

matsif

SAFETY LOG

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48th Annual Timbermen Convention | by Jackie Schummer



Another convention is in the books, and what a convention it was! This year's convention was held at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls on April 20th – 22nd. This is a popular venue, as was confirmed by the record number of people in attendance.

MATSIF started off the event with a Thursday afternoon seminar on **Reporting Workers' Compensation Injuries**. The first part of the seminar was presented by Brian LeBoeuf, Zone 2 Loss Control Representative. Brian spoke about what steps should be taken when a work-related injury occurs and how to get the injury reported to MATSIF. The second part of the seminar was presented by representatives of Comprehensive Risk Services (CRS). Paul Martin, Claims Manager, and Deb Burnett, VP-Claims spoke about what happens once the injury has been reported to MATSIF and sent to CRS for processing. Scott Gaffner, President of CRS, gave a very informative presentation on experience modification calculations and how claims costs affect these calculations. The seminar concluded with several door prize drawings.

Thursday evening kicked off with a two-hour welcome reception hosted by Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies. We then rolled into the MATSIF Safety Awards Banquet. This banquet highlights the recognition of the MATSIF members who have remained accident free. To qualify for a safety

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48th Annual Timberman Convention *continued*



award, a member must be accident-free for at least 10 consecutive years. Then recognition is given for every additional 5 years a member remains accident free. This year, 29 members qualified for safety awards. Ten of those members were at the banquet to receive their award. I was honored to be able to recognize these companies for the exemplary work they do to create a safe work environment for their employees. The success of the MATSIF program depends on members like these who are committed to safety. Congratulations to all the award recipients including those that were not in attendance to receive their award. They include:

35 YEARS ACCIDENT FREE:

- Eller Forest Products Inc., Hubbard Lake
- Dan Bundy Logging Inc., Manton

20 YEARS ACCIDENT FREE:

- Dean Bugg Forest Products Co., Curran
- Look Logging Inc., Oscoda

15 YEARS ACCIDENT FREE:

- Casperson Logging Inc., Escanaba
- Northwoods Harvesting & Processing LLC, Wakefield
- Richard Brow & Sons Inc, Newberry
- Penta Associates, Petoskey
- John J. Doyle & Sons Inc., Paris

10 YEARS ACCIDENT FREE:

- Roy Nelson Jr. & Son Forest Products Inc., Gladstone
- Gerald J Dugree Trucking & Forest Products Inc., Hermansville
- Dog Logging LLC, Merriweather
- Hord Off-Road Logging Inc., Felch
- Zellar Forest Products, Germfask
- Catalano Forest Products Inc., Rogers City
- Bennett & Sons Logging Inc., Detour Village
- Bunker & Sons Sawmill LLC, Vanderbilt
- Weber Timber LLC, Mt. Pleasant

The evening ended with some networking and a little cornhole competition made possible by Mike Kline, Zone 3 Loss Control Representative, who built two sets of boards for use that evening.

TOP ROW: ANNETTE GILBERT, TOM KNOPF - KNOPF AND SONS FOREST PRODUCTS, BRIAN LEBOEUF; BRIAN LEBOEUF, BARB JANISH, JEFF JANISH - JANISH WOODWARDS, INC. **2ND ROW:** BRIAN LEBOEUF, RANDY KERR - KERR FOREST MANAGEMENT; BRIAN LEBOEUF, RICK BRINDLEY - BRINDLEY LUMBER & PALLET. **3RD ROW:** BRIAN LEBOEUF, STAN ZELLAR, JR., STAN ZELLAR SR., JIM ZELLAR, JEFF ZELLAR; CURT BEACOM, BILL BEACOM - BEACOM ENTERPRISES, BRIAN LEBOEUF. **4TH ROW:** JOHN NOWAKOWSKI, PAT NOWAKOWSKI - JOHN NOWAKOWSKI SAWMILL, BRIAN LEBOEUF; LEO HUHTA - HUHTA LOGGING, RICK DESSELLIER. **BOTTOM ROW:** LISA SHULTZ, ERIC JOSEY, BRIAN LEBOEUF, JAMES JOSEY, CINDY JOSEY - JOSEY FOREST PRODUCTS; LIZ BLOUGH, MARVIN BLOUGH - BLOUGH HARDWOODS, MIKE KLINE.

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48th Annual Timberman Convention *continued*



LARRY CADE - MIDWEST TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT



MICKY REDMOND



WARREN SUCHOVSKY - SUCHOVSKY LOGGING

Friday's events included numerous seminars throughout the day, a complimentary lady's event sponsored by Ponsse, visiting vendors, and concluded with the Association's dinner buffet featuring guest speaker Mickey Redmond. Several awards were presented that evening. We would like to congratulate MATSIF members, Larry Cade of Midwest Tractor & Equipment Co. for receiving the Excellence in Manufacturing award, and Warren Suchovsky of Suchovsky

Logging, LLC for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. A well-deserved recognition for both these fine gentlemen.

Others receiving awards that evening included Roger Bazuin & Sons, Inc., Excellence in Trucking; Woodstar Forestry, LLC, Logger of the Year, and Senator John Cherry, Legislator of the Year. The evening concluded with raffles and silent auction announcements along with a lively auction for some awesome hand-carved pieces.

A big thank you to everyone who worked to make this another successful Timberman Convention!



TOP ROW: MATSIF STAFF; VENDOR 5D CARVINGS; JIM CAREY, MATSIF CHAIRMAN. **BOTTOM ROW:** FRIDAY LUNCHEON; EMILY IN A JOHN DEERE HOT SAW; THURSDAY SEMINAR.

THINK SAFETY

2023 Second Chance 2nd Quarter Winners

- Gregory Saubert
Dan Ahonen Logging, LLC
- Michael Anderson
Brent Bastian Logging, LLC
- Mason Murray
Brzoznowski and Sons, LLC
- Brad Bakewell
Collins Brothers Sawmill, Inc.
- Clarence Jicha
Component Solutions, LLC
- Charles Mattfolk
DBM Forest Products, LLC
- Andy Moore
*DKS Contracting, Inc.,
dba Bugle Contracting, Inc.*
- Julie Velmer
Turpeinen Brothers, Inc.
- Gavin Casperson
Whitens Kiln & Lumber Co. Inc.
- Chad Knepp
*Craig Bissland, dba Bissland
Enterprises*
- Scott Kohlhoff
Devereaux Samill, Inc.
- Ted Wilcox
Handrich Trucking, Inc.
- Mike Kimbler
Newberry Wood Enterprises
- Nathan Orcutt
John Nowakowski Sawmill
- Douglas Kimber
Superior Country Wood Truss, Inc.
- Chris Skiera
E.H. Tulgestka & Sons, Inc.
- John Smith
Welch Land & Timber, Inc.
- Dennis Goldi
Zellar Excavating & Sons, Inc.
- Paul Finkel
American Arbor, LLC
- Oscar Lopez
Atwood Forest Products, Inc.
- Benjamin Antonio
Central Michigan Hardwoods, Inc.
- Brian Hills
Elder's Forest Products, Inc.
- Shane Peterson
K & K Forest Products, LLC
- Matt Vanzee
Maple Rapids Lumber Mill, Inc.
- Nicholas Kamps
Michigan Pallet/Buskirk Logistics

\$500,000 TO BE RETURNED TO MEMBERS

MATSIF has been authorized to return \$500,000 of surplus to the membership. This refund will be processed in mid-May and be returned to both current and cancelled members of the fund. Over the years, MATSIF has refunded to members over 34% of collected premium.



Board of Trustees Incumbents Elected to another Two-Year Term

Three Board of Trustee incumbents; Jim Carey, Kurt Bisballe and Rich Newill were all reelected to another two-year term on the Board of Trustees. They will join fellow board members Luke Brogger, and Andrew Jaroche. Thank you to all the trustees who volunteer their time to uphold the fiduciary responsibilities and to develop sound policies and procedures for the fund.

WELCOME

New MATSIF Members

- Timber ! Tree Care,
LLC, Sanford
- Maple Transport, Inc.,
Hessel
- Cleeves Premium
Lumber Company,
Comins
- Upland Logging,
LLC, Rock



Spring Training | by Rick Dessellier

In the middle of February, I attended ArborCON in Lansing. I couldn't consider it to be winter as there was no snow on the ground there. ArborCON is a three-day event that arborists attend to acquire their yearly training credit hours. As an arborist, I am talking specifically about tree climbers. Arbor Con is not the only training venue, there are others in the state that carry the same qualifications. Not all the classes are for credits. Some are techniques for climbing, new gear review, a myriad of equipment to make the tree trimming business safer and more productive, along with climbing, and chainsaw competitions.

As a group they work hard at safety and professionalism. This is at the forefront of the show; training to keep the industry safe, professional, and insurable.

Recently, we completed our MATSIF/MAT convention at Boyne Mountain. Along with presenting safety awards, MATSIF presented a very informative SFI class. MAT presented some SFI classes as well.

All the classes provided an abundant source of knowledge with emphasis on training our members. Along with classes there were demonstrations, and the presence of equipment vendors. I spend time with the equipment people learning about the new safety features and guarding that they have installed on some of the machinery. A lot of the upgrades on the equipment involve making maintenance and repairs safer. For instance, central greasing, gull-wing hoods to stand on, and pumps for adding oil and fuel. This prevents employees having to climb all over the machinery and risk a fall incident. I try and keep current with these improvements so I know what can be accomplished in a safe and productive manner.

I have also attended some first aid/CPR training with members. Partially to see who is attending and to be supportive and informed. I usually speak at these classes to

add some of my own spin on MIOSHA rules about first aid. I would like to add that all woods workers need to be first aid trained. Also, take the time and check out your first aid kits that should be in all work vehicles. You know, that rusty white box you always heel-kick back under the seat or bury in the back of your vehicle somewhere. Go through them and make sure that everything that is in the Part 51 Standard is in the box. You should also carry a blanket in your work vehicle. Why I keep referring to the work vehicle is they are almost always on-site. I have seen work trailers miles away from the actual work site. MIOSHA might consider that trailer as not being on-site. Along with this, how about a good simple emergency action plan? Where is the nearest hospital? What is the best route to get there? Who should I call in an emergency? Discuss this with your employees and go over the plan with every new jobsite.

Do you know if any of your employees are allergic to bee stings? If they carry an epinephrine pen, where is it located? How about insulin for diabetics or meds for employees who present heart issues on the job?

Springtime is a good time for training that is offered for the wood products industry. I will be presenting or attending several more in the next few weeks.

Let's take the time to get trained and get our employees trained. Get all those projects on the equipment done: handholds, steps, broken cab glass, fire extinguishers. What improvements can you make for the upcoming season? Replace broken or worn-out tools, and properly label containers for hauling fluids from bulk storage. You see, there is a lot we can do to improve our safety. MATSIF has developed some self-inspection lists for the industry. You can obtain a copy from your loss control representative or contact us, and we will be glad to walk through your business with you. As always, Think Safety!

Don't Separate Fingers and Hands

by Mike Kline

Every year we start off talking about what types of injuries we saw, how severe they were and what body parts did we see the most injuries with. Every year the body parts most affected are fingers and hands. Now we usually have a corny joke about how we separate fingers and hands, but we don't recommend that you do, but for the purposes of this article I am going to refer to them as just hands.

First, we must look at why we see so many injuries to hands. It should come as no surprise to anyone that the reason that numbers are so high is the simple fact that our hands are involved in literally everything we do. This is the reason that it is so important to pay attention and protect our hands. We tend to take for granted all the things that we use our hands for and don't realize it until something happens and we can no longer do the things we once did. The easiest way to cut down on hand injuries is simply slowing down and paying attention to where we are placing our hands.

Lately I have seen quite a few hand injuries and a few of them have had some very serious consequences. In the past six months there have been 3 separate injuries to hands with the same type of band saw. One of the injuries was simply placing hands where they don't belong and trying to remove a piece of stuck material without shutting the saw off. When the individual grabbed the object the saw blade pulled his hand into the saw severely cutting across the back of his hand. This very easily could have been avoided by simply shutting the saw off. The other two injuries happened at the same facility. The first one almost resulted in the amputation of a hand but was caused by a material failure. However, this caused the company to look at the design of the saw and make some modifications to keep operators' hands away from the blade. It didn't take long for employees to figure out ways around these modifications to make their job easier. One of the things was to put material down to stand on so they could reach farther until the material moved causing the operator to lose his balance and their thumb came into contact with the blade. Fortunately, this injury was minor and only required a few stitches, but it could have been a lot worse.

So that was the bad injuries and those are typically what get the most attention, but we also need to pay attention to the minor injuries because they could turn severe rapidly. There was an individual working in a mill making repairs and one of the tools that he was using is probably the most



common tool amongst all of us, the trusty pocket knife. In the process of this job a hand slipped, and he ended up poking himself with the tip of the knife. Not a big deal, just a poke and barely any blood and no big gash, so he did what we all would do and that is continue working. This happened on a Monday and even though it started to become inflamed nothing was said until Wednesday when the pain became so intense the individual couldn't stand it anymore. When sent to the hospital it was found that the infection had spread from the wound and into the tendons. This caused the individual to spend two nights in the hospital. If this minor injury had been addressed when it started to get bad it is very possible that it could have been corrected with only oral antibiotics instead of a hospital stay.

Hands will most likely always be at the top of the list when we talk about what body parts are injured the most just due to the simple fact that they are involved in everything but that doesn't mean that we can't bring the number down. It is concerning to me when I start to see the number of injuries rise especially if that are closely related and involve the same body parts. The best thing we can do to lower the number of injuries is just slow down, do things the correct way without shortcuts and pay attention to where you are placing your hands. I will leave you with one simple thought that you have probably seen on a sign or sticker we hand out and that is, "fingers take a lifetime to grow, forget about safety and off they go!"



MATSIF Attends ArborCON | by Brian LeBoeuf

The MATSIF Loss Control staff attends a few trades shows a year. These trade shows are for a few purposes. Talking with people in our service industries lets Loss Control Representatives learn about industry trends. We also take the opportunity to discuss the benefits of MATSIF with potential members.

In February this year, Rick Dessellier, Mike Kline, and I attended ArborCON in Lansing. The International Society of Arborists Michigan presents this trade show. ISA Michigan promotes arboriculture in Michigan. ArborCON is an annual show held each February. This year the show was held at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. MATSIF has been attending this event for the last seven years.

One of the main objectives is training. During the show, classes are continually happening, allowing the Arborists to keep their annual training current. ISA hosts group speakers and events to keep company owners and arborists informed of industry changes.

The center of the Lansing Center is a large area, and this is the vendor area for ArborCON. This area can hold not only the booths but large pieces of equipment as well. Being February, having the equipment in a warm place makes it much more comfortable for the vendor to showcase the equipment and for the participants to view it.

We met with many of our current MATSIF members at ArborCON. Many non-members visited our booth and inquired about the MATSIF program. The benefits of MATSIF



should encourage them to become members soon.

The events around the show were well attended. Monday night, a welcome reception was held at the Radisson Hotel. On Tuesday night, the Detroit Mulch Company had a vendor reception at studio 414, just a short walk from the Lansing Center. This was a great networking event. There was a good spread of food. After eating, party games like table pong, Jenga, and Connect Four were available to play by the attendees.

This year's ArborCon was a great show. It was informative for the members attending and valuable for the vendors to reach out to their clients. If you are an Arborist and are not familiar with ArborCON or the ISA Michigan, I recommend checking out their website at asm-isa.org and plan on joining us for next year's ArborCON.



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- Annual Convention Recap
- MATSIF To Distribute Refund
- Second Quarter Winners

TREES

Our Renewable Resource

Be sure to check out our updated website!

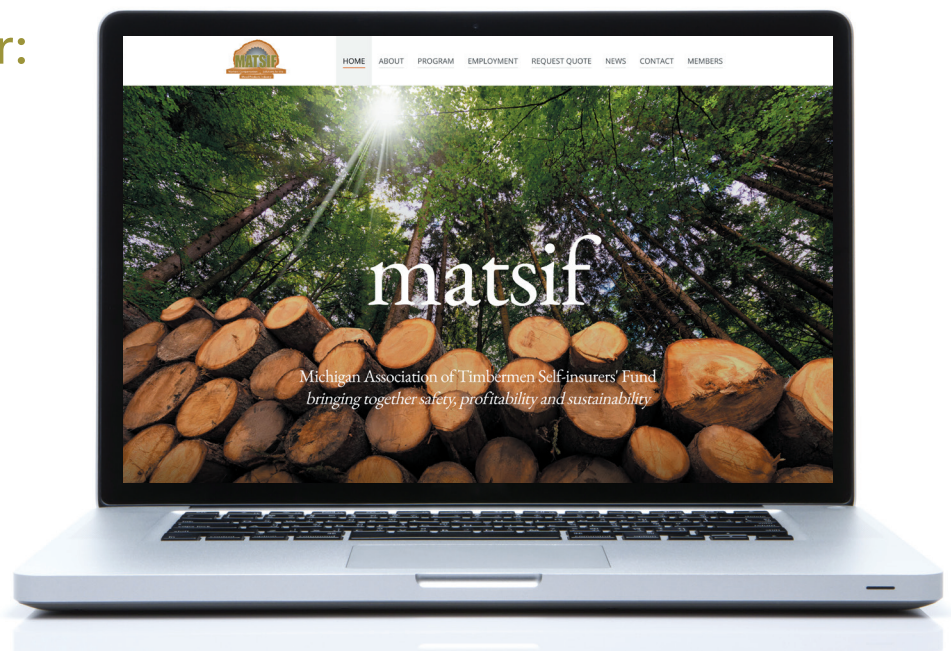
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