

THE LOG

February / March 2023

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LAKE STATES LUMBER ASSOCIATION

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Letter from the President

Hello Members,

As we move into Spring or perhaps enjoy our additional six weeks of winter, I reflect on our terrific Winter Meeting at historic Lambeau Field and the efforts and generosity put forth by all of our board members and sponsors. This years meeting was one to remember, unlike the Packers last game vs the Lions. It would not be possible without the sponsorships and *annual* support from all of our members. Thank you!

While our industry has changed quite a bit during the last year or so, the communication has not. The large attendance at our Winter Meeting exemplified that and it promotes a strong industry. As we know communication is key for a successful business relationship, it is also crucial for the longevity of our industry. As we continue to face unprecedented times and volatility, I urge you to ensure communication is a top priority in your company, inside and out.

Jim Maltese
Stella-Jones Corporation
LSLA President
jmaltese@stella-jones.com





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Back Row (left to right): Kirby Kendrick (Kendrick Forest Products), Kyle Jeske (Richardson Hardwoods), Loren DeJonge (Constructive Sheet Metal), Peter Connor (WD Flooring), Rick Luokkala (Performance Pallet Corp.)

Front Row (left to right): Nikki Loehr, (LSLA Administrative Coordinator), Steve Peters (Rockland Flooring), Jim Maltese (Stella-Jones Corp.), Rob Paradise (Devereaux Sawmill), Fred "Butch" Fisher (AJD Forest Products)

Not Pictured: Pete Johnson (Granite Valley Forest Products), Jennifer Lu (WI DATCP)

Photo courtesy of Zach Miller, Miller Publications.

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THANK YOU!

*LSLA would like to thank our 2023 Winter Meeting
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2023 Winter Meeting in Review

Lake States Lumber Association's 2023 Winter Meeting was full of education, networking, and fun on Wednesday and Thursday, January 18 and 19 in Green Bay, WI. The event kicked off Wednesday evening with the Welcome Reception in the Miller Lite Lounge overlooking Lambeau Field. Appetizers and drinks were enjoyed by all with plenty of networking included. Thursday morning started off the day with information-packed sessions followed with Lambeau Field tours in the afternoon.

Once the Thursday afternoon tours were concluded, we were on to the evening of great food, conversation, awards, bucket raffles and the live Auction. The following awards were presented during the evening:

- Carl Danielson Scholarship Award was presented to Collin Wilson of Wieland & Sons Lumber.
- Al Andersen Memorial Attendee Award was presented to Mike Schulke of Tigerton Lumber.
- Golf Outing Certificate (good for two free passes to the summer Golf Outing) was presented to Caleb Peterson of Mutual of Omaha.
- Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dave Schroeder, in recognition of his years of service to LSLA.

To all of the attendees, we want to say "THANK YOU"! We hope each of you found the meeting informative and enjoyable!

With the 2023 Winter Meeting complete, we are looking ahead to the 2024 Winter Meeting, which will be held January 17 and 18 in Appleton, WI. Plan now to attend!



Donation Sponsors

Businesses and individuals listed below donated items to our live auction and buckets. As you look over the list, we ask that you remember these businesses and individuals who donated to support Lake States Lumber Association. May we support them in return.

AmericInn-Minocqua, WI
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 Foxy Pedaler-Green Bay, WI
 Green Bay Packers-Green Bay, WI
 Green Bay Packers Pro Shop-Green Bay, WI
 Hardwood Market Report-Memphis, TN
 Hardwood Review Weekly-Charlotte, NC
 Jennifer Lu (WI-DATCP)-Madison, WI
 Kloes Custom Furniture-Seymour, WI
 Kretz Lumber-Antigo, WI
 Krueger Lumber-Valders, WI
 Kwik Trip-LaCrosse, WI
 Lodge Kohler-Green Bay, WI
 Milwaukee Brewers-Milwaukee, WI
 Quality One Woodwork-Hastings, MN
 Rockland Flooring-Red Wing, MN
 Scott Everett MI Legislative Consultant-Lansing, MI
 Scott Shaver (R & R Insurance)-Waukesha, WI
 Stella-Jones Corp-Bangor, WI
 Steve Peters (Rockland Flooring)-Red Wind, MN
 The Pointe Hotel & Suites-Minocqua, WI
 Tundra Lodge Resort-Green Bay, WI
 Wisconsin Timber Rattlers-Appleton, WI
 Woodies-Tulsa, OK

Hardwood Federation Update

By Dana Lee Cole, Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

Clean Water Act “Tug of War” Continues Between Federal Agencies and Courts

On December 30, just as 2022 was coming to a close, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule to establish yet another definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) attempting to settle the regulatory back-and-forth over the scope of federal Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction that has prevailed over the past four Administrations. By way of background, the CWA regulates agricultural and industrial discharges into waterways falling into the WOTUS category, thereby triggering permitting requirements that may encumber the use of private property. Although the CWA defines impacted waterways as a “navigable water,” the law does not provide additional statutory clarity about what exactly “navigable” means, therefore punting the issue to a series of EPA rulemakings and related litigation.



The latest version of the rule will go into effect 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. EPA’s final rule, which will define the scope of federal water permits, restores onerous requirements that were in place prior to the “navigable waters rule” issued in 2015 under the previous administration. Agriculture groups characterized the Trump EPA’s “navigable waters rule,” issued in 2020, as having more clarity and flexibility than past iterations of the regulations. That said, the “navigable waters rule” also created uncertainty in the court system, with a federal court having vacated and remanded the regulations in August 2021.

The expanded WOTUS rule will have direct impacts on the hardwood sector. The expanded definition of navigable waterways will increase the scope of certain permit requirements, such as the use of herbicides in forest management into or over waterways meeting rule requirements. Added administrative burdens and

legal uncertainties associated with the expansion can also drive down forestland values, thereby hastening forest conversion to other uses. Forest retention and expansion is an important tool for preserving water quality. By increasing pressure on forest conversion, the proposed expansion could ultimately reduce water quality protections in forested areas, thereby undermining key tenets of the CWA. The new rule may also create uncertainty over the applicability of mandatory Best Management Practices (BMPs) for certain forestry activities. For example, expanding a WOTUS designation to an entire floodplain will create significant uncertainty regarding the extent of mandatory BMP applications for wetlands, particularly in areas where mandatory BMPs are unnecessary.

A broad cross-section of industry groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, are criticizing the new rule, claiming it will expand regulators’ reach over private property. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has also expressed skepticism and urges the Administration to pause new requirements before moving forward with regulations that may create additional uncertainty. Congressional leaders are also weighing in, with hardwood industry ally Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA) characterizing the rule as a “land grab.”

Assuming that past is prologue, litigation will no doubt follow issuance of the latest WOTUS rule. In the wake of the 2015 version, 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the Obama Administration’s action. Industry groups, including the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), along with thirteen other multi-industry groups, also filed a lawsuit, arguing that the 2015 regulations were inconsistent with the CWA and exceeded the agencies’ authority under the Constitution to regulate interstate commerce.

The path to fixing a key pillar of the broken CWA goes directly through Congress. Amending the CWA and clarifying statutory definitions provides the best chance of removing this important permitting issue from the agencies and the courts. It will be interesting to see what, if any, legislation is put forward that can finally put this lingering issue to bed. The Federation will keep you posted on legislative and legal remedies that may emerge to mitigate the impacts of the new rule.

LSLA Education Update



Updating Sawmill Career Profiles

Who's looking for a Lumber Inspector, Saw Filer, Head Sawyer, or Log Scaler? The Lakes States Lumber Association (LSLA) Education Committee is updating our hardwood industry career profiles with current wage information, but we need your help to make this effective. These profiles are found on the LSLA Education webpage and are a great recruitment tool for these careers. These resources have been shared with students at technical colleges and high school technical education classes. In-order to gather this updated information, the LSLA Education office will be sending out a short wage information survey in a separate email; your responses will be anonymous. Thank you in advance for helping with this great cause.

Scott Lyon and the LSLA Education Committee

Northcentral Technical College to Host First Annual Wood Olympics

(WAUSAU, Wis.) – Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is hosting the first annual Wood Olympics at the Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo on Friday, April 21, 2023 from 9:00am—2:00pm for high school students interested in woodworking and learning about the forest products industry.

“Recruiting talented young people into our industry is vital to its survival,” said Logan Wells, NTC Wood Technology Faculty. “This exciting, one-day event builds upon traditional, competitive woodworking recruitment events and provides students with career exploration opportunities.”

Teams of students will participate in different challenges that highlight the skills needed in the wood products industry. Competitive events include woodworking, wood species and product ID, equipment ID, wood science trivia, measurements and quality control tests. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a career fair where they can learn about local career opportunities and NTC’s educational offerings. Participants will be eligible to win prizes including a traveling trophy and pizza party hosted at their high

school, as well as woodworking tools, gift cards, NTC scholarships and cash prizes!

This event is made possible through generous sponsors including LSLA Education, Kreg Tool Company, Milwaukee Tool Company, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, and the Wood Technology Center Education Fund. For more information, or to be part of the event, contact Logan Wells, NTC Wood Technology Faculty at wells@ntc.edu.

First Annual Wood Olympics:

NTC’s Wood Technology Center of Excellence

312 Forrest Ave

Antigo, WI 54409

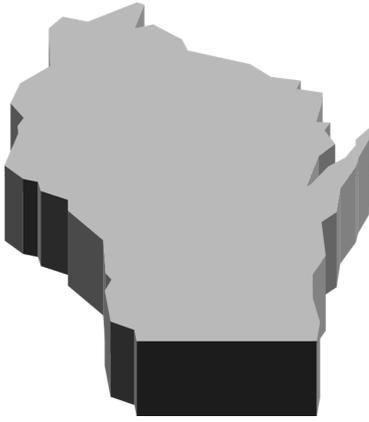
Friday, April 21 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

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Northcentral Technical College (www.ntc.edu) is north central Wisconsin's premier two-year college of choice and is a resource for all District residents. It provides individuals, organizations and businesses with quality skills training in a wide range of programs designed to build a competitive, technologically advanced workforce in today's rapidly changing global environment. NTC has six convenient campus locations in Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence and Diesel Technology Center just north of the Wausau Campus in the Village of Maine. The Wausau Campus also features a Center for Health Sciences, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, Information Technology Entrepreneurial Center (iTEC), Professional Conference Center, SPOONS Restaurant, STEM Center and Studio Max Salon + Spa.

The LSLA Education Board is looking for another board member. If you would be interested in serving on the board, contact lsla@lsla.com.

Upcoming courses and classes LSLA Education will be hosting are listed on the Calendar of Events on Page 11.



Wisconsin Legislative Report

By Amy Boyer, WI Legislative Consultant

DNR News

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers (D) has appointed Adam Payne as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Payne

replaces former Secretary Preston Cole, who resigned his position late last year. Prior to his appointment, Secretary-designee Payne served as Sheboygan County administrator for the last two decades overseeing the development of the county budget as well as program and policy initiatives – including the cleanup of

the Sheboygan River and harbor. Payne also held positions at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Sarah Berry will continue to serve as Deputy Secretary, Steven Little will continue to serve as Assistant Deputy Secretary and Heather Berklund will continue to serve as Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wisconsin's Chief Forester.

Secretary-designee Payne must be confirmed by the Wisconsin State Senate.

Meet Our Members

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.

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LSLA Facebook Page

LSLA has is now on social media! Connect with us on Facebook @lakestateslumberassociation. Have something to share? Share your posts with our page or email us information to post.

Michigan Legislative Report

By Scott Everett, MI Legislative Consultant



Gov Signs \$1B Supplemental; Earliest P.A. Since '47

Last month Gov. Gretchen WHITMER signed a \$1 billion supplemental making it the first bill of the Democrat-led Legislature and the earliest a bill has been signed in a new Michigan legislative term since 1947. The legislation sets aside money to fund Michigan Economic Development Corporation programs including an Upper Peninsula paper mill project. The spending bill contained \$200 million toward what is described as the largest private sector investment in Upper Peninsula history. Billerud America, an international company committed to drop \$1.2 billion into an Escanaba-area papermill project as long as it came with a \$200 million state investment.

Ford's New \$3.5B EV Battery Park Comes With \$210M

(ROMULUS) – Ford Motor Company is dropping \$3.5 billion to create an electric vehicle battery park in Marshall. Recently at the Ford Battery Center of Excellence in Romulus, Ford Chief Executive Officer Jim FARLEY announced how the \$3.5 billion investment will be a "key part" in the more than \$50 billion the automobile manufacturer is spending to advance the United States' position in the EV revolution. As part of the deal, Ford is also receiving \$772 million over 15 years in real and personal property tax reductions through a Renaissance Zone grant. The Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund Loan would also kick in \$36 million.

In A Sneak Attack, Senate Adjourned

As Senate Democrats' were planning to move swiftly on the Governor's tax package, suddenly and abruptly the session ended after Republicans pulled a crafty procedural move to adjourn the session while the majority Dems were caucusing. Sen. Joseph BELLINO JR. (R-Monroe), the Associate President Pro Tempore, gavelled the Senate back into session and recognized Minority Floor Leader Dan LAUWERS (R-Brockway), who moved to adjourn. Bellino took a quick voice vote, ruled there was support to adjourn, banged the gavel and ended the session. However, there have been consequences. Bellino has been eliminated as Associate President Pro Tempore and Senate Minority Floor Leader Dan LAUWERS (R-Brockway) has been stripped of various committee

assignments for his involvement in the orchestration to end of the session before the Senate chamber could address the Governor's tax reform plan.

Re-Establishing Wolf Population In Lower Peninsula

A healthy wolf population should return to the Lower Peninsula of Michigan after a nearly 90-year absence as a way to improve the area's ecological system, according to Rep. Greg MARKKANEN (R-Hancock). Using the arguments Lower Peninsula residents use in defense of creating a wolf population in the Upper Peninsula for years, Markkanen put his tongue firmly in his cheek when he wrote in HCR 2 that the Yoopers shouldn't be the only ones to enjoy the beauty of these predators of small animals. Many have emphasized that they are envious of residents of the UP, as they "have the privilege to live side-by-side with wolves," Markkanen wrote.

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Updated Economic Factsheets Available

By Ram Dahal, Forest Economist

Wisconsin's forest products industry plays an important role in the state economy. The overall economic importance of forest products industry is much greater than direct output or employment. Many support sectors depend on the forest industry and benefit in terms of jobs and production value. Furthermore, workers from the forest products industry and in supporting sectors spend wages and pay taxes in the local economy creating additional economic benefits.

In 2019, the forest products industry generated \$24.4 billion of direct output and \$6.9 billion of value-added output which was 3.5% and 2.0% of Wisconsin's total economy, respectively. The forest products industry ranked 2nd in terms of industry output in the state. In terms of employment, the industry employed over 61,000 workers, 1.6% of the state's total jobs. The forest industry's average annual labor income was \$69,000, \$12,000 higher than state average. Moreover, forest products jobs represented 11.4% of the total manufacturing industry in Wisconsin.

The economic impact of the forest products industry does not stop within the sector. Often described as a "ripple effect," contributions are also transferred to other sectors of the economy through indirect (supporting industries) and induced (household spending) effects. Total contributions (including direct, indirect, and induced effects) of the forest products industry accounted for 3.6% of state employment (over 135,000 jobs) and \$38 billion of gross output. Furthermore, every 100 jobs in the forest products industry sector supported an additional 123 jobs in the other sectors of the economy, and every dollar of output generated an additional \$0.55 in the other sectors of the economy.

How have jobs and output changed in recent years? The forest products industry exceeded \$24 billion of direct annual output from 2016 through 2019 (Figure 1). However, the number of jobs fluctuated during these years. Between 2016 and 2017, forest products industry jobs increased by 5.2%, and output increased by 1.1%. In contrast, Wisconsin lost 4% of its forest products industry employment between 2018 and 2019 whereas output decreased by only 0.49%, suggesting Wisconsin forest products industry maintained its production despite this fluctuation in employment. Most job losses during 2018 and 2019 occurred in the

commercial logging sector. This decline coincides with a loss of logging establishments between 2018 Q4 and 2019 Q1 and several mill closures including the Park Falls Pulp and Paper mill.

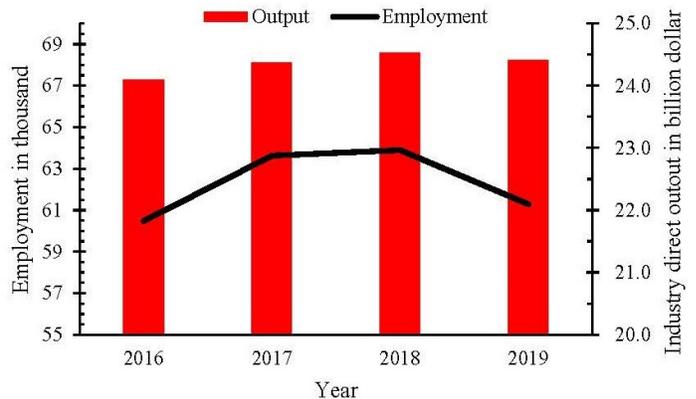


Figure 1. Industry trend from 2016 to 2019 in current dollar

For decades, the forest products industry has remained one of the leading manufacturing sectors in the state, and the industry plays a vital role in the county economy as well. In 2019, the forest products industry was the number-one employer in 11 counties. Brown County generated the highest number of the forest products industry jobs (7,512) followed by Winnebago (5,579), Marathon (4,079), Outagamie (4,009), and Trempealeau (3,690) in the state (Figure 2).

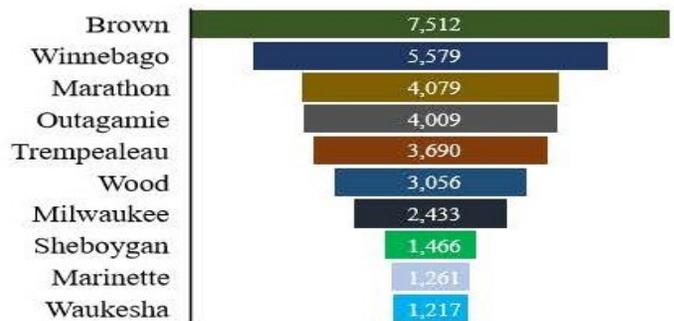


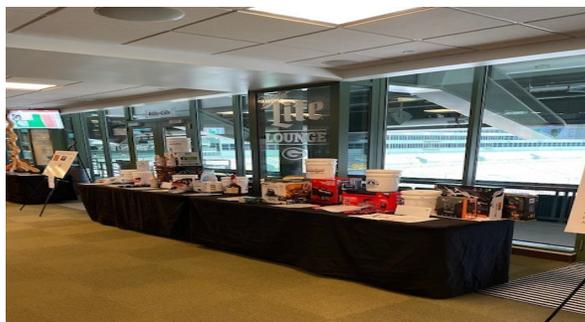
Figure 2. Top 10 counties that generated highest forest products industry direct jobs

The industry economic contribution factsheets and reports based on latest data (2019) are now available (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets>). The webpage also has previous years factsheets and reports.

2023 Winter Meeting Bucket Raffle Sponsors

Thank you to all of our 2023 Bucket Raffle Sponsors for their generous sponsorships to fill the buckets.

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- U-C Coatings, LLC
- Bruggeman Lumber
- G & G Lumber
- Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands
- Kendrick Forest Products
- Bee Forest LLC
- Sagola Hardwoods
- Menzner Lumber
- Wolverine Hardwoods
- Kretz Lumber
- Messersmith Manufacturing, Inc.
- HMR-Hardwood Market Report
- Macatawa Forest Products
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Michigan Configured Trucks

At the Winter meeting, our Wisconsin legislative consultant, Amy Boyer, reminded us about the additional Michigan configured truck routes in Wisconsin that were passed in 2022 thanks to her gracious efforts and support from our members. LSLA in partnership with the GLTPA, is seeking feedback on additional routes to be added for consideration for 2023. If you have any suggestions on routes to benefit our industry, please reach out to a board member. Routes added in

2022 are listed below and can be found in detail in SB 625.

2022 Additional Routes:

- Extending Hwy 53 West into Superior WI
- Extended Hwy 45 into New London
- Abrams to Marinette and Crivitz
- Extended Hwy 8 West

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Thank you to all our Load of Lumber Contributors! Your continued support and generosity allows LSLA concerns to be represented at the National level.

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Where is David Bradley?

David Bradley is enjoying the winter at the new Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands office and log yard near Gladstone, Michigan. It all starts at the stump.



LSLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22

*Board Meeting
Madison, WI*

May (date TBD)

*Board Meeting
Lansing, MI*

July 26 & 27

Golf Outing

August 1-4

Sawing, Edging and Trimming Course

October 5

*Dust Hazard Class
New Berlin, WI*

Fall 2023

*Lumber Grading Course
Lower Michigan*



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