

Facts of the Week

Week of 21 April

- ❖ Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director, Denny Olson, GLTPA and MAT Director and I presented testimony on behalf of MAT and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association before the Senate Transportation Committee regarding House Bill 5695. This bill would allow the use of crib type vehicles to transport logs or pulpwood without any chains or binders for securement. The securement of the logs and pulpwood is built into the crib vehicles. This would eliminate the enforcement of two vehicle codes by motor carrier; currently they enforce Michigan Vehicle Code, which basically mimics the Federal Code and Federal Code. Once this bill is passed Motor Carrier will only be enforcing the Federal Code. This would also reduce the potential for injury to log truck drivers who haul with crib vehicles as they will not have mess with chains.
- ❖ We had our Annual Convention at Boyne Mountain and a good time was had by all those who attended. I would like to thank all attendees for your support of this year's convention. I believe we discuss the possibility of holding the convention at Boyne Mountain when we visit the Lower Peninsula. I would like to thank our sponsors.

Association Sponsors:

- Platinum Sponsor - JDE Equipment
- Gold Sponsor - Ponsse North America
- Silver Sponsor - Duthler Truck Center/Western Star
- Bronze Sponsor - Reid Supply / Reid Safety Supply
- Bronze Sponsor - Morbark, Inc.
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Project and Convention Sponsors

- Forest Insurance Center Employee Benefits Division
- MAT-SIF
- Fabco Equipment Company
- Transport Trailers
- Maples Sawmill
- Louisiana Pacific Corporation
- Scaffidi Trucks/Great Lakes Manufacturing
- Weyerhaeuser Corporation

We would also like to congratulate this year's award winners:

- **Excellence in Logging Award** to Minimum Impact Logging
- **Excellence in Trucking** to Roger Bazuin & Sons
- **Excellence in Manufacturing** to McCormick Sawmills
- **Friend of the Timbermen** award to Tom Kalchik MSU Products Center, Blaine and Carrie Hyska and Theresa Peterson of The Daily News of Iron Mountain
- **Legislator of the Year** to Representative Tom Casperson
- **Distinguished Service Award** to Denny Olson of Denny Olson Trucking

Jess Bircher Scholarship Winners

- Ryan Matelski, affiliated with Matelski Lumber Co
- Krystie Rantanen, affiliated with Hamill Trucking
- Joseph Klitzke, affiliated with Ernie Klitzke
- Chelsey Smith, affiliated with Manistique Saw and Planing
- Matthew Janke, affiliated with Mark Janke, Consulting.

This year a challenge was laid before MAT Director Denny Olson to raise funds for our PAC Fund. The challenge was to go down one of the water slides; unfortunately Denny was still suffering from a respiratory infection. We did find a replacement, Representative Tom Casperson. Rep. Casperson gratuitously agreed to fill in for Denny and went down not one but two waterslides. I am happy to say we raised \$6,575 for our PAC Fund. Thank you to all who contributed and to Rep. Casperson for sliding for a good cause. Look for pictures in our next TimberTalk. Again, thanks to those who attended this year's convention and we look forward to seeing all of you next year in the Soo.

- ❖ The MAT Board of Director Officers are: Warren Suchovsky, President; Al Rush, Vice President; Jim Maeder, Secretary/Treasurer; Denny Olson, Region 1 Chair; Brian Nelson, Region 2 Chair; Roger Carroll, Region 3 Chair; John Binegar, Region 4 Chair; the rest of the board is Don Peterson, Stan Zellar, Jr., Rich Brow, Bruce Hamill, Tony Furlich, Jerome Miller, John Fowler, Vincent Strouse.

Week of 28 April

- ❖ Attended a Nortrax Demo Days at Denny Olson Trucking. This was a nice opportunity to meet with some MAT members and discuss some of their concerns.
- ❖ Attended the Chippewa County Road Commission meeting with MAT members Rudy Johnson, Russ Nelson and Chad Radke to discuss our concerns over the weight restrictions that placed on County Rd H-40 from the Chippewa County line to the Trout Lake Wood Yard. We were informed this road is built to Class A specifications and that there was a period of about 3 year where there were no restrictions placed on this road. I feel we had a productive meeting with the Road Commission and they will be discussing this further and we tentatively agreed to meet in about a month.
- ❖ Representative Gary McDowell had a meeting in Eckerman and MAT members Rudy Johnson, MAT Director Bruce Hamill and I attended this meeting. We discussed ideas to help fight the high diesel prices and we also touched on our meeting with the Chippewa Road Commission.

Upcoming Events

Legislative Meetings	06 May	Lansing MI
NRC Meeting	08 May	Lansing MI