbelt Hardwoods  
Email: [bfrancois@snowbelthardwoods.com](mailto:bfrancois@snowbelthardwoods.com)

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## HARDWOOD FEDERATION UPDATE (CONT'D)

Also included in the Farm Bill is renewal of the Foreign Market Development programs that support the efforts of the American Hardwood Export Council in promoting our products overseas. If this provision is not approved by September 30, 2018, AHEC will likely have to close foreign offices, some with employees working on the industry's behalf for 20 years. As this newsletter was sent off to printing before the September 30 deadline, the outcome of this Bill was not known. News of future developments on this Bill will be sent to the LSLA membership by email as they occur.

Support for wood-based biomass usage in the Community Wood Energy Program and the Tall Wood buildings

provisions of the Timber Innovation Act were two other topics of discussion.

It is my privilege to represent the LSLA on the Hardwood Federation Board. I strongly encourage you and your companies to support the Federation through company donations and personal donations to the Federation's PAC. Also, please consider attending next fall's Fly-In. Should you be unable to do any of the above, please consider writing letters to your elected officials. They do, in fact, listen to their constituents and your letters will get noticed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Degen

## NEW LSLA ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

LSLA welcomes Jake Divine as the new Administrative Coordinator. Jake replaces Maryanne Dainsberg, who served as the Administrative Coordinator from May 2008—September 2018.

Jake is from Crystal Falls, a town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After graduating from Forest Park High School in Crystal Falls, he attended Vanderbilt University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a focus on Economic Anthropology studying global, regional and local supply chains and consumer behavior. He also minored in Corporate Strategy and Spanish. After college he moved to Denver, Colorado and worked in administration positions and has experience in sales, customer service, accounting, fundraising and event marketing. Jake loves the outdoors, hiking, canoeing,



fishing and hunting and is excited to be living and working in the Midwest again.

Jake has recently joined Renewable Resource Solutions, which is owned by Don Peterson. He will be serving as LSLA Administrative Coordinator, among other responsibilities.

With the exception of the mailing address, all of the contact information for LSLA will remain the same — same email, same phone and fax numbers. Only the mailing address will change. The new mailing address will be:

Lake States Lumber Assoc.  
1353 W. Hwy US 2  
Suite 2  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920



## LSLA EDUCATION NEWS

Our LSLA Education committee would like to thank all the member companies that supported us this year. We especially would like to thank Menominee Tribal Enterprises for sponsoring the *Edging, Sawing, and Trimming Class* held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. It is awesome that we are able to use the facility for the seminar. It was a very successful course as we ended up with 34 students. We appreciate the members that send their employees.

We are always looking for other subjects for seminars. Let me know if you have something you would like us to offer. We will be scheduling the Lumber Grading Course for next year and would like to do a sales-marketing

seminar as well. I think that it something that is needed especially with international markets.

On another subject, we are going to miss our LSLA Coordinator Maryanne Dainsberg. I have personally worked with Maryanne for many years and I would like to say thank you for all the effort she has put forth. But I also know that she will enjoy her retirement and wish her the best of luck.

Tim Kassis  
LSLA Education President

# THE MICHIGAN REPORT

By Scott Everett, LSLA Michigan Legislative Consultant

## Latest Polls Have Whitmer Up

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer is up between nine and twelve percentage points, over Republican opponent Bill Schuette, according to multiple polls during September.

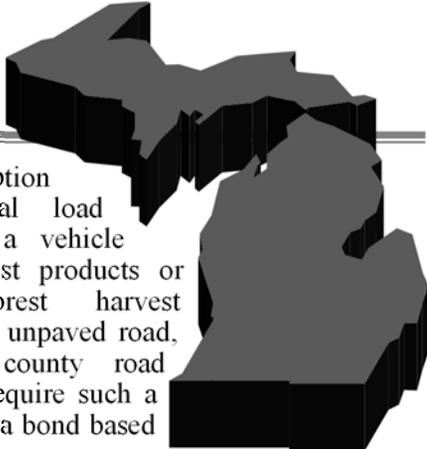
## Snyder Addressing World Leaders At Forum In China

Gov. Rick Snyder was among featured participants at forums on mobility, entrepreneurship and sustainability held in September at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Tianjin, China. Snyder led a Michigan delegation on a foreign investment and trade mission, exploring shared opportunities in manufacturing, mobility technology, agricultural exports, and tourism.

## SB 396 Moves to Senate Floor

SB 396, introduced by Tom Casperson (R) Escanaba in May, finally moved out of the Senate Transportation Committee at the end of August. The bill is now on the Senate Floor. SB 396 proposes to do the Following:

- Specify that a provision limiting the total outside width of a vehicle or the load to 96 inches would not apply to a vehicle transporting forest products while traveling on a county road.
- Specify that the Code's provisions pertaining to height restrictions and normal weight restrictions for certain vehicles would not apply to a vehicle transporting forest products while traveling on a county road.
- Allow a person to operate a pneumatic tired forestry vehicle or a forestry harvest vehicle for a distance of no more than 20 miles on a highway if that vehicle were equipped with a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a flashing strobe light.
- Exempt a person hauling forestry equipment from seasonal reductions to the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirement of the Code if the person who picked up or delivered the forestry equipment notified the county road commission for roads under its authority not less than 48 hours before the pickup or delivery of the pickup or delivery.
- Require the Michigan Department of Transportation and each local authority with highways and streets under its jurisdiction to which seasonal restrictions apply to post certain information on all roads subject to the seasonal road restrictions that intersected roads that were not subject to seasonal road restrictions on its website no later than 48 hours before the date the seasonal restrictions began.

- 
- Create an exception to the seasonal load restrictions for a vehicle transporting forest products or forest or forest harvest equipment on an unpaved road, and allow a county road commission to require such a vehicle to obtain a bond based on miles traveled.
  - Allow a jurisdictional authority to issue a special permit authorizing the highway operation of a vehicle that was delivering new or used machinery as part of a sale of that machinery, and charge a special permit fee that does not exceed \$25. ♦

## 2019 WINTER MEETING

Mark your calendars now for the 2019 Winter Meeting! January 16-18 we will be at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI. This time we will be meeting in the Grand Ballroom right off the hotel lobby, so you'll have an easier time finding us!

Watch your email, snail mail, and this newsletter for details about the sessions and sponsorship/display opportunities. The Winter Meeting is a prime time to meet other LSLA members, learn about topics important to our industry, and network with prospective customers and suppliers.

Plan now to attend the 2019 Winter Meeting on January 16-18, 2019. And for those who REALLY plan ahead, mark your calendars for the 2020 Winter Meeting that will be held January 15-17, 2020 in Green Bay, WI. ♦

**STETSON**  
**HARDWOODS**

Bob Bernklau - President  
152 N. Cedar St., P.O. Box 159  
Stetsonville, Wisconsin 54480  
Phone: (715) 678-2400 Fax: (715) 678-2430



# THE WISCONSIN REPORT

By Gunnar Bergersen, LSLA Wisconsin Legislative Consultant

## Mid-term Elections in Wisconsin

I'm always wary of opinion polls and generally discount them. Opinion polls are not "a snapshot in time". They are likely nothing more than another interesting lens used to view the process of running a political campaign. At this time of year in the last election cycle, the Marquette poll had Russ Feingold ahead of Ron Johnson and Hillary Clinton beating Donald Trump.

That said, there was some shifting of opinion in the latest Marquette polling. In August, the Marquette poll on Wisconsin's US Senate race had Tammy Baldwin ahead of Leah Vukmir a mere two points. This month's poll has Baldwin ahead by eleven points and national politics and news cycles in a whirl.

In the 2012 recall election and the 2014 election of Walker, the polls had him at a fifty percent approval rating in both races. In this most recent poll Walker's approval rating is 44%. Evers was behind Walker 2% in July. They were in a dead heat in August at 46% approval for each. The latest poll has Evers approval rating at 49% and Walker at 44%. While all this falls within the margin of error, the trend is moving in Evers' favor, most likely a gift from independents who have not been swayed by the heavy anti-Evers ads.

The Marquette Poll also asked, "What is the condition of roads near you?" From August to September the roads

got 5% worse! Not that the roads actually got that much worse, but the public's perception got worse with 50% now complaining about the roads. Evers says he is open to increasing taxes to fund additional highway spending. In the 2002 race for governor, candidate Jim Doyle campaigned on a no new taxes promise. Over his term as Governor, Walker staked out the no new taxes position by word and deed. Is the electorate now ready for new taxes? This election will resolve the question.

In business closer to home, the LSLA Board of Directors will hold its fall meeting in Madison at the new headquarters of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The board will meet with WisDOT Secretary Ross to discuss shortcomings in rail service, the shortage of truck drivers, and the need for more efficient trucks. ♦



## Purchasing Year Round

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## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Northern Hardwoods**  
45807 Highway M-26  
South Range, MI 49963  
www.northernhardwoods.com



A sawmill/concentration yard, Northern Hardwoods (NHW) has been in business for 50 years and is based out of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. NHW is a part of the J.M. Longyear family of companies. This integration allows them to manage their own lands, harvest their own timber, and manufacture that raw material into premium finished lumber that brings great value to their customers. In 2019, NHW plans to produce 22mmbf of Hardwood Lumber out of their facility in South Range, Michigan of which 16mmbf will be kiln dried lumber. NHW operates 5 conventional dry kilns which are fed by a 600mbf pre-dryer and their state-of-the-art sawmill. NHW specializes in producing the brightest and most uniform Hard Maple and Soft Maple available. The products manufactured include Hardwood Lumber and Value Added Ripped Lumber, kiln dried and green, 4/4-8/4 thicknesses in White Hard Maple, Red Leaf Soft Maple, Yellow Birch, Red Oak, White Birch, White Oak, Cherry, White Ash, and Hickory. NHW continues to look for ways to improve on operations without sacrificing the quality of their lumber and the safety of their employees. ♦

## GOT MEMBER NEWS?

If you are a member of LSLA and your company has news to share, we have the space for it! Significant personnel changes, new products, business expansion or relocation, or any other notable developments with your business — here is where you can make an announcement. Send us the information or press release, along with any photos you may want to accompany the article, and we'll do our best to include it in *The Log*. It's a great way to let your fellow LSLA members know what's happening. Contact us at [lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com) or 920-884-0409. ♦



*Meet Our Members* is offered to all LSLA members. If you would like your company featured in an issue of *The Log*, please email to us the article, including the name of your company, address, type of business, product manufactured, years in business, and other information that your fellow members will find interesting. If you have a picture you would like included, please email along with the article to [lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com).

**TS Manufacturing**  
2 Fleetwood Road  
Lindsay, ON K9V 6H4  
Canada  
www.tsman.com

Started in 1973, TS Manufacturing is a family run sawmill equipment company. They design, manufacture and install systems for lumber handling and processing for clients mostly in the United States and Canada, but have equipment on every forested continent in the world.

Recently, TS has been pleased to design and install custom systems for new sawmills in the American northeast and southeast, as well as Northern Ontario. These projects are brand new mills (hard and soft woods), which TS is especially suited for because of their expertise in plant layout & design. And of course, they retrofit equipment into existing lines. Customization is a specialty.



*Trimmer produced by TS Manufacturing*

In business for 45 years, TS Manufacturing produces log handling and merchandising equipment; primary and secondary breakdown systems; grading, sorting, vibrating conveyors; stick placers & stackers.

As a new member of LSLA, the folks at TS Manufacturing are looking forward to meeting their fellow LSLA members in the meetups and trade shows to come. Please drop by to talk with their Lake States sales rep Geoff Gannon, or Peter McCarty and Riley Smith, if you have the time. Project or no, they are happy to help or advise in any way they can. ♦

**Need more issues of *The Log*? Send extra copies to other people or divisions within your company for only \$50/year. It's the best way to ensure everyone is up on LSLA news. Contact us at 920-884-0409 or email at [lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com).**



## LSLA MEMBERSHIPS

The following companies joined LSLA after the 2018 Buyers Guide was printed. Please make note of these companies and consider them in your business networking. For a printer-friendly version, visit our website at LSLA.com and go to the Newsletter page. You'll find it in the "LSLA Memberships" article.

### ALLY GLOBAL LOGISTICS, LLC

45 Pond St. STE 200

Norwell, MA 02061

**781-544-3970**

**FAX:** 781-499-6230

**Website:** www.allygloballogistics.com

Stephen Zambo

**Email:** sazambo@allogloballogistics.com

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Freight Forwarder

### CONNOR SPORTS FLOORING CORP.

251 Industrial Park Road

Amasa, MI 49903

**906-822-7311**

**FAX:** 906-822-7800

**Website:** www.connorsports.com

Conrad Stromberg

**906-289-8424**

**Email:** cstromberg@connorsports.com

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Manufacturer of Hardwood Flooring

**ANNUAL:** 14 MMBF

**SPECIES:** Hard Maple, Beech

**PRODUCTS:** 4/4 #2 and #3A Unselected Green and Kiln Dried, 5/4 #2 and #3A Unselected Green and Kiln Dried

### FOCUS ON ENERGY

2637 Tulip Lane, Suite 220

Green Bay, WI 54313

**920-662-1294, X1202**

**FAX:** 920-662-1326

**Website:** www.focusonenergy.com

Ted Verhaagh

**Email:** ted.verhaagh@focusonenergy.com

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Energy Efficiency Services

### THE HORTON GROUP

N19 W24101 N. Riverwood Dr.

Waukesha, WI 53188

**262-347-2651**

**FAX:** 262-347-2751

**Website:** www.thehortongroup.com

Jon Cappel

**Email:** jon.cappel@thehortongroup.com

Rob McIntyre

**262-347-2603**

**Email:** rob.mcintyre@thehortongroup.com

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Insurance and Risk Management

**PRODUCTS:** Insurance, Employee Benefits, Safety Consulting

### L & N HARDWOODS, INC.

W7447 Anderson Ave.

Shawano, WI 54166

**715-526-4990**

**FAX:** 715-526-4997

Pam Ludwig

**Email:** pludwig688@gmail.com

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Wholesale Lumber, Manufacturing

#### Division:

Shawano Wood Products

**715-524-4314**

**FAX:** 715-526-4997

Randy Peterson

**Email:** info.swp0633@gmail.com

### RIVER CITY HARDWOODS, INC.

2310 Highway 61 By-Pass, P.O. Box 440

Muscatine, IA 52761

**563-263-3998**

**FAX:** 563-263-3996

Curt Canada—Kiln Dried Lumber Sales/Green Lumber Sales

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Hardwood Sawmill and Dry Kilns

**ANNUAL:** 5 MMBF

**SPECIES:** Soft Maple, Walnut, Cherry, Hard Maple, Red Oak, White Oak, Hickory

**PRODUCTS:** Green and Kiln Dried Lumber, Veneer Logs, Landscape Mulch, Hardwood Plywood

### TS MANUFACTURING

2 Fleetwood Road

Lindsay, ON K9V 6H4

CANADA

**705-324-3762, X305**

**FAX:** 705-324-6482

**Website:** www.tsman.com

David Ross, Marketing Communications

**Email:** davidr@tsman.com

Riley Smith, Sales Manager

**705-324-3762**

Ted Smith, President

**705-324-3762**

Geoff Gannon, Systems Sales NE USA

**603-387-4984**

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Sawmill Equipment Manufacturer

**PRODUCTS:** Sawmill & Lumber Handling Equipment, primary & Secondary Breakdown

*Continued on next page*

## LSLA MEMBERSHIPS (CONT'D)

### WESTON PREMIUM WOODS, INC.

25 Automatic Road  
Brampton, ON L6S 5N8

CANADA

905-792-9797

FAX: 905-792-8984

Website: [www.westonpremiumwoods.com](http://www.westonpremiumwoods.com)

Nico Poulos

Email: [npoulos@wpwoods.com](mailto:npoulos@wpwoods.com)

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Concentration/Distribution Yard

**ANNUAL:** \$60 Million in sales

**SPECIES:** Hard Maple, Soft Maple, Red Oak, Cherry

**PRODUCTS:** Kiln Dried Lumber and Panel Products

## 2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It will soon be time to renew your membership with LSLA for 2019. Membership renewal forms will be sent out in early November, so watch your mailbox for the forms and send them in as soon as possible. Note that membership dues must be paid before the date of the first day of the 2019 Winter Meeting (Jan. 16, 2019).

The 2019 Buyers Guide will be coming out in March, so to assure you are included in the Guide, send in your renewals on time. ♦

## ADVERTISING IN THE LOG

Looking for a way to give your company more exposure to your fellow LSLA members? Consider advertising in *The Log*! Advertising rates are very reasonable, as you can see below:

1/8 Page Ad (3 ½ W X 2 ¼ H) - \$45/issue

1/4 Page Ad (3 ½ W X 4 ½ H) - \$90/issue

1/2 Page Ad (7 W X 4 ½ H) - \$180/issue

Or, if you have a job opening or want to feature something suitable for a classified ad, we can do that too:

Specs of classified ads:

Column Width – 3 ½”

10 lines = 1- 3/4" (size 11 font)

Cost of classified ads:

\$5/line for LSLA members

\$8/line for non-members

Contact us at [LSLA@LSLA.com](mailto:LSLA@LSLA.com) to let us know you'd like to advertise with us. ♦

### WILLIS LUMBER CO. LLC

PO Box 59

Iron River, MI 49935

906-284-0311

Don Willis

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Sawmill

**SPECIES:** All Hardwoods

**PRODUCTS:** Lumber, Cants, Sawdust

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**MidwestHARDWOOD**  
CORPORATION

*Buyers of Quality Northern  
& Appalachian Green  
Hardwood Lumber*

Ben Laski  
Phone: 763-391-6710  
[benlaski@midwesthardwood.com](mailto:benlaski@midwesthardwood.com)  
[www.midwesthardwood.com](http://www.midwesthardwood.com)



## KNOWING OUR MAPLES

**BY SCOTT BOWE—Professor of Forest Products and Director of the UW-Madison's Kemp Natural Resources Station.**

Wisconsin has seven native maple trees and many more non-native ornamental maples, with some of these considered invasive. We all know the sugar maple, our state tree, but the others are less well known. Let's look at Wisconsin's maples and how they are used in our daily lives.

I've already mentioned sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*. Our state tree and most abundant tree species by volume in all of Wisconsin, boasting 2.8 billion cubic feet in live trees. Sugar maple is popular in sugar bushes around the state. It's not the only maple that can be tapped for maple syrup production, but it does have the highest sap sugar content of our native maples. From a production perspective, sugar maple is called hard maple in the hardwood lumber industry. It is hard and dense, equal to red oak in density. Hard maple has a diffuse porous cell structure, which means the cell diameters are relatively small, which produces a closed and subtle grain pattern. Hard maple has been popular for years for kitchen cabinets and in solid strip wood flooring, especially sports flooring applications.

Red maple, *Acer rubrum*, is the second most abundant tree species by volume in all of Wisconsin with 2.7 billion cubic feet of live trees. Red maple can also be used for maple syrup production, but its sap sugar content is less than sugar maple. In the sawmill industry, red maple is called soft maple. Despite its name, soft maple is still relatively hard and dense, but less dense than sugar maple. Soft maple has a diffuse porous cell structure like hard maple and looks very similar in appearance. Soft maple is a less expensive substitute for hard maple lumber and is also used for kitchen cabinets usually in painted applications. Both hard and soft maple are important pulpwood species supplying our pulp and paper industry.

Silver maple, *Acer saccharinum*, is a maple species that likes to keep its feet wet. Growing in creek bottoms and wet areas, it is fast growing and less dense than sugar or red maple. Silver maple is grouped into the soft maple lumber group by the sawmill industry. Silver maple lumber is similar in appearance to red maple, but cannot be used interchangeably. If you were to glue up a solid door panel with a mixture of red and silver maple staves, you would see a clear difference. Especially when the door panel is stained, the staves will not match.

Boxelder, *Acer negundo*, is sometimes called boxelder maple or Manitoba maple by our friends to the north. It is often thought to be another species because it has a compound leaf with three leaflets. Not considered a commercial species, it is common flood plains and other disturbed areas. Fast growing, it will pop up along fence

lines and alley ways. If you want a fast-growing tree in your yard, plant a boxelder. If you want two trees, cut a branch and stick it in the ground, it will grow. Even though boxelder is not a commercial lumber species, its wood can have a pinkish color, which makes for interesting paneling.

The last three native maples are less well known. They are striped maple, *Acer pensylvanicum*, mountain maple, *Acer spicatum*, and finally black maple, *Acer nigrum*, which some people believe to be a subspecies of sugar maple.

Norway maple, *Acer platanoides*, is very common in Wisconsin, but it is an exotic species brought over from Europe in the 1700s. It became a popular yard tree and street tree because of its dense foliage, ease of transplanting, and fast growth rate. Norway maple is well suited to the urban environment because it tolerates road salt, concrete, and a variety of soil types. Norway maple was a popular replacement for the American elm after the wave of Dutch elm disease. Norway maple is not a commercial lumber species and is considered an exotic invasive since it has made its way into native forests throughout the eastern US.

There are more than a dozen ornamental maples that can survive Wisconsin winters. These varieties were bred for size, shape, and color for ornamental design applications. Many are exotic and considered invasive but make up a large part of our urban landscape. They go by names such as Amur Maple, Autumn Blaze, Indian Summer, Crimson King, Japanese Maple, and many more.

From a wildlife perspective, maples are important nesting trees for birds and small mammals. The flowers are an important food source for pollinating insects, while the seed mast is an important food source for small mammals and birds.

Maples make up a large part of our forests with sugar and red maple being the two most abundant species in Wisconsin. Both are important lumber and pulpwood species. Wisconsin supports dozens of other maples that make our state a great place to live and work. ♦

**LSLA members** are welcome to submit articles that are of interest to our membership. Contact our office at [LSLA@LSLA.COM](mailto:LSLA@LSLA.COM) if you are interested in submitting an article or if you have member news of general interest to our industry.



## WHERE IS DAVID BRADLEY?

What's a chainsaw to do when there are no trees around to cut down? Relax and enjoy the view, of course! David B continues his travels with the Menzner Lumber guys as he takes in the views of the South Dakota prairie.



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