

# matsif

## SAFETY LOG

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## 49th Annual Timbermen Convention | by Jackie Schummer

The 49th Annual Timbermen Convention was held on April 25-27th at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, MI. MATSIF's part in this Convention included the presentation of a Thursday afternoon seminar, and the hosting of the Thursday evening banquet. The Thursday afternoon seminar was something a little out of the usual safety-related topic we would normally present. This year's session was presented by Charles

Marshall, who is a motivational speaker, comedian, and author of several books. His presentation called, *If You Want to Lead You Need a Coach*, was filled with lots of humor, but the motivational message came through loud and clear. It was a fun and informative session that was enjoyed by the 60+ people in attendance.

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# 49th Annual Timbermen Convention *continued*



**TOP ROW:** GREG & KYLE HARMON, HARMON LOGGING, INC., 10 YR. AWARD; THE LOW FAMILY RECEIVING THEIR 35 YR. AWARD **2ND ROW:** ALLEN & ADAM BRADLEY, ALLEN BRADLEY INTERIORS, 10 YR. AWARD; BECKY & KEVIN JOHNSON, CUTTING EDGE FORESTRY, 10 YR. AWARD **3RD ROW:** COREY YODER, YODER FOREST PRODUCTS, 35 YR. AWARD; CHRIS TULGESTKA & MIKE HUMMEL, 10 YR. AWARD; WARREN SUCHOVSKY, SUCHOVSKY LOGGING, 10 YR. AWARD.

Thursday evening, we recognized and presented awards to members who have remained accident free for at least 10 consecutive years and then for every additional 5 years accident-free. This year, 19 companies achieved this status, and seven of them were at the convention to receive their awards. This is an accomplishment that doesn't come easy.

It requires a daily focus on the safety and well-being of each employee, recognizing the surrounding hazards of the day-to-day operation and remaining vigilant in that task. All our 2023 Safety Award recipients are featured in this year's Annual Report. Congratulations to all these outstanding members!

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# 49th Annual Timbermen Convention *continued*



**TOP ROW:** THE CAREY FAMILY **2ND ROW:** JEFFREY ROOT, JIM & DEB CAREY AND GRANDCHILDREN; BARB BENNETT PRESENTING PLAQUE TO JIM CAREY; BARB BENNETT, JOHN DOYLE, CATHY PILON, RICHARD STRINGER, & DICK WOS. **3RD ROW:** CHARTER MEMBERS DICK BEAVER, MARVIN CHARD AND JOANN BUSCH; REPRESENTATIVES OF MATSIF'S 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS.

We also celebrated MATSIF's 50th year anniversary with a look back at our beginnings, honored some charter members who were instrumental in starting it all, and recognized Jim Carey for his 33 years of service to MATSIF as a Trustee and Chairman. Jim is our longest running board member and chairman, and it was truly a bittersweet goodbye. Change

is inevitable, but it is never easy. We thank everyone who attended, especially the three charter members who made the trip to be with us. It was a fun time that ended with Charlie MacIntosh auctioning off a set of cornhole boards that were designed with the MATSIF and MAT logos. The proceeds from this auction went to the Warren Suchovsky Scholarship Fund.

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# 49th Annual Timbermen Convention *continued*



**TOP ROW:** MATSIF STAFF; JACKIE SCHUMMER, FUND ADMINISTRATOR **2ND ROW:** THE SHAMION FAMILY RECEIVING EXCELLENCE IN LOGGING AWARD **3RD ROW:** CHARLIE MCINTOSH & RICK DESSELLIER AUCTION CORNHOLE BOARDS; MATSIF FIELD REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday was filled with several informative seminars and ended with the MAT Annual Awards banquet presented by Forest/Loggers/Mauck Insurance Agencies. This banquet included presentations for the Warren Suchovsky Scholarship, Logger of the Year, Excellence in Trucking, Excellence in Manufacturing, Legislator of The Year, and The Distinguished Service Award winners. We congratulate all of the award recipients. The evening ended with raffle drawings,

silent auctions, and an ice cream social.

It was another great convention with over 300 people in attendance. If you haven't attended one of these conventions, you should think about joining us next year. A lot of good information and ideas are exchanged during this two-day event. The industry needs to come together every chance they get to work on solutions to the many issues facing us today.

# THINK SAFETY

## 2024 Second Chance 2nd Quarter Winners

- Pat Moore  
*Blaze Timmins Forestry, Inc.*
- Stephen Stanton  
*DKS Contracting, Inc., dba Bugle Contracting, Inc.*
- Kelly Fredrickson  
*Collins Brothers Sawmill, Inc.*
- Glen Miller, Jr.  
*Dog Logging*
- Kurt Alto  
*Mark Honkala Logging, Inc.*
- Sharon Kent  
*R D Kent Trucking, Inc.*
- David Randall  
*Lumberjack Hardwoods, Inc.*
- Nick O'Connell  
*John & Arthur Penegor, Inc.*
- Dodge Isaacson  
*Shamco Lumber, Inc.*
- Gerrett Glazier  
*Bunker & Sons Sawmill, LLC*
- Chris Yaw  
*Devereaux Samill, Inc.*
- Chris Steinke  
*Domrase Forest Products, LLC*
- Chad Marble  
*Handrich Trucking, Inc.*
- Jarrett St. Onge  
*Maples Sawmill, Inc.*
- Casey Palmer  
*Paris North Hardwood Lumber Co., Inc., dba Silver Leaf Sawmill*
- Steven Foucart  
*Stephan Wood Products, Inc.*
- David Brock  
*Superior Country WD Truss, Inc.*
- Zach Eddy  
*Thunder Bay Tree Service, LLC*
- Rob Thomas  
*Allwood Building Components*
- Mark Bode  
*Bisballe Forest Products, Inc.*
- Joseph Case  
*Cant Knot Pallet, Inc.*
- Collin Weber  
*Central Michigan Hardwoods, Inc.*
- Jared Seibt  
*Delta Packaging International, Inc.*
- Roland Shields  
*DT Fowler Manufacturing Company, Inc.*
- Tim Knoper  
*Michigan Pallet, Inc.*
- Mike Christie  
*Midwest Tractor & Equipment Co., Inc.*
- Dan McDonald  
*Weber Brothers Sawmill, Inc.*

## MATSIF Returns Surplus Refund

MATSIF received approval from the Workers' Compensation Agency to return \$850,000 of surplus, and checks went out to members during the second week of May. This refund, combined with the one in December, adds up to \$2,743,000 of surplus and interest returned. This is one of the largest combined annual refunds that MATSIF has distributed in recent years. We have always said that MATSIF is your partner in profitability. These refunds are a great return on your investment.

## First Aid/CPR Training Conducted



MATSIF sponsored several First Aid Training Sessions throughout the state during the week of March 13th. Over 100 people attended these training sessions and have now fulfilled their MIOSHA required certification renewals. MATSIF will continue to offer these training sessions to members at least once per year. Let the office know if we can help with your training needs.

## WELCOME

### New MATSIF Members

- Jackson Logging  
*Ontonagon*
- AJD Forest Products  
*Grayling*
- Young Bugg Trucking  
*Lachine*
- Tuscola Logging  
*Grand Rapids*



# 101 Critical Days of Summer | by Mike Kline



We have not had a very hard winter, but we are starting to see the first really warm temperatures of summer. With Memorial Day this weekend, it is officially the beginning of fun in the sun and all of the warm weather activities we all love, whatever they may be. Typically, when we sit down and write an article for the Safety

Log, it has something to do with changing requirements or regulations, or some work place that needs attention, but not this time. While I am still going to talk about safety, I am going to fall back on some of my military roots.

During the period of time from Memorial Day through Labor Day is what we called The 101 Critical days of summer. During this time there is always a rise in off-duty incidents and fatalities involving automobiles and sports and recreation. You are all used to our loss control staff stopping by your companies and job sites and providing guidance to keep everyone safe, but I would like to focus this time on keeping you safe outside of work so that you can continue working and supporting your family. A lot of us are guilty of this, and I admit I am one of them. We put a lot of focus on safety while on the job, but when we get home we tend to not focus as much on it.

Let's start with safety behind the wheel, both on the road and on the trail. Buckle up and be sure that your passengers do as well. There are a lot more people driving during this time of year and accidents are more likely to occur. Also, while driving your car, be patient with other drivers and

construction zones. I do not know if you have noticed, but there is a little bit of construction going across the state. It is going to take a little longer to get to you destination, so plan accordingly. Lastly, ensure that whatever you are driving is mechanically sound before you take off whether it is hitting the road for a road trip or getting on the trail to enjoy the many miles of back country this state provides.

Another benefit of this great state is the endless miles of beaches and coast lines, but beware, while the water can keep you cool on those hot days it comes with its own set of safety hazards. You should research potential safety hazards for the places you are going such as rip tides and drop offs, and know local boating laws. Additionally, while you may feel cool, be cautious of sun exposure. It is important to wear sunscreen and clothing to protect you from the sun's rays.

Just like when you are at the beach, it is imperative to protect against heat exposure and other hazards when hanging outdoors with family and friends. As always, stay hydrated, and during peak sun hours, seek shade. If partaking in strenuous activities, take frequent breaks. It is perfectly fine to go out and have a good time, but it is just as important to ensure that you are taking care of yourselves.

This is a time of year to be outside with friends and family and enjoy the many opportunities that summer offers, but you need to be aware of the hazards that are there as well. You all do a great job of creating great safety cultures among coworkers, but I want to ensure that you are all taking this frame of mind home and practicing it there as well. I wish you all a happy, fun and safe summer and encourage everyone to go outside and enjoy the great outdoors.

# MATSIF Staffing Changes

by Jackie Schummer



We will soon be saying goodbye to Missy Olivier, a 33-year employee of MATSIF. How do you begin to thank someone who has given so many years to one employer? Missy started with MATSIF at a young age and has worked her way through the ranks to become our Accounting Assistant. We will find it difficult to replace her passionate, caring personality, and her love for MATSIF and the wood products' industry. She has been a dedicated employee who always stepped up to get the job done and did it with the utmost attention to detail. We are a family here at MATSIF, and this is a bittersweet time for all of us. Many thanks to Missy for the years of service to MATSIF. We wish her much happiness as she begins a new chapter in her book of life.



Jessie Maeder will be moving up to fulfill the duties that Missy leaves behind. Jessie has worked for MATSIF for two years and is currently fulfilling the duties of Loss Control Secretary. Congratulations goes to Jessie on her promotion to Accounting Assistant.



Emily Golat, Accountant, will also be leaving us soon. Thank you, Emily, for the outstanding work done for MATSIF during your time with us. We are in the process of looking for a replacement for Emily. Please see our website under Employment for specifics of this position.

## Changes to the MATSIF Board

### RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEE

by Jackie Schummer



Rich Newill, Board of Trustees member, resigned his position on the board effective May 9, 2024. Rich served on the board since 2021. Rich was a passionate and dedicated member of the board, an excellent spokesperson for the industry, and a strong believer in the benefits of the MATSIF program. We extend our gratitude and thanks for Rich's service to MATSIF. We wish him all the best in his retirement years.



The Board of Trustees appointed Austin Gilmet to fill the remaining term left by Rich Newill. Austin comes to us from Thunder Bay Tree Service, LLC located in Alpena Michigan. This is a family-owned company that has been in the tree removal business for over 30 years. We welcome Austin to his new position, and we know he will be a great addition to our board.



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## SAFETY LOG inside this issue:

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- MATSIF To Distribute Refund
- Second Quarter Winners

# TREES


Our Renewable Resource

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