

MLEP TREELINE

Volume 20, Issue 1

www.mlep.org

January 2022



Act Now!

- Work-Comp Report & Rebate – Due Feb 15 – Forms here: bit.ly/LoggerRebate
- Renew your MLEP Membership – see page 3
- Subscribe to the eTREELINE bit.ly/eTREELINE



Heard Elsewhere:

- Rick Horton named Executive VP of Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) bit.ly/HortonMFI
- Ray Higgins named Executive VP of Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA) bit.ly/HigginsTPA
- Mike Forsman named Executive Director of Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers (ACLT) bit.ly/ForsmanACLT
- 2022 SFI Standards bit.ly/SFI2022

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Kimball Logging Inc. Named Outstanding Logger

The award was presented to **Kelly Kimball** at the FRA Lake States Region Annual Meeting in December.

In accepting the award, Kelly Kimball recognized his wife Shelly, and sons Justin and Zach, both of whom work on the **Kimball's Logging** crew. In addition, Kimball thanked all the company's hardworking employees for his success in the logging business. Earlier in the year, Kimball's Logging was also recognized as the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Logger of the Year. Read more at: bit.ly/KimballMLEP

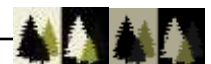


MLEP Trainings & Conferences Set for 2022

MLEP will be providing Safety Training (aka LogSafe or CPR/First-Aid & OSHA) under contract with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (MNDOL or DOLI) for all loggers. All classes will soon be available for registration online at www.mlep.org.

MLEP will host two annual Logger Conferences in April. The **Bemidji Logger Conference** will be held at the Sanford Center on April 26 and 27 with Safety Training Tuesday and MLEP credit on Wednesday. Our **Grand Rapids Conference** will be at Timberlake Lodge on April 28 and 29 with MLEP courses on Thursday and Safety (CPR/First Aid or OSHA) on Friday. The Grand Rapids Conference is scheduled to allow those who are interested to stick around and participate in ACLT's event held at the same venue on Friday evening. Both conferences will include vendor interaction opportunities.

Additional specialized 4-hour Safety/OSHA (LogSafe) courses are in the works. Look for these and other new/refreshed courses in field and shop settings.



Logger Training FAQs

The questions below are legitimate and it is important to understand the answers. All training is not created equal and it is important to understand your training choices.

1. **Why Should We Bother with Training?** Certification is the big deal. Consumers of wood, paper and other products have demanded that we “prove” we are producing our products in a sustainable manner. That “proof” comes from third party certification programs. There are several certification programs out there, but the one that drives training requirements is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program. SFI has been around for more than 25 years. Most mills and many of the public land bases in Minnesota are certified under SFI. The big difference between SFI and other programs is its commitment to grassroots governance of the program. To this end, SFI has State Implementation Committees (SICs) that control much of what is required at a state level under the program umbrella. Additionally, SFI recognized that education and outreach is one of the primary methods that will promote active sustainable forest management on the ground. One of the core ideas in the SFI program is the use of Qualified Logging Professionals who are trained to do the right thing for the forest on the ground using Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other sound practices. To define who is a Qualified Logging Professional, the State Implementation Committees must establish the criteria and identify the delivery mechanisms for logger training courses that address specific concepts related to sustainable forestry, safety, and other issues. Mills certified to SFI Fiber Sourcing are required to source wood from trained loggers.
2. **Minnesota State Implementation Committee Approved Training – What does this mean for you?** Minnesota Logger Education Program serves as the clearing-house and central repository for all training logger training records and Qualified Logging Professional (QLP) designations in Minnesota. Most trainings are coordinated through MLEP. Outside organizations can submit their course to the SIC for approval and following approval may forward their attendance records to MLEP for recording.
 - a. The MN SIC Training Standard indicates that a business owner and/or crew member(s) who “has direct responsibility and is onsite regularly to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the qualified logging professional” must attend:
 - b. Safety Training: Twelve (12) hours of safety training every two years (must meet the DOLI Safety Training aka “LogSafe” program requirements)
 - i. 8 hours CPR/First Aid training
 - ii. 4 hours Safety training (OSHA)
 - c. Continuing Education: Six (6) hours of MLEP training every year through conferences, workshops, and/or online trainings on any accepted continuing education topic.
3. **Why do you have to take training every year?** Annual training is what many SICs, including the MN SIC, have developed to answer SFI’s requirement of continuing education to promote continual improvement in forest operations and in the professionalism of wood producers. LogSafe training in Minnesota is a function of the Minnesota’s statutory requirements administered through the Department of Labor and Industry with specific requirements for training in a two-year period.
4. **Why can’t you just take whatever training you want to take?** You can take whatever training you wish to take. You don’t “have to” take any training. If you harvest only on private land and only sell firewood, you may not be required to take any training. If you wish to bid on state and SFI certified county sales, you will need to meet the MN SIC training requirements as part of the process. If you wish to sell wood to a SFI certified mill, you will also likely have to meet the MN SIC training requirements. If you would like to participate in the Workers Compensation Insurance Rebate Program you will have specific training to complete. Your training needs are based on your customer requirements or the contractual obligations you must meet for a sale. Not taking the “right” training could impact your ability to do business. Ultimately it is your choice to decide what training, if any, you need to take.

MLEP will continue to offer a variety of training options and topics throughout the state. We hope that the training we offer will provide key topics that are interesting and needed so that you take more than the bare minimum required. Education and training are excellent opportunities to improve your understanding and can open doors to additional opportunities. Contact us if you have any questions about whether the training you want to take will meet requirements.



David Nolle Selected as Executive Director

As Executive Director of the Minnesota Logger Education Program, Dave Nolle coordinates the overall administration of MLEP's work to assist logging business owners in meeting ever-changing demands of their profession.

Dave's exposure to education, forestry, training, and business started as a Scout in Missouri and continues here, in Minnesota. As a teen he began teaching First Aid, Safety, Forestry, Environmental Science, Personal Management, and dozens of other Merit Badges to his peers. Fast forward a few years and a few states, following a successful career as in leadership training and administration with the Boy Scouts of America, Dave has returned to family's agricultural roots to lead MLEP efforts to promote the forest products industry.

As a "hand's on" leader, Dave is as comfortable in-the-field with members on a jobsite as he is navigating the intricacies of QuickBooks or a Continuing Education Classroom. He experiments with social media and new software as he tries to adapt to the ever-changing business environment.

Dave received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Missouri and Non-Profit Administration miniMBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Dave lives in the Northland with his partner Amy and four children.



Renewal & Re-application Notices

Members in good standing are receiving renewal notices (invoices) printed on colored paper. Be sure to help us keep our database current by completing the colored form and updating your employee roster by striking those who no longer work for you and adding those who are new.

Dismissed/Lapsed members from recent years are receiving an application to re-apply. We would love to have you back as part of MLEP. Simply a) complete and return your colored form and an updated employee roster. Unless you completed CPR/First-Aid in 2021, plan on registering for an upcoming course or send us a copy of your outside training certification. If you have CPR/First-Aid from 2021, then plan to register for a Safety/OSHA class. Primary Contacts and Qualified Logging Professionals (QLPs) will want to complete the eFMG course. bit.ly/MLEPeFMG

Associate Member renewals have been sent along with information about placing an advertisement in the [Minnesota Forest Resource Management Directory](#).

Quinquennial (5-years) Logger Survey Coming

Just before conference time logging operation owners will receive a survey that is being conducted to better understand the status of the logging industry in Minnesota. Your input is vital and will be used to help ensure a strong future for the logging industry in Minnesota. We strongly encourage you to complete and return the survey.

Please be assured that all survey information will be kept confidential, and no information will be released that can be linked to you. The survey is being conducted by the University of Minnesota in conjunction with Minnesota Logger Education Program and other industry stakeholders. A "double-blind" process will be used to ensure respondents are only known by survey code.

Your participation in this survey is highly encouraged. When complete, a report summarizing the results of the study will be available at www.mlep.org.



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*Setting the Standard in
Logging Professionalism*

www.mlep.org

Find us on Facebook at:
[mnloggereducationprogram](https://www.facebook.com/mnloggereducationprogram)

Upcoming Events

March

22 – Rochester (OSHA Only)

April

5 – Virginia/Tower (CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

12 – Cloquet (OSHA)

13 – Cloquet (CPR/First Aid)

19 – Brainerd (CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

26 – Bemidji (CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

27 – Bemidji (MLEP Conference)

28 – Grand Rapids (MLEP Conference)

29 – Grand Rapids (CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

May

3 – Baudette (CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

4 – I Falls ((CPR/First Aid & OSHA)

5 – Two Harbors (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)

*Dates subject to change

*All events require advance registration
at www.mlep.org

* Watch online and in the *eTREELINE* for
added offerings

- 2022 MLEP Board of Directors –

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MN Timber Producers Assoc.