

# THE LOG

October / November 2021

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## Letter from the President

And all at once, summer collapsed into fall—Oscar Wilde

Summer, as always, seemed to fly by and the now sunset creeps in earlier every day. However, daylight is not the biggest challenge to complete tasks this year. Traditionally speaking once Labor Day passes most vacations have been taken, children are back in school and work forces are fully stocked we see things stabilize. This year it seems that a lot of places, either in our industry or out, are still having labor struggles. Supply chains are erratic and finding enough work force to meet customer demands seems to be the biggest concern I hear. The spring craze of “I cannot find enough lumber fast enough” seems to have calmed down to some degree where buyer can source lumber. However, the challenge of having enough work force to get jobs done continues. While demand for labor continues to be high, demand for lumber remains strong and I sense this will continue through the rest of the year. The only thing I think we will see dropping this fall will be the leaves on the trees.

Autumn is the time where the forest comes to the forefront of a lot of people's minds. All of us in the industry, we get to enjoy all the beauty that is offered year-round. The changing of the colors, hunting season and cutting firewood brings more people into the woods now than any other time of the year. As the days get shorter, enjoy the outdoors for as long as possible then as dusk approaches enjoy a hayride or a haunted house, whatever your favorite fall tradition is.

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



**LSLA CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

Winter Meeting January 19-21, 2022  
Tundra Lodge Resort  
Green Bay, WI

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# Understanding Forest Perceptions

By Scott Bowe, UW Kemp Natural Resources Station

There is an old cowboy saying that goes something like this, “It ain’t the things you don’t know what gets you in trouble; it’s the things you know for certain that just ain’t so!” Your high school English teacher would not appreciate the grammar, but the sentiment is certainly true.

**My first question for you – In the United States, are we gaining forestland area or losing forestland area?** I suspect most people would guess that we are losing forestland area and that guess would be incorrect. It is true that we have roughly 68% of the forestland that we did prior to European colonization due primarily to development and agriculture. But if we look at more recent history, we have actually gained forestland area. For Example, we have gained 1.7 million acres of forestland in Wisconsin since 1983 for a total of 16.4 million acres of Wisconsin forestland. Nationally, we have seen similar gains primarily as low productive agricultural lands reverted back to forests. I believe our local misperceptions of forestland area are caused by news stories on deforestation in tropical rainforests. It is true that we are losing tropical forestland area in Africa and South America. The primary causes are clearing for agriculture and pasture lands.

We are fortunate in Wisconsin to have a stable forestland area, but there are still challenges to overcome. Individuals and families own 58% of Wisconsin’s forests. One challenge is the size of forestland parcels are declining and the number of forestland owners are increasing. In other words, the size of the forestland pie is stable, but the pieces of the pie are becoming smaller. This is called parcelization. These conditions make it challenging for forest managers to maintain economical timber harvesting on these smaller forestland parcels. Remember that our forests have multiple uses. Forests can be managed and harvested for its wood resources, used for recreation, and managed for wildlife habitat all at the same time. Parcelization makes this type of management more difficult.

**My second question for you – In the United States, are we gaining or losing wood volume?** If you were paying attention to the first question on forestland area, you might have guessed that wood volume in the United States and here in Wisconsin is increasing. The same applies to European forests. The growth

to removal ratio in the United States is 2.5 to one. That means for every 1 cubic foot of wood harvested from the forest, we gain 2.5 cubic feet of new growth. Here in Wisconsin, the growth to removal rate is 1.8 to one. Imagine if you had a savings account where you gained 1.8 dollars for every dollar you spent!

One negative aspect of this incredible increase in wood volume is tree mortality. Nationally, we lose about 10 billion cubic feet of tree growing stock annually to mortality caused by disease, insects, overcrowding, and over maturity. That represents about 10% of the growing stock. From a consumption point of view, we could harvest more wood to meet our growing needs for wood fiber, capture this mortality loss, and still enjoy our sustainable forests. From a carbon perspective, tree mortality returns the carbon stored in the wood to the atmosphere as decay fungi consume the dead material. In other cases, especially in the western United States, wildfires can release a great deal of carbon when dead trees are consumed in a dramatic and often catastrophic fashion.

It is clear that better forest management can help us deal with tree mortality before it happens. Forest management is analogous to an annual physical. It is a good idea to check with your doctor periodically to make sure all is well. Having a forester check on your forests periodically is also a good idea. I mentioned earlier that 58% of Wisconsin’s forests are privately owned. There is a large portion of these owners, probably half or more, that don’t manage their forests. Reaching these forestland owners will benefit all of us as we continue to use and enjoy our multiple use forests.



*Recent harvest in a northern Wisconsin maple forest. Notice the gap created by the removal of a mature maple, with younger trees ready to take advantage of this growing opportunity. Photo by Scott Bowe*

# MI DNR Utilization & Marketing Program Update

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Michigan DNR Utilization & Marketing staff spent the last month wrapping up the final reports for Michigan Forest Products Secondary Manufacturer Survey. The project aimed to census all wood- and paper product manufacturers that were active in 2015 calendar year, and was supported by a 2016 Wood Innovations Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The survey identified more than 800 active manufacturers, and the data was used to update the Michigan Forest Industry Directory, on the web at [www.michigan.gov/wood](http://www.michigan.gov/wood). The Directory is a free listing of Michigan forest products industry companies, that includes loggers, truckers, sawmills, secondary manufacturers, and registered foresters. Final products from the project include a survey report, active manufacturer map, and a directory listings report, all posted on the DNR's website at [www.michigan.gov/forestproducts](http://www.michigan.gov/forestproducts).

Staff also participated with university and other state DNR partners in preparations for the next tri-state loggers survey. The loggers survey, implemented every 5 years, aims to monitor the status of the logging and timber hauling industries in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Michigan's version of the survey is planned for distribution in late winter/early spring 2022.

Please contact Brenda Haskill, MDNR Utilization & Markets Specialist at [haskillb@michigan.gov](mailto:haskillb@michigan.gov) with any questions.

Mark your calendars for a Small Dry Kiln Business Workshop at Michigan State University's campus on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021! The one-day workshop will focus on dry kiln operation and business management for small- to medium-sized companies, and will include an optional tour of a local dry kiln operation. Harry Watt, Extension Specialist from North Carolina State University will teach the session, with support from MSU's Forestry Department and the Michigan DNR. Register at:

<https://smalldrykilnworkshop2021michigan.eventbrite.com>. For more information contact Dave Neumann at [neumannd@michigan.gov](mailto:neumannd@michigan.gov).

Thinking about expanding your Michigan-based logging or forest products business? Consider applying

for a Rural Development grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD). The annual MDARD Rural Development matching grants provide up to \$100,000 to support expansion of land based industries, among other objectives. The grant requires 30% match, and MDARD gave a webinar on the application and award process on Tuesday, October 19 at 11 a.m. (EST). The deadline for grant applications this year is November 18th at 3 pm EST, and must include any letters of support for your project. Several forest products businesses have been successful in previous funding cycles, for projects such as log yard improvement, purchase and installation of edgers, debarkers, and maple syrup production equipment. For more information on the grant webinar, grant application form, and details on previous grant projects funded, see - [https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1570\\_51684-398843--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1570_51684-398843--,00.html). MDNR staff are happy to provide advice or tips on grant proposals.

Finally, MDNR staff completed a regional- and state-level economic analysis of the forest products industry in September, conducted in partnership with 18 of the 20 Northeast and Midwest states. The project reports economic contributions in the 20-state region, and for each participating state in a series of full reports, and 2-page fact sheets, as well as in an interactive dashboard format. Reports for Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as the 20-state region are published on the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance website at:

[http://www.northeasternforests.org/content/fmuc\\_page](http://www.northeasternforests.org/content/fmuc_page).

(Note that you have to scroll down to find the reports!) A recording of a webinar that was held on July 8, 2021 for the regional report is available. This project was supported by a 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the project was administered by Michigan DNR.

Please contact David Neumann with any questions at [neumannd@michigan.gov](mailto:neumannd@michigan.gov).

## 2022 Winter Meeting

The 2022 Winter Meeting is less than four months away, and we are hard at work planning for the meeting that will take place on Wednesday, January 19—Friday, January 21, 2022, so mark your calendars.

The location of the Winter Meeting will return to the Tundra Lodge Resort and Conference Center in Green Bay, WI. As many of you recall this is down the road from the Green Bay Packer Stadium, with restaurants and bars a short distance away from the resort. Check it out at [www.tundralodge.com](http://www.tundralodge.com). *Note from the Resort: At this time the Resort will not be offering the water-park and pool to guests during the week.*

A Wednesday night Welcome Reception will be held on January 19 that will kick off the Winter Meeting. This will be a great opportunity to finally meet with colleagues, customer and suppliers that you have not seen since the pandemic started.

Informative sessions will be held on Thursday morn-

ing and afternoon, and the evening will lead up to dinner, awards and our annual auction and drawings.

Friday morning will wrap up the winter meeting with our annual business meeting.

Watch your mailbox and email inbox for the Winter Meeting Sponsorship and registration forms coming out soon.



### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**All sponsors will have their company name displayed on signage at the Winter Meeting and will be featured in the Log newsletter!**

#### Welcome Reception Sponsor —

\$1,500

- Exclusive sponsor for Wednesday night Welcome Reception
- Company name/logo displayed on a banner at 2022 LSLA Winter Meeting Welcome Reception
- Company name/logo printed on cups used exclusively at the Welcome Reception

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Winter Meeting)**

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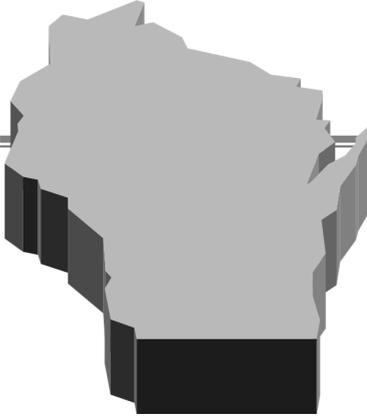
- Instead of the Silent Auction, LSLA will be hosting a bucket raffle. We will still hold the Live Auction.
- Each sponsored bucket will correspond to a different prize. Attendees will purchase raffle tickets and place them in the bucket for the price they want.
- Each bucket sponsor will have their company name and logo displayed on a bucket and your sponsorship will provide that bucket's prize. Half bucket sponsors will share their bucket with another half bucket sponsor.
- LSLA will purchase the prizes, but welcomes input on what prizes you would like to see!
- If you would like to sponsor a bucket please fill out the sponsorship forms when they arrive and return to us so we can purchase prizes.

**Full bucket sponsor —\$500**

**Half bucket sponsor —\$250**

# Wisconsin Legislative Report

## By Amy Boyer, WI Legislative Consultant



### Overweight Vehicles

Sen. Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) and Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) are set to introduce legislation that would allow for increased truck weight lim-

its for vehicles transporting forest products in Wisconsin. These proposed routes will add to the current network of roads in Northern Wisconsin that will allow for the use of "Michigan Configured" log trucks.

Routes included in the legislation are:

- STH 64, from USH 45 in the city of Antigo to USH 141 in Marinette County.
- STH 64, from USH 141 in Marinette County to USH 41 in the city of Marinette.
- USH 141, from the village of Crivitz to CTH S in Oconto County.
- USH 41, from the town of Abrams to the city of Marinette.
- USH 8, from USH 45 in Oneida County to a point four-tenths of a mile west.

The Lake States Lumber Association has long advocated for additional routes that allow for Michigan Configured trucks as they provide significant cost savings and efficiencies for shippers. We appreciate the efforts of Senator Petrowski and Representative Callahan and the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association.

### Kleefisch Announces Gubernatorial Run

Former Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch (R) has formally announced her bid for Wisconsin Governor. Kleefisch, who is vying to become the first female to hold the position, served along-side Scott Walker for two terms, losing to Tony Evers in 2018. She is also the best-known Republican to enter the race against Evers, who is seeking a second term in 2022. Prior to serving as Lieutenant Governor, Kleefisch worked as a television reporter in Milwaukee and Illinois. Others considering a run include Rep. John Macco (R-Ledgeview) and Kevin Nicholson, a former Marine and Republican candidate for US Senate.

## New LSLA Member

LSLA welcomed a new member. Below is the company's information for you to add to your Buyers Guide:

### PERFORMANCE PALLET CORPORATION

112 N. Mainline Drive  
Seymour, WI 54165

**Phone:** (920) 833-7839 ext. 111

**Fax:** (920) 833-7255

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

Rick Luokkala

**Email:** [rick@perfcorp.com](mailto:rick@perfcorp.com)

John Robel, Sales Manager

**Phone:** (920) 833-7839 ext. 112

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Pallet Manufacture/Sawmill

**ANNUAL:** 11.7 MMBF

**SPECIES:** Hardwood, Aspen, SFP, Southern Yellow Pine, Hemlock, Basswood

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Carney, MI 49812

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[benlaski@midwesthardwood.com](mailto:benlaski@midwesthardwood.com)  
[www.midwesthardwood.com](http://www.midwesthardwood.com)

# Michigan Legislative Report

## By Scott Everett, MI Legislative Consultant



### Redistricting Commission Puts Forth Draft Maps

At this time, there are officially 10 draft maps of new political districts for the public's consideration after the state redistricting commission moved a series of plans forward to the next phase. The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) approved three proposed state Senate maps and three proposed state House maps, along with four congressional maps, which will be considered official drafts to be commented on during upcoming public hearings. This process and the details are changing on a daily basis. The website for the MICRC is: <http://michigan.gov/micrc/>

### Carbon Credit Deal on State Forest Land Is A First

On August 25, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Bluesource LLC, of Salt Lake City Utah, announced an agreement with DTE energy that some forest land will now yield carbon credits that will help DTE reduce it's carbon footprint and add \$10 million in revenue to natural resource management.

DNR's press release states that the pilot project offers a portfolio of carbon offset credits generated from sustainable forest management activities on more than 100,000 acres of the celebrated Pigeon River Country State Forest in the Northern Lower Peninsula.

According to Bluesource LLC, this is the first carbon offset program transaction in the United States on state forest lands . . . the carbon project commits the DNR to sustainable forest management over the life of the project, ensuring carbon sequestration above a "business-as-usual" scenario that wouldn't have otherwise happened without DTE's investment.

### Gov Opposes Request To Ice Line 5 Litigation

The Canadian government asked a federal judge to put the litigation over the operation of Line 5 on hold after formally invoking a 1977 treaty dispute settlement process. The Canadian government via their attorney submitted a three-page letter to U.S. District Judge Janet T. NEFF in the Grand Rapids district, saying his client is formally invoking Article IX of the treaty "by presenting to the United States, through diplomatic channels a formal request for negotiations." Enbridge said it supports the effort,

while Gov. Gretchen WHITMER expressed disappointment in Canada's actions.

### LaFave Announces For Secretary Of State

The term-limited and colorful Rep. Beau LAFAVE (R-Iron Mountain) has announced he is running for Secretary of State.

### State Christmas Tree Selected

A 63-foot spruce from Marenisco in the western Upper Peninsula will be the official 2021 state Christmas tree. The tree, donated by Carla FLETCHER and her family, will arrive in downtown Lansing on Oct. 30. This is the second state tree to come from Gogebic County and the 24th from the Upper Peninsula.

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# Wisconsin Worker's Comp Rates to Decrease Again in 2021

By Scott Shaver, Commercial Insurance Consultant with R&R Insurance



As I had reported in a recent article in The Log, worker's compensation rates in Wisconsin were set to decrease in October by an average of 5.44%. This is the sixth year in a row that the overall rates have come down. With the exception of non-mechanized logging, the rates we see in the lumber industry were down substantially.

At the time I wrote the last article, the actual rates had not yet been published. They are now. Here are some examples of rate changes specific to our lumber industry:

- 2702 Logging (non-mechanized): **+12.01%**
- 2709 Logging (mechanized): **-10.65%**
- 2710 Sawmill & Drivers: **-2.44%**
- 2714 Veneer Manufacturing: **-5.88%**
- 2731 Planing or Molding: **-8.80%**
- 2759 Pallet Manufacturing: **-3.94%**
- 8232 Lumberyard: **+0.22%**

- 8742 Outside Sales: **-10.64%**

The changes became effective on 10/1/21 so your worker's compensation renewals after that date will utilize these new rates.

In Wisconsin, insurance carriers have the ability to compete for your worker's compensation business by offering dividends. With this being the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year of decreased worker's compensation rates, carriers may attempt to lower dividends for your renewal. If you have good loss history, you should push back against a reduction in that dividend.

If you have any questions about a rate that I have not included above, or how those rate changes could impact your workers compensation experience modification factor, please feel free to reach out to me for additional information at [scott.shaver@rrins.com](mailto:scott.shaver@rrins.com).

## Check Us Out at the Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association

The Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association (GLKDA) hosted its fall meeting the first week in October in Onalaska, WI. The group learned from three fantastic tours including Rockland Flooring and Quality Hard-woods, Stella Jones, and Gunderson Health Systems wood fired power plant. We would like to thank all of our hosts and tour guides for their time and expertise. We had a chance to see Rockland's kilns and pre-drier facilities. Despite the rain, our tour guides provided some great information on their process and truck flooring product. Stella Jones provided a fantastic tour of their railroad tie processing and treating facility. A highlight was their new tie grading and processing facility with its state-of-the-art stacking robot. Finally, we toured the wood fired power plant at Gunderson Health Systems in Lacrosse. Their wood fired system provides steam for electrical co-generation, building heat, and process steam for their laundry. On Friday morning, we networked and learned about the Real American Hardwood

Promo- tion Coalition and current research on Vacuum Drying.

Many of LSLA's members are already members of the GLKDA. If you are not, we encourage you to join. GLKDA shares knowledge on the practical challenges of drying lumber helping all of us to improve efficiency and quality products. For membership information email [office@glkda.org](mailto:office@glkda.org).



## The Real American Hardwood Coalition Update (RAHC) Get Real with us!

The Real American Hardwood Coalition had a busy summer and we are heading towards an exciting fall. The big news is that following on the development of the website where hardwood industry companies can get information about the RAH campaign and download our logo and other materials, is that we are moving forward with the development of a consumer focused website that will drive homeowners, architects, designers, and builders to our products. The RAHC Board of Directors recently reviewed proposals from seven high level web development firms and is in the process of making a final selection. The RAH site is only in the very beginnings of development at this point, but it is certain to highlight the natural beauty, durability and home healthy aspects of American hardwood. We are excited to see how it all unfolds!

Of course, creating effective and impactful websites requires significant funding. We are grateful to our funding associations who have been so essential to getting this project off the ground. Those dollars have gotten us far (extensive consumer research, a marketing plan and an industry website) and will continue to support the development of our consumer site and its content. We are also very pleased to report that industry members are also stepping up and joining the effort. Particularly exciting are state level industry funding raising challenges that have increased awareness, excitement and financial support among hardwood companies. Superior Hardwoods in Ohio was the first to step forward, committing to match every dollar contributed to the RAHC by Ohio hardwood companies up to \$50,000. This goal was reached...and exceeded...in only a few short months. This effort has also inspired several other states to do the same; five companies have banded together in Kentucky to launch their initiative and more will be announced in the near future. The RAHC Board is overwhelmed by the confidence these industry and association leaders have shown in our Coalition and the goal of a domestic hardwood promotion campaign. While this is all very positive, we are very much aware that the RAHC will require on going funding to continue our work beyond these initial development stages. Increasing industry participation and identifying other funding sources is a continuing discussion.

The RAHC Board of Directors will continue to work hard to meet and exceed the expectations hardwood associations and companies have in our efforts. Thank YOU for your continued support.

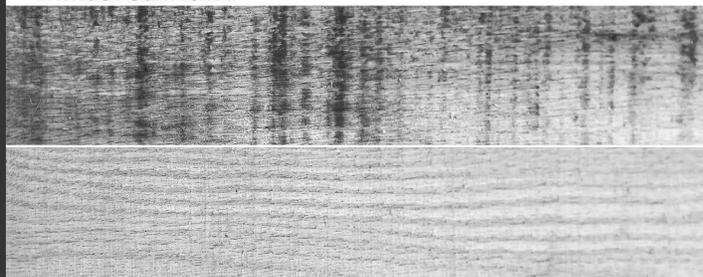
The Real American Hardwood Coalition has had a presence at over 15 industry events in 2021. Interested in having the RAHC present at one of your meetings? Let us know by emailing [info@realamericanhardwood.org](mailto:info@realamericanhardwood.org). We are happy to participate!

RAH Executive Team



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## WINTER MEETING LIVE AUCTION DONATIONS

If you or your company are interested in donating items for the winter meeting auction, please contact [lsla@lsla.com](mailto:lsla@lsla.com).



## LSLA EDUCATION CLASSES

It was nice to be back in the seminar setting, meeting with fellow lumber folks and learning from some local subject matter experts. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, LSLA teamed up with Hastings Air Energy Control to host a Dust Hazard seminar. This was a course that Hastings put together specifically for our members. Topics included information on dust collection systems, health effects of wood dust, hazards of workplace dust, and dust collection automation. The speakers were fantastic and the facility was top notch.



For those who were unable to attend, the two key topics I took from the seminar included:

- The requirements that pertain to having a Dust Hazard Analysis completed as required by NFPA 652. If you don't know what that is, or if you have not yet had that done, you should be looking at getting that on your radar if you are creating dust in your workplace.
- The automation, resources and grants that are available to bring automation to your dust collection system that could improve efficiency and drastically cut your energy bills.



The feedback that we received from participants was very positive. Thank you to Hastings for providing the time, resources and facility so that our LSLA members could learn more about dust hazards.

Please reach out to Scott Shaver if you "wood" like additional information on these topics or any others that were covered at the seminar.

[scott.shaver@rrins.com](mailto:scott.shaver@rrins.com)

The Lumber Grading Class that was held in August had a great turnout. Thank you to all that attended and also thank you to Scott Bowe, University of Wisconsin, Logan Wells, NCTC and Scott Lyon, WI DNR for their help.



## WHERE IS DAVID BRADLEY?

Enjoying a beautiful fall day installing roads in Oconto County Forest



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