

March 2016



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THE TRUST TO CONSERVE NORTHEAST FORESTLANDS

The Cutting Edge

2001-2016 15 years of Sustainable Harvesting



Members of the first class of Master Loggers gathered for this photograph in 2001.

It has been 15 years since the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program saw its first class of Master Loggers complete the certification process in what was then a very new and revolutionary program.

I would like to take this time to recognize Cohort 1, the "Pioneer Cohort", for their 15th year as Master Loggers.

Present members of Cohort 1 include A.W. Madden Inc, Tony Madden; Hanington Bros., Steve Hanington; Bucko Inc. Wayne Buck; Delaite's Logging and Trucking, David Delaite; Irish Family Logging, Andy Irish; L&A Ridley, Ron Ridley; Linkletter and Sons, Bob Linkletter; Madden Timberlands, Scott Madden; Maine Custom Woodlands, Tom Cushman;

Nadeau Logging, Paul Nadeau; Nicols Bros. Logging, Jim Nicols; and Thompson Trucking, Mary Keegan.

Others involved in Cohort 1 include Bond Blake, Erik Carlson, Eric Clark, Wade Drake, Jack Frost, Raymond Hunt, James Peterson, Peter Pfeiffer, Armand Roussel, Richard Thomas, Mike Thurlow, Alvin Wasson, Ray Williams, Glenn Brawn, Scott Hanington, Lara Gordon, and Sandy Brawders.

Congratulations on setting the standard for sustainability in Maine, New England and beyond.

If you can help identify the people in the photo above please contact me. We'd like to have the information for our files.

-Ted Wright, Executive Director.



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Hello Northeast Master Logger Companies!



Hello everyone,

I have been on the job as your Executive Director for over two months now and I am really glad to be working with a group like yours. I have met a few of you so far and I must say I have never seen a group of people take their craft as seriously as you.

I have moved the office from Pineland Farms, New Gloucester

to 106 Sewall Street in Augusta, Maine. Please stop by to chat if you are in town.

I plan on getting out to see many of you this year to hear your concerns and how Master Logger can benefit you. I will be at the Northeast Loggers Expo in Vermont in May, and I hope to see many of you there.

Congratulations to the 21 Master Loggers who successfully completed their recertifications this past summer, and to the five new Master Loggers who were certified in 2015.

This summer we will have another 22 Master Loggers up for recertification. I will be contacting you soon if you are part of this group.

Do you have news to share? We are always looking for news items about our Master Logger members, upcoming workshops, and other

news. Please call or send an email so we can share it.

We have recently added a Facebook page for Master Logger which we will use to highlight the excellent work of our members. Please check it out and "like" it when you do.

Please feel free to contact me anytime to talk about the program and how it can better serve you. I look forward to hearing from you.



Ted Wright
Executive Director
Northeast Master Logger
Certification Program
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Congratulations to the 2015 New Master Loggers!

AD Forestry Specialists
Andy and Janelle Dillon
Madison, Maine

Jerimoth Forestry
Robert T. Thurber Jr.
Foster, Rhode Island

SDR Logging, Inc.
Chuck Ames
Sebec, Maine

GCA Logging, Inc.
Greg and Andrea Adams
Avon, ME

Chaplin Logging, Inc.
Caleb Chaplin
Naples, ME

Important dates and events

- NHTOA's 105th Annual Meeting:
May, 14 2016
Durham, NH



- Massachusetts Forest Alliance
Annual Dinner:
Saturday April 9th
Holyoke, MA



- Professional Logging
Contractors of Maine Annual
Meeting
April 29th, 2016
Jeff's Catering - Brewer, ME



For more events check the Master Logger
website at:

masterloggercertification.com



Safety Alert

Feller buncher runaway on steep slope

Location: Grand Forks (Knappen Gulch worksite, Grand Forks, ND) Date: January 15, 2016

Occurrence: While working on a slope in excess of 35%, a hydraulic failure occurred causing a feller buncher to freewheel out of control for about 20 meters to the bottom of the slope (see photo below).

Findings: Both travel motors failed at the same time causing this to happen. The buncher was operating in high range due to the inconsistent nature of the slope which ranged from 0-50%. This hydraulic failure issue has occurred before to others.

Actions to Prevent a Reoccurrence:

- * While cutting on slope in excess of 35%, machines must be operated in LOW range. If left in HIGH range it is possible the machine could run away unexpectedly.
- * Follow your operators manual.

This information was used by permission.

For more information:
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DID YOU KNOW? Northeast Certified Master Loggers
employ nearly 1,000 workers today, and harvested 4.4 million tons in 2014

Master Logger Spotlight - JBR Logging Inc.

ASHLAND, MAINE – Master Logger Jeff Hummel started his business, JBR Logging Inc., in June of 2008 with a John Deere forwarder and one employee, working double shifts.

Jeff, who goes by J.D., didn't grow up in a logging family, but in Aroostook County in far northern Maine there were plenty of loggers around, and he got into logging through his best friend.



"He was a couple of years older than me, I always looked up to him, and his family, they were all loggers, and I'm just following in their footsteps," J.D. said.

While logging can be a challenging industry at the best of times, JBR Logging has managed to grow slowly since 2008 in spite of Maine mill closures and other obstacles, adapting to whatever the market throws its way and changing equipment and focus as needed.

In 2010 the company bought its first processor, a used Tigercat, and added two more employees. For awhile JBR Logging ran three shifts and at one point increased to 6 employees total.

Upgrades in equipment came along the way as well as a variety of logging jobs. JBR spent a lot of time harvesting steep slope terrain for Irving Woodlands LLC when it was starting out, but in time moved away from steep slope and got into higher production jobs on more typical terrain.



The company eventually sold its forwarder to focus more on cutting and processing, and generally subcontracts forwarding out now. Today J.D. and his 3 employees operate the Tigercat processor, an LH830C with a Log Max head, and have added a

John Deere 703JH with a Waratah head.

"We have a feller buncher ahead of us now, which greatly improved quality as well as production," J.D. said.



The company works mostly in Aroostook County, harvesting for mills, but jobs have taken JBR nearly to Quebec.

The company faces the same challenges most loggers are dealing with in northern Maine right now; loss of mills hurting the markets, and weather – this has been the toughest winter for logging J.D. has seen – top the list.

"That's logging though, always something working against you, it never ends, but that's what we do," J.D. said.

These days, professionalism is critical in logging, and J.D. realized that early in his logging career. It was out of a desire to raise the professionalism of the company that he became a Master Logger in 2013.

"I always like to make my business more professional, anything you can do to make you more professional is a good thing - any certification that helps me out in that way," J.D. said.

J.D. has no plans to leave logging, and sees a future for JBR of continuing to adapt and increase its professionalism in order to keep operating successfully.

"Whatever the industry throws at me, I'm not opposed to anything," J.D. said. "Whatever I've got to do."

Most Master Loggers would agree with that.

NEXT ISSUE - MASTER LOGGER SAWYER LOGGING, CT