

THE LOG

August / September 2024

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Letter from the President

As we inch closer to the November election the only industry certainty we have ahead is uncertainty. We continue to see a 'reset' in production, buying, selling and manufacturing, and not only across our industry but *several* others as well.

Will this continue after the election? Is it happening because of the election? That's a conversation over a beverage perhaps! But what is certain is the chart courtesy of HMR. This chart (seen on page 11) shows all hardwood market sectors and overall demand for each of them. The interesting point to note is that this is the first time in well, arguably forever, all market sections are 'fair or slow'.

What does this mean for future hardwood demand? Will we continue to see a decline in production and where is the 'new normal' for demand? How many more sawmills will be closing their doors?

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





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

**LSLA CALENDAR
 OF EVENTS**

**Board Meeting
 September 16, 2024
 Woodruff, WI**

**Trap Shoot—Minocqua Gun Club
 September 17th, 2024
 Minocqua, WI**

Watch for details of these and other upcoming events



Back Row (left to right): Steve Peters (Rockland Flooring), Kirby Kendrick (Kendrick Forest Products), Michael Skenadore (Menominee Tribal Enterprises), Loren DeJonge (Constructive Sheet Metal), Rick Luokkala (Performance Pallet Corp.)

Front Row (left to right): Jennifer Lu (WI DATCP), Jim Maltese (Stella-Jones Corp.), Bill Millard (Granite Valley Forest Products/Rockbridge Sawmill) Nikki Loehr (LSLA Administrative Coordinator), Kate Miller (Northern Hardwoods/JM Longyear)

Not Pictured: Kyle Jeske (Richardson Hardwoods), Peter Connor (WD Flooring)

Photo courtesy of Chris Fehr, Miller Wood Trade Publications

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2024 GOLF OUTING REVIEW

MINOCQUA, WI

The 2024 Golf Outing was a great success. Back this year in the beautiful city of Minocqua, the two day event started off at the picturesque Minocqua Yacht Club looking over the Chain of Lakes. After appetizers and mingling at the club the group continued the pub crawl downtown stopping at The Islander, Thirsty Whale, T Murtaugh's Pub, and concluded at Otto's Beer and Brat Garden with live music and late night snacks.

Thursday morning golfers were up bright and early for breakfast and registration at the Timber Ridge Golf Club. The "Putt for Dough" and "Cash Shoot-out" events took place and then the golfers were off! Lunch was provided by American Wood Fibers. The golfers survived the hot summer day and finished just in time to make it back to Reuland's Conference Center for cocktail hour.

The outing concluded with an excellent banquet dinner at Reuland's including steak, chicken, and delightful sides. The bucket raffle to benefit the LSLA Education Fund took place and the winners were announced following dinner.

The Outcomes of the Golf event were:

A- Flight: Cal Diercks, Andy Dufeck, Luc Connor, Ross Corullo—64

A- Flight 1st runner up: Aaron Ruotsala, Jake An-sami, Steve Willis, Jamie Peters—67

B- Flight: Gary LeMaster, Lance LeMaster, Dennis LeMaster, Tamra Kegler—71

B- Flight 1st runner up: Luke Behm, Chad Magee, Pete Miller, Blake Socha—72

C- Flight: Steve Bruggeman, Tony Bruggeman, Darren Mesch, Chris Fehr—77

C- Flight 1st runner up: Anthony Moody, Daniel Smithburg, Kirk Laborde, Joe Morrey—78

A golf outing like this would not happen if it were not for the many sponsors who give so generously. We want to thank each and every one of our sponsors listed below and let them know how much they are appreciated:

- **Action Floor Systems-** Putting Contest Sponsor
- **AJD Forest Products-** Hole Sponsor
- **American Wood Fibers-** Lunch Sponsor

- **Baillie Lumber-** Cash Shoot-out/Safe Ride Sponsor
- **Banks Hardwoods-** Bucket Raffle
- **Bee Forest LLC-** Bucket Raffle
- **Bennett Hardwoods-** Hole Sponsor
- **Bessemer Plywood Corporation-** Bucket Raffle
- **BioSource-** Bucket Raffle
- **Blackhawk Industrial-** Hole Sponsor
- **Brenneman Lumber Company-** Bucket Raffle
- **Bruggeman Lumber-** Beverage Sponsor
- **C & C Machine-** Hole Sponsor
- **Cascade Hardwood-** Welcome Reception Sponsor
- **Chitko Bros. Lumber-** Bucket Raffle
- **Choice Insurance-** Bucket Raffle
- **Cleereman Industries-** Hole Sponsor
- **Constructive Sheet Metal-** Golfer Gift Sponsor
- **Country Forest Products, Inc.-** Hole Sponsor
- **Devereaux Sawmill-** Bucket Raffle
- **DMSi-** Par Three Sponsor
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- **Florence Hardwoods LLC-** Bucket Raffle
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- **Koxlien Brothers Wood Products/Pigeon Creek -** Hole Sponsor
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- **Krueger Lumber-** Beverage Sponsor
- **L & S Electric-** Bucket Raffle
- **LeMaster Properties-** Bucket Raffle
- **LSLA Education-** Bucket Raffle
- **Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands-** Hole Sponsor
- **MacBeath Hardwood-** Hole Sponsor
- **MacDonald & Owen-** Hole Sponsor
- **McDonough Manufacturing-** Beverage Sponsor
- **Menominee Saw & Supply-** Hole Sponsor
- **Menzner Hardwoods-** Bucket Raffle

2024 Golf Outing Review (Cont'd)

Sponsors Continued:

- **Messersmith Biomass Boiler Systems-** Par Three Sponsor & Bucket Raffle
- **Midwest Hardwood-** Hole Sponsor
- **Nicolet Hardwoods-** Bucket Raffle
- **North Country Lumber -** Hole Sponsor
- **Northern Hardwoods-** Social Hour Sponsor
- **Northland Hardwood Lumber-** Hole Sponsor
- **Novak Trucking-** Hole Sponsor
- **NWH-** Bucket Raffle Sponsor
- **PalletOne-** Hole Sponsor
- **Penn-Sylvan International-** Longest Drive Contest Sponsor
- **Performance Pallet -** Bucket Raffle
- **Primewood-** Hole Sponsor
- **Pukall Lumber-** Hole Sponsor
- **Quality Hardwoods Inc.-** Bucket Raffle
- **Quality Hardwoods Ltd-** Hole Sponsor
- **R & R Insurance-** Par Three Sponsor
- **Richardson Hardwoods-** Hole Sponsor
- **Rockland Flooring-** Hole Sponsor
- **Ron Jones Hardwoods-** Hole Sponsor
- **Sagola Hardwoods, LLC-** Bucket Raffle
- **Shamco Lumber-** Hole Sponsor
- **Snowbelt Hardwoods-** Welcome Reception Sponsor
- **Stella-Jones Corporation-** Golf Ball Sponsor
- **Stetson Forest Products-** Hole Sponsor
- **Superior Michigan Hardwoods-** Hole Sponsor
- **The AGL Group-** Welcome Reception Sponsor
- **Tigerton Lumber-** Hole Sponsor
- **Timber Products Company-** Special Event-Birdie Hole Sponsor
- **TMX Shipping-** Beverage Sponsor
- **TQMM -** Hole Sponsor
- **TS Manufacturing-** Bucket Raffle & Hole Sponsor
- **Tweet Garot Mechanical, Inc.-** Par Three Sponsor
- **UC Coatings-** Hole-in-One/ Putt for Dough Sponsor
- **Walters Brothers Lumber-** Hole Sponsor
- **WD Flooring-** Special Event- Water/Snack Sponsor
- **Wolverine Hardwoods-** Bucket Raffle

An event of this size always requires a lot of effort, and organization. We want to give a huge Thank You to the Golf Committee for all their hard work. They are the guys that do the behind-the-scenes tasks—

making arrangements with the golf course, hotels and banquet facility, contacting sponsors, planning for all the purchasing of the door prizes, and more.



Back Row: Loren DeJonge (Constructive Sheet Metal), Ross Corullo (Action Floor Systems), Peter McCarty (TS Manufacturing), Sam Brettingen (Heck Capital Advisors), Luc Connor (WD Flooring). Front Row: Philip Kersten (Kersten Log & Lumber), Cory Corullo (Action Floor Systems), Jason Brettingen (Kretz Lumber), Cal Dierks (Kretz Lumber), Vince Catarella (Baillie Group).

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Scenes from the 2024 Golf Outing





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JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF SHOOTING AT THE MINOCQUA GUN CLUB
FOLLOWED BY HAPPY HOUR AND DINNER AT KEMP STATION.

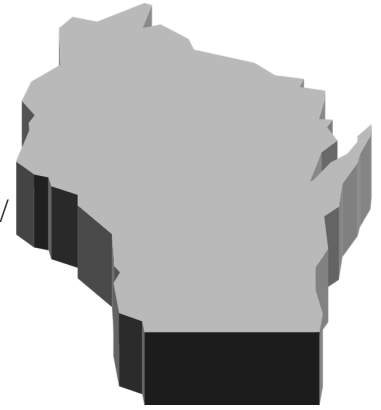
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Wisconsin Legislative Report

By Amy Boyer, WI Legislative Consultant



\$50 Million Allocated for Rural Road Improvement

Governor Tony Evers, along with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced \$50 million in state grants have been awarded to 37 projects throughout 28 Wisconsin counties. The grants are part of a \$150 million program created in the last Wisconsin biennial budget bill and accompanying enabling legislation. The **Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)** is intended to improve local transportation infrastructure that provides access to agricultural and forest lands and facilities. Of the \$50 million that was awarded in July, approximately \$12 million or 25% went to projects benefiting the forestry industry.

Application materials for the remaining \$100 million are now available with a submittal deadline of September 30, 2024. ARIP is a reimbursement program for local units of government which may pay up to a maximum of 90% of total eligible costs. Additional program details and application materials can be

found online at <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/arip.aspx>.

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Michigan Legislative Report

By Scott Everett, MI Legislative Consultant



Michigan Minimum Wage Ruling

Michigan's current \$10.33-an-hour minimum wage will increase to around \$12.25 to \$12.30 an hour and tipped workers will see their base wage go up from \$3.93 an hour to around \$5.90 an hour by Feb. 21, 2025, under a Michigan Supreme Court ruling on July 31st. The tipped wage will be phased out over five years. By 2030, all employees should be around a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, based on calculations made from the court's decision. The ruling basically says that the Legislature doesn't have the constitutional authority to adopt a ballot initiative and then immediately amend it. The Court laid out an implementation schedule that mirrors what framers of the 2018 initiative had in mind, adjusted for inflation.

The Michigan Department of Treasury is projecting \$14.97-An-Hour Minimum Wage By 2028, However the Attorney Generals Office is asking for clarification. The AG's office says the court provided July 31 as an end date for calculating inflation, but did "not clearly provide the beginning date." "Given the unprecedented situation created by reviving the Wage Act six years later, the State, employers and employees all need clear guidance from this Court on the proper methodology for calculating the minimum wage," the brief filed on behalf of Attorney General Dana NESSEL reads. The AG's office wants a decision before Sept. 15 as the deadline for the Michigan Department of Treasury to calculate and publish inflation rates in accordance with 2018 Public Act 337 is Nov. 1.

Court of Appeals . . . New Roof Is 'New Construction' Under Statute

The Michigan Court of Appeals has affirmed a Tax Tribunal's decision to grant Bay City's request to dismiss a lawsuit challenging taxable value of a business' new roof. The panel held in a published opinion that Knier, Powers, Martin & Smith LLC's (KPMS) new roof was "new construction" as defined by MCL 211.34d(1)(b)(iii) and the Constitution and that Bay City properly assessed the property's taxable value beyond the cap.

The judges held that the Legislature defined "new construction" to exclude "replacement construction," and as "property not in existence on the immediately preceding tax day." "The roof meets this definition," according to the panel's opinion. "It was an entirely new roof that was not in existence on the immediately

preceding tax day."

KPMS hired a contractor in 2021 to replace the roof, which cost \$70,053. The city then increased the company's taxable value of the property for the 2022 tax year, holding that bypassing the "cap" in Article 9, Section 3 of the Constitution and MCL 211.27a(2)(a) was appropriate because it was new construction. KPMS appealed the decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, which sided with Bay City.

Nearly Two-Thirds Of Primary Voters Voted Early

Michigan Primary voter turnout in August numbers show that 63.5 percent of Michigan voters casting a ballot preferred absentee voting (AV) or voted early in the primary. Secretary of State Jocelyn BENSON announced that more than 2 million people voted in the primary, which is about 160,000 fewer than in 2022.

Michigan Civil War Battle Flags

In 1909 Michigan Civil War Veterans were invited to the Capitol Building to carry their battle flags for the last time. The ceremony, with the veterans included a procession around the Capitol and then placement of the 80 flags in glass cases located in the Rotunda. In 1987 during major Capitol building renovations, the original battle flags were sent to climate-controlled storage and replaced with replica flags. Last year the replica flags were removed for another Capitol spruce up and a ceremony was being planned for August 17, 2024 to place them back into the Rotunda.

The call came from the Capitol staff the Wednesday before . . . asking the question, "*you think would Rhett like to carry the colors of the 20th Michigan Volunteers.*" They didn't have to ask twice . . . Hence, Rhett D. Everett, of LSLA Annual Meeting fame . . . assistant legislative consultant . . . Official LSLA Bucket Auction Drawer and Ticket Number Reader . . . Represented the boys of the 20th Michigan who were mustered into the Union Army in 1862 and fought in Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg and were near Appomattox when Lee Surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant.

Michigan Legislative Report Cont'd

By Scott Everett, MI Legislative Consultant



Photos from the Michigan Civil War Battle Flags Event in Lansing at the State Capitol Building.



SUBMIT A LOG ARTICLE

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

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



One of the main objectives for establishing the Real American Hardwood Coalition is to unite the collective efforts and resources of the U.S. hardwood industry to educate both consumers and prosumers about the uses and benefits of real wood products. Collaboration is key to this effort. To date, more than 30 national, regional, and state hardwood associations have worked together to share assets, resources, skills, and finances to secure a sustainable future for the U.S. hardwood industry. Now, RAHC donors have an opportunity to participate in this collaboration by contributing digital content to the Choose Wood Digital Asset Management (DAM) Solution, powered by the Missouri Forest Products Association.

The DAM is a digital co-op designed to connect stakeholders in the wood products industry. RAHC donors are encouraged to contribute digital assets that will be shared, and can be utilized, by all contributors. These assets can include video b-roll showcasing sawmill operations, drone shots of forests, and images of hardwood floors, furniture, cabinets,

mouldings, and whiskey barrels ... literally anything that highlights the beauty and versatility of real wood products. These digital assets will be available to all contributors for their own use: education, advertising, marketing, and more.

By uploading your images and videos to the DAM, you will have a secure, free storage location for all your digital assets. Better yet, you also will have access to the digital assets of other stakeholders that have uploaded their images and videos as well. All digital uploads are available for free to all participants and can be searched easily using various metadata fields, saving you time and money.

Other content can be shared in the DAM as well, including research documents, case studies environmental product declarations, life cycle analyses, and more. You can learn more about the DAM by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/woodindustry>.

2024 NHLA Convention

The National Hardwood Lumber Association invites you to attend the 2024 NHLA Annual Convention & Exhibit Showcase, October 2-4 in St. Louis, MO!

While the current business environment may be uncertain, this is your chance to get a first-hand look at the global hardwood community. You will find new customers, build relationships, get inspired as you network with industry peers, learn from specialized education sessions, and ultimately discover ways to make your business more profitable.

Register today by visiting nhla.com/convention/register/



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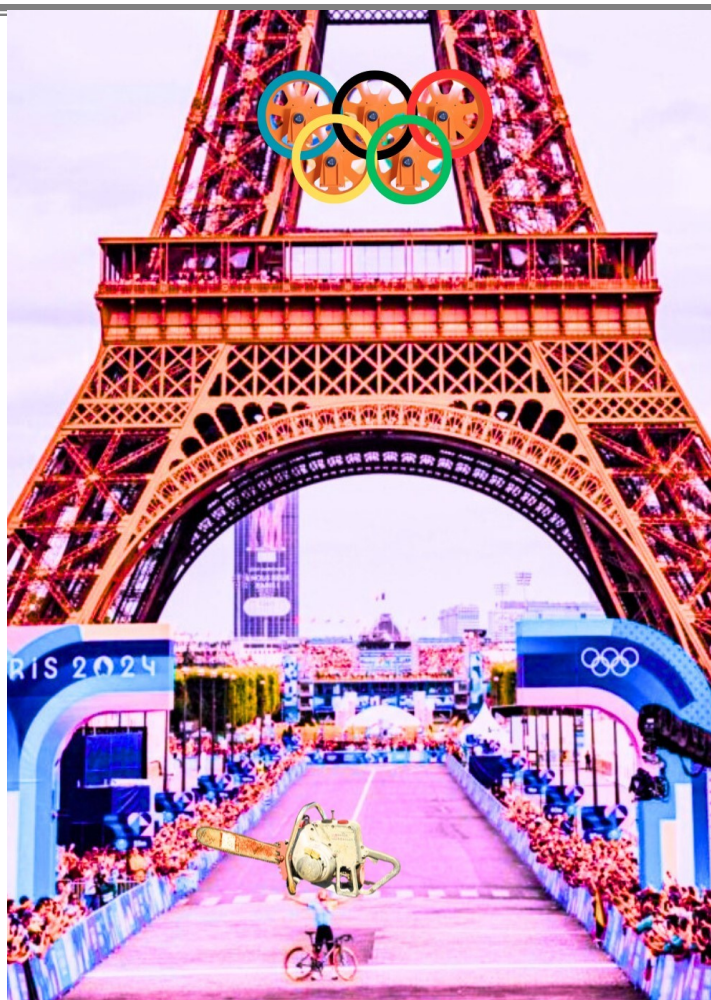
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Where is David Bradley?

David Bradley, the world-traveling chainsaw, just buzzed back from the Paris Olympics where he saw the McDonough Rings on the Eiffel Tower and somehow joined the cycling event! Now back in the US, he's sharpening his teeth for LA 2028—because cutting-edge adventures never stop!





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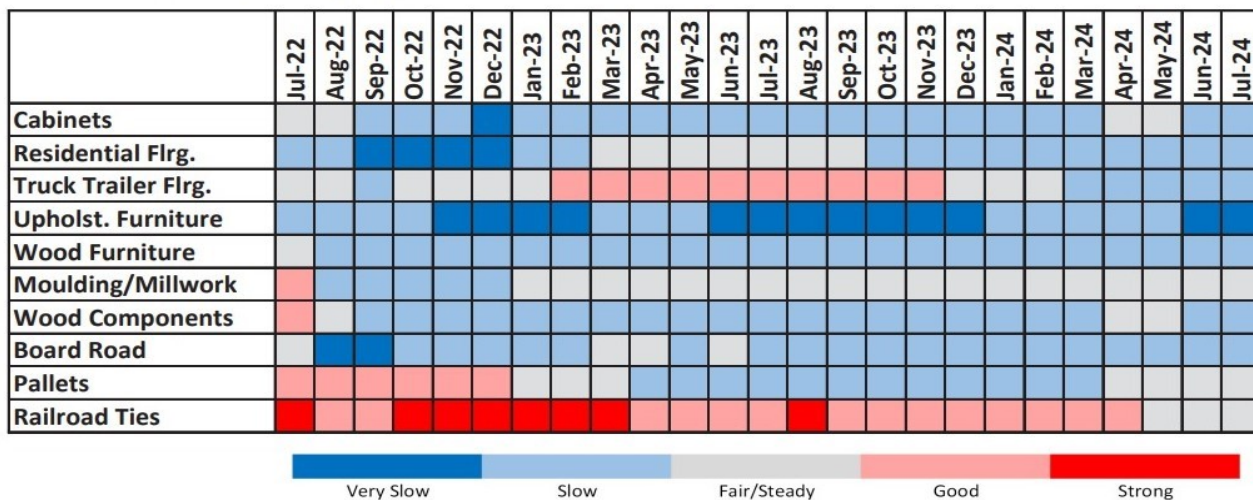


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Letter from the President (cont'd)

HMR DEMAND INDEX (HDI)





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