

BETWEEN BRANCHES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.

FACTORY EXPANSIONS

UPTIME
IS EVERYTHING



575
DEMO

718G FIRST
IMPRESSIONS

GETTING MUDDY
with CEDAR HILL SERVICES

MECHANIZATION
IN MEXICO

Tigercat[®]

BETWEEN THE BRANCHES

ISSUE 53 OCTOBER 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Product News | 4 |
| First Impressions: 718G | 10 |
| Uptime is Everything | 14 |
| Screw Piles | 20 |
| Cedar Hill Services | 22 |
| 575 Operator Feedback | 26 |
| It's a Small World | 28 |
| Mechanization in Mexico | 30 |
| Dealer News | 35 |
| From the Field | 36 |
| Production News..... | 40 |
| Tigercat Life | 42 |

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say?*

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FROM THE *Editor*

Ten months into the pandemic, I think we have all seen examples of ingenuity and adaptation that have allowed life to carry on with some degree of normality. At Tigercat, we have realized that it is possible to build, sell, and service heavy-duty equipment amid strict protocols, travel bans and closed borders. A critical success factor has been the ability to adapt to alternate means of communication and connection quickly. This has enabled the factory to stay well connected with the dealer network and the end-user base. Every brand needs a strong dealer network in the best of times, and Tigercat is proud of the way our network has performed in the worst of times.

Another critical factor is that Tigercat already had many boots on the ground in the form of local field personnel in most forestry regions on earth. Our field staff have been our eyes, ears and hands, a primary point of contact connecting the factory to the dealer network and customer base.

The fires in Oregon and California, similar to those that devastated Australia earlier this year, are beyond tragic. The loss of life, the destruction of homes, life-threatening air quality, and the

wasted fibre resource are too much to comprehend. We wish to acknowledge those that have suffered loss and also to recognize those who have been involved with firefighting and rescue efforts. There are people within our industry well positioned to contribute to efforts to reduce the occurrence and intensity of these tragic events through innovative approaches to forest management. We hope that legislators and regulators will provide the space to allow our industry to help.

In this issue José Carlos Rocha Filho, Latin Equipment Norte, has contributed an article, exploring the mechanization of a teak harvesting operation in southern Mexico. The teak plantations form the basis of an environmentally sustainable business model that is a direct replacement for unsustainable and outdated models elsewhere in the world. And our new feature, *From the Field*, provides industry-related happenings from around the world, told from the perspective of Tigercat field personnel.

In Oklahoma, Chris Gibson talks about the 632H skidder and how he affected aspects of the machine's design. Richard Dougharty in Texas tells us his impressions of the

718G feller buncher, and Jimmie McKinney relates the evolution of his Arkansas-based logging business.

Chris McMillan reports on how the 880D carrier is saving time and cost on a massive power infrastructure project in central Canada. And speaking of projects, find out about the exciting expansion initiatives occurring at the Tigercat factories. Owner and CEO Ken MacDonald has committed to investing in tooling and expanded manufacturing capacity in the middle of a global recession so that the company is well-positioned to satisfy future demand.

– Paul Iarocci

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AND
DEALER DEVELOPMENT

TIGERCAT RELEASES H-SERIES SKIDDERS



Tigercat H-series skidders introduce a new, larger cab while improving serviceability, reliability, and efficiency. The new skidder line includes the release of the 620H, 630H, and 632H four-wheel models, as well as the 625H and 635H six-wheel models.

The redesigned operator station provides 20% more cab space than the previous E-series design. Window area has increased by 19% offering superior forward and rear visibility. Additional low side windows allow for better sightlines to all tires.

A new and improved Turnaround® system lets the operator rotate the seat 220°. Effortless pushbutton controls lock and unlock the seat in any position in the range. The

operator has full control of all machine functions, including drive controls. The 220° seat rotation improves operator range of visibility and allows the operator to easily exit either side of the cab.

A durable, heavy-duty air ride suspension seat with heating and cooling keeps the operator comfortable all day long. The seat cushion is wider and the seat is fully adjustable with angle and extension adjustment. A secure five-

point harness comes standard for improved safety.

A completely redesigned HVAC system provides more air vents, infinitely variable fan speed, and an automatic defrost option. A ventilated cup holder with adjustable airflow keeps your drink hot or cold. Dedicated storage locations are set aside with space for a lunch box, along with hooks for a hard hat and jacket.



The operator's station includes a large LCD touchscreen display. A tire pressure monitoring system now comes standard on all models. The interior finish has been substantially upgraded. Interior walls are trimmed with moulded plastic and the lower areas are covered with tough removable steel panels, making cleaning and service access a breeze. On the floor, you will find an easy-clean rubber floor mat with checkered aluminium plate at high wear areas for added durability.

All machine controls are now located on the joystick pods and armrests, rotating with the seat and operator. In addition to the drive speed control pedal, the

operator can also control speed using a trigger on the joystick. A cruise control button maintains the position of the drive speed control commanded by the operator, freeing up the operator's foot or left-hand trigger finger, which is particularly useful on long drags. Independent front and rear differential lock buttons are also easily accessible on the joystick.

All H-series skidders feature load-sensing hydraulics with larger, more efficient valves. Hydraulic tank capacity has increased 20% for improved steep slope performance, along with improved level detection and a more robust mounting system. The 620H and 630H are now equipped with larger arch

and boom cylinders. The 625H is equipped with larger arch and boom cylinders, along with larger steer and dozer cylinders – all to improve performance and maximize productivity.

Engine enclosure doors are reinforced to resist impacts. T-style compression latches ensure they stay securely closed. ■



To learn more, watch the H-series skidders walk-around video on Tigercat TV:

www.tigercat.com/video/h-series



865 LOGGER

PROTOTYPE

A sneak peak at the prototype 865 logger.

A purpose-built logger, the Tigercat 865 will offer many advantages over excavator conversions, including better service access, stronger swing torque and superior operator visibility. The Tigercat FPT N67 engine delivers 165 kW (221 hp) at 1,900 rpm.

The 865 logger can be configured as a loader with boom options for various grapple types, or as a high capacity processor, capable of

running large harvesting heads in demanding duty cycles. Dual swing drives will provide ample torque and speed for high-performance loading or processing.

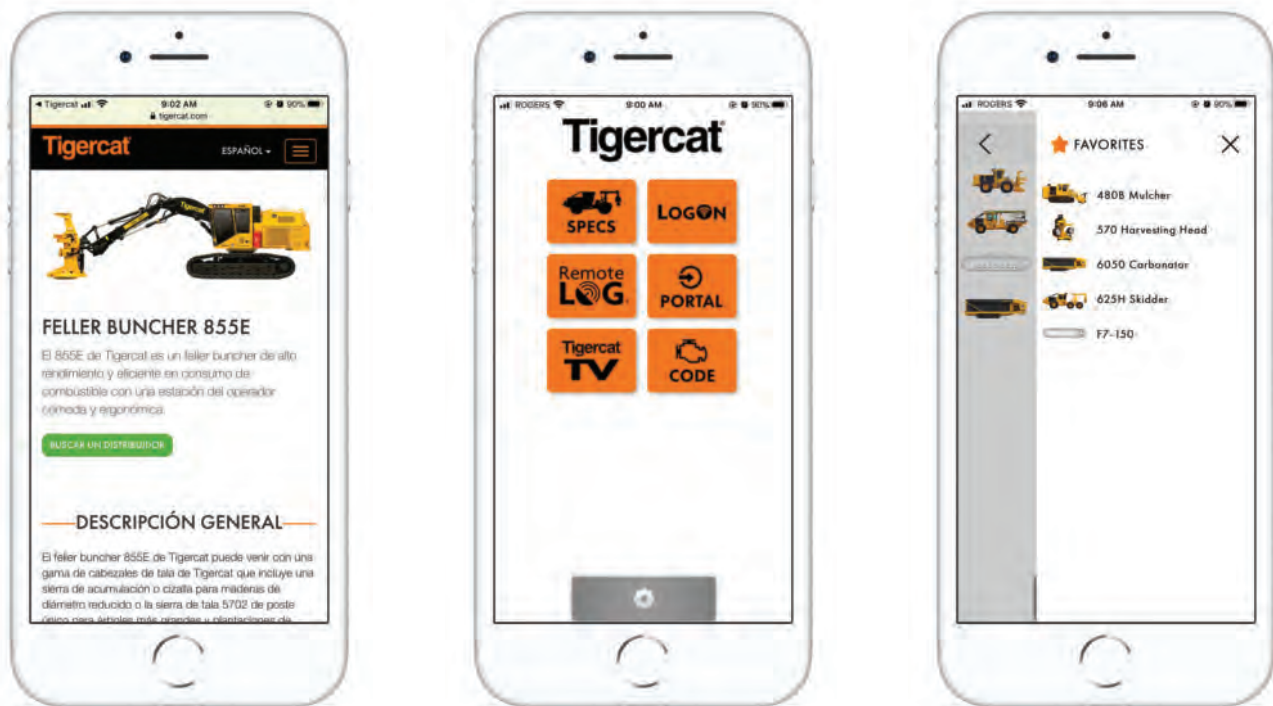
Service access has been carefully thought out with the ability to step down into the centre of the machine for clear, unobstructed access to the engine and daily service points. Large enclosure doors and a spring assist side service platform provide a large, stable work area for performing maintenance on hydraulic components and changing

filters. A large cast counterweight provides excellent stability with a swing-out door that allows access to the engine from the rear of the machine.

The rear entry elevated cab, full-length front window, and additional floor windows provide superior visibility with clear sightlines. LED lighting and the rearVIEW camera system further augment operator visibility. Stay tuned. ■

TIGERCAT RELEASES MULTI-LINGUAL APP VERSION 2.2

Tigercat is excited to announce the launch of App version 2.2, now with multi-lingual capability, customizable features, and an upgraded user experience.



Now multi-lingual

This version of the Tigercat App has multi-lingual capability with applicable machine specifications available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Swedish.

Convenient in-language links take you from the App product page to tigercat.com for more product information and related resources.

Upgraded user experience

The user experience has been improved. Data updates are much quicker and entirely user-controlled. The interface is cleaner and easier to navigate. Dealer and customer login credentials for password protected areas such as the Dealer Portal and RemoteLog® are stored and remembered for easy access.

Customizable features

When viewing machine specifications, not only can you select your language of choice, you can now customize text size and filter by current machine models or all models. You can also bookmark your favourite products for quick reference.

Make sure you have the latest Tigercat information at your fingertips. Visit your app store today. ■

REMOTELOG IMPROVEMENTS

Tigercat has released a new RemoteLog® portal with several enhancements.

New diagnostics dashboard

Mobile users may now easily review machine fault codes grouped in cards and colour coded by severity. Office personnel may view fault codes in an easy to sort and filter list. A single click brings up technical information for any fault code. The easily accessible engine troubleshoot guide gets you the answer you need quickly.

New machine summary report

A new one-stop machine summary report is now being sent to you weekly. It contains data that matters to your business such as operating time, production metrics, total fuel consumption, fuel rates, engine hours, machine utilization, and summary of fault codes.

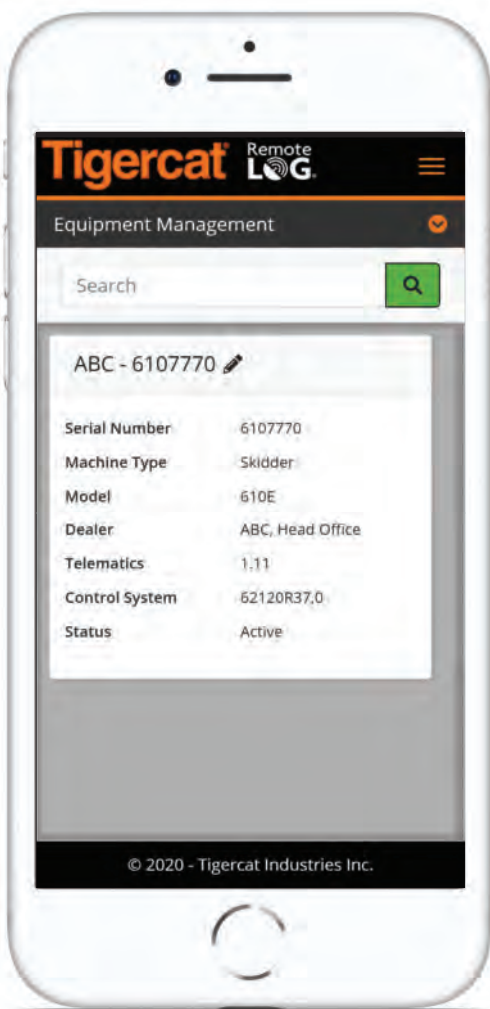


Production summary.



Enhanced machine management

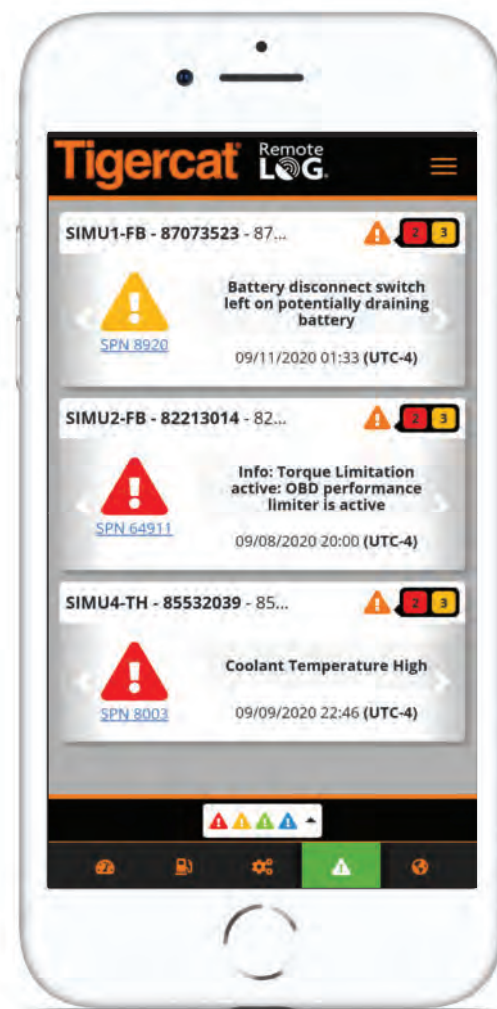
Easily access the control software version running on the machine. Get at the telematics firmware version to see if it needs to be updated. Quickly find your primary dealer contact.



Equipment management dashboard.

New production metrics

Track how much you are producing with your machines. Mulchers now reporting mulched land area to give you a sense of their productivity. Harvesters and processors report production volumes and stem counts while forwarders report number of loads. ■



Fault codes are grouped in cards and colour coded by severity level.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
718G FELLER BUNCHER



Richard Dougharty is a third-generation logger from Newton, Texas. He has been working in the woods for 35 years. Fifteen years ago, he became sole proprietor of Dougharty Logging, taking the business over from his father. As of early September, Richard's new 718G feller buncher had acquired 1,630 operating hours. BTB talked to Richard to get his take on the machine.



Richard Dougharty, owner of Dougharty Logging.

BTB: Can you describe your current operations?

Richard: We do mostly first thinning. We do some second thinning but our current operation is first thinning. We've been on this site for a little over a month now.

BTB: Is the 718G replacing an older machine or is it a new addition?

Richard: This machine is replacing an older machine, a 720G I had. Prior to the 720G, we had a 2470 Hydro-Ax. That is pretty much all I had ever run until we swapped to Tigercat.

BTB: How does the 718G compare to the 720G feller buncher?

Richard: Well, it's early yet, but it's comparable. I like the fact that the 718G is a quicker machine, and the ride in the machine isn't much different than the 720G. I'm definitely going to see a decrease in fuel consumption, which is always good. This machine is a lot better for the wetter ground. There is less weight on the ground, so I'm not getting stuck like I was with a bigger machine. I'm very pleased with the way the machine is operating. Everything is a positive at this point.

BTB: How have you found the manoeuvrability of this machine over the 720G?

Richard: It is more agile. It's a little quicker of a machine. But as far as manoeuvrability in first thinning, you're not having to manoeuvre the machine as much. Production in bigger stands of timber should go up because we're able to get around a lot faster. We're cutting more trees versus trying to get into a spot. So yeah, very pleased with the way it gets around, very much so.

BTB: Has your productivity changed at all since purchasing this machine?

Richard: My productivity hasn't really changed much. My expenses

Richard finds the 718G well suited to the ground conditions he is working in.



Limb risers decrease the amount of debris that gets stuck behind the cabin. According to Richard, "They're effective."



718G feller buncher first thinning in Texas.

have gone down due to reduced fuel consumption, but productivity has stayed right where I need it to be.

BTB: What features on the 718G make your job easier as an operator?

Richard: The touchscreen on the operating system. The gauges are a lot more accessible and you can see the information a lot better. Having the backup camera helps in some cases – it's there if you need it. I also like the feature where you can fuel the machine up from the ground.

BTB: Do you use the saw interrupt feature?

Richard: The time that I did use it, was just to see how it would work in spongier ground. It does allow the machine to put more power to your drive function. It's not a feature that I've used a lot, but it's definitely a plus to be there if you need it.

Tigercat's new saw interrupt feature temporarily cuts power to the saw when activated. This frees

up extra engine power to be used elsewhere. The saw interrupt feature is intended to put additional power to the ground in steeper terrain, for instance when the operator is backing uphill to dump an accumulated load.

BTB: Do you like the electric hydraulic oil fill?

Richard: Oh, yes. Anything that cuts down on your workout is better. I kind of felt neglected because the skidders have had that feature for a little while. So, I'm glad we moved up to skidder status anyway.

BTB: The 718G has programmable joystick buttons. Have you set customized functions on your joystick?

Richard: No. Having come from a Tigercat machine, pretty much everything was set up the way we're used to. It is good to have that option because some machines are a little bit different, so it's a great

feature. But just for us, everything was already set up the way we are used to it.

BTB: Do you find the limb risers on the back of the cab effective?

Richard: Oh, yes. They're effective. It's amazing. That stuff would get in places where you don't want it. They serve a good purpose.

New to the 718G is the limb risers behind the cab. The idea is for the cables to decrease the amount of debris that accumulates on the engine enclosure behind the cab.

BTB: Your machine is equipped with telematics. Do you use it?

Richard: I have used it. I'm still getting familiar with it. The main thing that I keep up with is fuel consumption. If there is an issue with a machine, it's easy to pull it up and see what's going on, so it's a definite positive. And it will be even better once I learn how to use everything.



More cutting and less machine travel. The 5600 bunching saw allows more trees to be stored before stopping to dump the accumulated bunch.

BTB: Which aspects of the 718G are most important to you?

Richard: Well one of the absolute favourite features of Tigercat is saw recovery. I've ran a lot of different cutters and Tigercat definitely has the fastest recovery time. And the interior of the cab – there are a lot of nice features in there. I'm very pleased with the cab.

BTB: What is it that you like about the cab?

Richard: I really love the larger screen size and the touchscreen. The heated and cooled seat is a nice feature as well. It's got a good radio system that works really well. I like the window shades. When you are cutting into the sun, they're very helpful. The shade in the top of the machine is also very helpful. It cuts a lot of heat down out of the cab in the summertime.

BTB: How is your relationship with your

Tigercat dealer, Tejas Equipment?

Richard: My salesman out of Tejas is Jimmy Rawls. I've bought three machines from him. And he's been great. He follows up after the sale. He doesn't just sell them and you never hear from him again. Jay Kenesson runs the store there at Hillister. He's been very good to me. He checks in from time to time, asking me if I have any needs, or any questions. It's been a great working relationship.

BTB: Anything else that you want to add?

Richard: I've run a lot of different machinery and Tigercat equipment, to me, has probably been the best machinery I've ever run. I don't see myself ever buying anything else. The Tigercats have just been too good. ■



Watch the 718G in action on Tigercat TV:

www.tigercat.com/718g-video

CUSTOMER

Richard Dougharty
Dougharty Logging

DEALER

Tejas, Hillister location

SALESMAN

Jimmy Rawls

MACHINE HOURS

1,630 in early September

APPLICATION

First thinning

LOCATION

Newton, Texas area

ATTACHMENT

5600 bunching saw

GROUND CONDITIONS

Soft and spongy

Uptime *is* EVERYTHING

AT CHRIS GIBSON LOGGING LLC

– Bre Elbourn



As of mid-September, the first H-series skidder ever built has acquired 965 hours. Between the Branches catches up with Chris Gibson Logging LLC to see how the machine is performing.

The prototype 632H skidder can be found on the job site of Chris Gibson Logging LLC. The machine is tucked in the southeastern part of Oklahoma, working near Broken Bow, in McCurtain County. Owner Chris Gibson is a progressive logger who strives to stay ahead of the pack. With only a single skidder on the

job, productivity and uptime are of the utmost importance.

Over the years as a Tigercat customer, Chris has forged a great working relationship with the Tigercat skidder team and has had some involvement both in the initial development of the 632 model and in the redesign of the

H-series skidder operator's cab. In fact, it was after some time spent at Gibson's logging operations that Jeremy Piercy, skidder product manager, started planning the design of the 632 platform. A few years later, Chris purchased the prototype 632H, the very first H-series skidder ever built.

McCurtain County, Oklahoma

Oklahoma is defined by more than 12 million acres (4,8 million hectares) of forestland, with its timber industry located in eighteen eastern counties. McCurtain County itself is surrounded by pine forests and is abundant in wildlife. It is no surprise that agriculture and forestry dominate the economy in the county. The Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area is just north of Broken Bow, with 450,000 acres (182 000 hectares) of land owned by Weyerhaeuser. “We’re 100% clear-cutting loblolly pine for Weyerhaeuser,” Chris tells us.

The city of Broken Bow sits between the Ouachita Mountains and the Red River basin. The basin consists

of flat and fertile agricultural land. Chris explains that the 632H is primarily working on flat ground, “It’s about half soft and gets a little rockier when you move into the hilly terrain.”

“THERE IS A LOT MORE UPTIME WHERE WE’RE WORKING WITH THE MACHINE AND NOT ON THEM.”

– Chris Gibson, owner of
Chris Gibson Logging LLC

Tigercat dealer Smith Equipment serves the area. Gibson’s sales

specialist is Jeff Reynolds. “Support is great. I mean, hands down they treat me very, very well,” Gibson proclaims.

Operations

Chris Gibson is a fourth-generation logger. He owns Chris Gibson Logging LLC, Chris Gibson Trucking LLC and Chris Gibson Truck Repair LLC. Having come from a long line of loggers, Chris has the backing of generations of knowledge and applies this to maximizing efficiency in his operations. He has sixteen employees working in the forest, with the team split between three logging crews. Chris’ wife Jasmine manages two office administration staff. “There are a total of three that work in the office, my wife and two other



Loaders are mounted on trucks for quick and easy mobility.



The H-series machines have made it easier to upkeep common wear areas. Chris Gibson appreciates the interchangeable grapple tips.

ladies. My wife manages my whole office. Separately, there are three mechanics that work in my shop that take care of my trucks and the equipment,” Chris explains. Chris Gibson Trucking LLC is made up of seventeen employees and the company does all of the hauling and repairs, giving Chris full control over operations from the stump to the mill.

Developing the 632

When the LX830 model advanced to the D-series, Chris’ dealer Smith Equipment brought him to tour the Tigercat plants in southern Ontario. Chris explains that he wanted “to make sure that the LX830D was what I wanted before I bought it.” He had just bought his first John Deere 948L skidder and when the tour group made its way over to the skidder plant at Savage Drive in Cambridge, Jeremy and Chris got talking about his new machine. The 630 was Tigercat’s highest capacity

four-wheel skidder at that time, and Jeremy was eager to see how the 630E compared to the biggest of the competitive models in a high production Oklahoma application.

“THE 632H WILL GET A BIGGER DRAG THAN OUR PREVIOUS MACHINE.”

– Chris Lacefield, 632H skidder operator,
Chris Gibson Logging LLC

Jeremy and Shawn Pette, vice president, tree length systems, headed down to Oklahoma to demo a 630E skidder on Gibson’s operations. The visit highlighted to Jeremy that Chris had a unique way of looking at a logging operation, and that he was the kind of logger that was successfully pushing the limits. This got Jeremy thinking

about what Tigercat could do to help loggers like Chris continue to become more efficient and ultimately more successful in the woods. The next logical step in the skidder offering was to create a 630 sized machine that was capable of moving more wood, more efficiently, and without compromising reliability.

The visit with Chris helped guide the Tigercat drivetrain and skidder engineering groups in creating a higher capacity rear axle, new hydraulic systems and ultimately the 632E that was launched at Demo International 2016 in BC.

Fast forward a few years from the launch of the 632E. It became clear that the next area that needed attention on the skidder product line was the operator’s cab. During the early design stages, Chris was heavily involved in suggesting improvements to the E-series cabs, working back and forth with Jeremy



and Mansour Moshiri, skidder design engineer. Chris explains, “I gave a lot of feedback on what the operator needs for comfort. They wanted to make the most operator-friendly cab.” In Gibson’s eyes, “The main thing that machine needed was more cab room – more room for the things that you bring to work with you every day. For example, your lunch box, your hard hat, your coat and your cell phone. There has to be an area for all of those items because they are going to be in there every day with you.”

Operator Chris Lacefield, has been logging for 21 years and is the sole operator of the 632H. When asked how he felt about the new cab, Chris tells us, “I really like it. It’s a lot better than the old cabs, I guarantee you. You’ve got more room. That sure helps out a lot.”

Cab improvements

A number of improvements have been made to the H-series cabs to accommodate the operator and improve ergonomics. Chris affirms that compared to competing models, “The cab is better all-around for visibility and space. It has also got a few more controls on it and extra features and functions that other machines do not have.”

A cruise control button has been added to the joysticks and is getting plenty of use. “I use that cruise control quite a bit,” Chris Lacefield tells us, “And the trigger [on the back of the joystick] that you run the travel speed with, I use it quite a bit too. You can just sit back and you don’t have to move your feet. You just run that trigger and go.”

The skidder seat has been completely redesigned and is fully adjustable. With the new 220° Turnaround® system, operators can rotate and lock the seat in whatever

position is most comfortable within the rotation range. Chris tells us, “It’s really comfortable. And being able to lock the seat in any position makes it more convenient for your body.” Chris explains how every operator is different. “Some people may be taller, some may be shorter. Some positions may not work for every person that runs it. You can lock it to where it is most comfortable for the one running it.”

Chris Lacefield tells us that this ability to lock the seat in any position makes a big difference in operating and that he is less fatigued at the end of the day. For the most part, he is operating with the seat positioned, “kind of sideways. Most of the time I don’t even have to turn the seat around backwards because you can see so well out of it. I just sit in one spot and work it like that.”

Seat adjustments are much more customizable. “With the pull of

“EVERYTHING WE SUGGESTED, EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE ASKED FOR, JEREMY DID IT.”

– Chris Gibson

a lever, you can adjust areas in any way that you want to. It’s a lot better than the old seats,” tells Chris Lacefield.

19% more window area provides improved lines of sight, meaning operators are not turning their necks, leaning forward or shifting position as much to check blind areas – all these seemingly insignificant, quick motions that when repeated over and over again add up to increased strain and fatigue. Chris Lacefield tells us, “Before, you couldn’t really see the ground by the back tire unless you

leaned forward to look. Now, you can sit back in the seat and look out and see the ground.”

In the hottest months of summer, temperatures in Oklahoma average over 93°F (34°C). The H-series skidders have seen significant improvements to the HVAC system and increased cooling capacity. Chris Lacefield notes that the added vents are efficient in keeping the cab cool in the hot summer months. “Most of the time I don’t run it on high and it keeps you good and cool in there.” The cab also comes equipped with a climate-controlled

cup holder further enhancing operator comfort. “It’ll keep your drink cool all day and you don’t have to worry about it,” Chris Lacefield explains.

When asked about his thoughts on the new cab, Chris responds, “I think it’s top of the line right now in the market. Everything we suggested, everything that everyone asked for, Jeremy did it.”

Uptime is everything

Chris Gibson Logging LLC runs three logging crews, and the 632H skidder is dragging solo on a



Chris toured the Tigercat factories before deciding to purchase the LX830D model.



L-R: Heinz Pfeifer, Tigercat district manager; Chris Gibson, owner of Chris Gibson Logging LLC; Jeff Reynolds, Smith Equipment sales specialist.

typical four machine system with a buncher, skidder and two loaders – one for sorting and delimbing and a second for loading trucks. Working a one-skidder show, production and uptime are everything. “If that skidder goes down, then my whole operation goes down,” says Chris.

The logging crew sets up the sites so that the skidders only have to skid short distances, further contributing to high production. With only one skidder on the job, the machine has to be continually pulling to feed the delimiters. Instead of skidding long distances, Chris will move the decking area to keep the delimiter always working. Chris explains that “the loaders are mounted on trucks for quick and easy mobility.”

Serviceability on the H-series machines has also been greatly

improved. Mechanics can perform maintenance routines a little more quickly compared to previous models, which in turn reduces downtime. “It’s a little easier maintenance on the H-series machine. You’re able to service it now from the ground. My mechanics don’t have to climb up on it as much,” Chris explains. “And some of the new features and panels make it easier to access service areas. It makes maintenance a little faster and a little easier. There is a lot more uptime where we’re working with the machine and not on them.”

Quicker on the ground

With the 632H being quicker on the ground, along with the ability to pull bigger drags, the logging crew is seeing a slight increase in

production. “The 632H will get a bigger drag than our previous machine,” Chris Lacefield explains. “Our previous machine we thought was pretty nice when it first came out, but I like that Tigercat more. It’s a lot faster on the functions and ground speed – and the seat is a lot easier to turn around. It rides better too. It’s a lot smoother. It will pass our previous machine, and with a bigger drag too.”

While Chris Gibson played a big part in the improvements to the H-series cabs, he was not the only one. Countless conversations and feedback from customers all over the world went into the design process. The new cab is another example of Tigercat’s goal to clearly understand and then meet and exceed the needs of the customer base. ■

TIGERCAT CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS



Tigercat 880D is configured for more efficient foundation pile installations.

– Chris McMillan

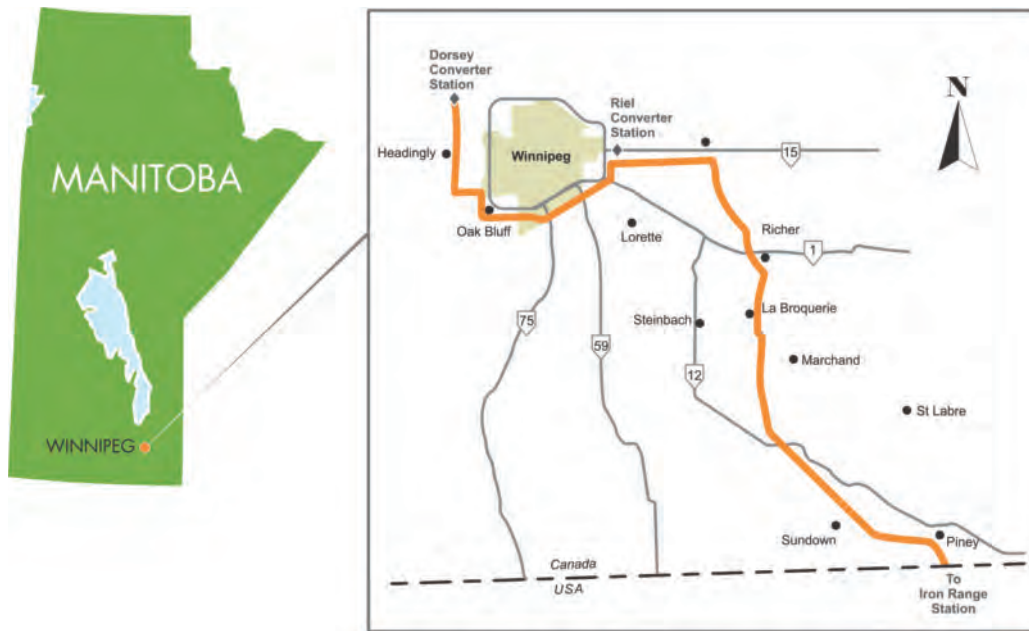
In February of 2020, BTB visited Valard Foundations in Winnipeg to see its 880D loader equipped with a screw pile attachment being used to install foundation piles for Manitoba Hydro towers. The brisk -35°C (-31°F) weather didn't deter crews from surveying and drilling helical piles for the hydro towers being installed near La Broquerie, Manitoba. The installations are part of the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project which will see a 500 kV transmission line installed from the Dorsey

Converter station near Winnipeg to the US border in southeastern Manitoba. The line will connect to the Northern Transmission line at the border and continue to the Iron Range station, northwest of Duluth.

The crews are using a Tigercat 880D, equipped with a Digga UD300 anchor drive attachment, capable of applying over 305 000 Nm (225,000 ft-lb) of application torque to the pile. Valard fabricates the 13 m (43 ft) piles which are attached

to the anchor drive head and screwed into the frozen ground.

The boom geometry of the 880D along with the position of the cab gives the operator excellent visibility on all sides of the machine. Compared to an excavator, the 880D can handle longer piles without modifications. Expensive hydraulic modifications are also required for excavators, where the 880D is easily adapted. Screw pile function controls are pre-loaded and can be selected in the machine's electronic control system.



The Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project will connect the Dorsey Converter station to the Iron Ridge station.

Valard acquired the first 880D in the summer of 2018 and then a second in the fall of 2019. Both machines are equipped with the same anchor drive attachment and are working within a few kilometres of each other.

Wajax Winnipeg branch manager Ken MacWilliam feels that the 880D will increase in popularity

with utility contractors. “Other than the increased hydraulic flow, the advantage is that the 47-tonne excavators can handle the 9 metre [30 ft] screw piles, but with the boom and stick configuration of our 880Ds, we have the capability of installing 15 metre [50 ft] screw piles. This greatly increases the machine utilization and

productivity in regards to the hydro tower installations across the province,” says MacWilliam. ■



Visit www.tigercat.com/screw-pile to see the 880D screw pile machine in action.





GETTING **MUDDY** *with* CEDAR HILL SERVICES

On a wet and rainy February day in Arkansas, BTB and Tigercat district manager Heinz Pfeifer visited Jimmie McKinney, owner of Cedar Hill Services to learn about his business and his machines, a 234B loader, 724G feller buncher and 625E skidder.

– Bre Elbourn

Meet Jimmie McKinney, a logger from Warren, Arkansas and owner of Cedar Hill Services. When he's not out logging, Jimmie spends his spare time roping calves in the rodeo, shoeing horses, or hanging with his lovely wife Tina and their "artillery of grandkids," Diesel, Axel, Cannon and Steele. With a knack for coming up with nicknames, Jimmie McKinney is a southern cowboy who treats his customers' land as if it were his own. He strives to own the best and most efficient equipment and he takes pride in leaving the land he has worked in finer condition than before the machines rolled through.

Bradley County, Arkansas

The state of Arkansas is home to nearly twelve billion trees covering over nineteen million acres (seven million hectares) – about 56%

of the state. Of this, 41% is oak and hickory, 31% pine and other conifers, 10% is mixed stands of oak and pine, and about 16% is bottomland hardwood in forested wetlands (2018 Forest Survey, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station). The majority of these forests are privately owned and managed.

**"I TELL PEOPLE THEY
BETTER NOT MESS
WITH ME. I'VE GOT A
WHOLE ARTILLERY OF
GRANDCHILDREN!"**

– Tina McKinney

Cedar Hill Services operates out of Warren in Bradley County. Jimmie deals with MidSouth Forestry

Equipment sales specialist, Mark Pennington and general manager, Jeff Rains. Along with the Warren location, MidSouth has a second facility in Caddo Valley, allowing the company to readily serve Arkansas and north Louisiana. Tigercat district manager, Heinz Pfeifer has overseen this territory, as well as the states of Oklahoma and Texas, since 1998.

First generation logger

Unlike many of the customers I have had the opportunity to meet, I was surprised to learn that Jimmie is a first generation logger. "I've been in the business for twenty-something years now." Cedar Hill Services is named after a single cedar tree that sits on a hill in front of Jimmie and Tina's home. As Tina explains, "We didn't want to confine our name to just logging and we decided services would allow for

Jimmie McKinney with his son Justin and wife Tina.



**"WE PULLED ALMOST
80,000 TONS LAST YEAR
WITH TWO SKIDDERS AND
THIS YEAR WE'RE A LITTLE
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
WITH JUST THE 625E
SKIDDER."**

– Jimmie McKinney, owner of Cedar Hill Services



Cedar Hill Services replaced two four-wheel skidders with the 625E. So far this year the company is ahead of schedule with just the one skidder.

other operations such as road building and maintenance.”

Cedar Hill Services started out logging with smaller machines, cutting for property owners that were reluctant to have larger machines on their property. Jimmie’s original fleet of machines included a feller buncher, a loader and a custom-made (by Jimmie) Massey Ferguson logging tractor.

As the company grew, the private management tracts were not enough to support the business so Jimmie went on to bigger tracts, which meant bigger machines. Jimmie explains that, “You just can’t produce with small machines anymore. You’ve got to be set up where you can work all year round and with the smaller equipment you can’t do that.” Today, Cedar Hill Services employs five operators

and six truck drivers. Jimmie’s son Justin operates machines, does all of the welding touchups and supervises the site when his father is not around.

Year-round logging

Working year round at Cedar Hill Services means bearing extremely hot and humid summer temperatures and mild, wet winters. Soft winter soil conditions dictate a fair amount of machine flotation. Jimmie’s 625E skidder is fitted with 30.5 dual tires on the front and 28L duals on the back. The 724G feller buncher is equipped with 73x44-32 tires on all four corners.

The company currently contracts to Sorrells Sawmill out of Holly Springs, Arkansas. Jimmie’s two good friends Rick Reep and Jerry West are the procurement foresters for Sorrells. The crew primarily

cuts plantation timber in the winter months and hardwood in summer, all within an 80 mi (130 km) radius of Warren. Tree size ranges from 6-26 in (15-65 cm) butt diameter. The six-wheel skidder becomes especially advantageous in the winter with the larger sized trees, when the load is heavier and the ground is softer.

Colour change

It was only three years ago, in November 2017, that Cedar Hill Services purchased its first Tigercat machine, a 234B loader. It was the one that changed it all, eventually turning Jimmie’s fleet of machines from green to yellow. Having success with the loader, Cedar Hill Services purchased a Tigercat 724G feller buncher with a 5702 felling saw six months later.



When it comes to the cutter, Jimmie has to admit, “There’s not a whole lot of difference between the 724G and the previous machine we had, but we haven’t had any trouble with the Tigercat machine. It’s almost two years old and I don’t think we’ve done anything to it – might have had to put one injector in it. As far as fuel, the 724G is better.”

Skidder savings

The company’s latest purchase, a 625E skidder, has proven itself to be more than just reliable. The skidder has replaced two four-wheel skidders. “I sold one of them and kept the other for a spare, but we never really use it. We pulled almost 80,000 tons (72 600 t) with two skidders and this year we’re a little ahead of schedule with just the 625E skidder.”

Jimmie has seen significant savings with the six-wheel skidder. “The Tigercat machines, they’re tough machines for one thing and the fuel consumption is awesome. Not very much goes wrong with them. We’re tickled to death with the service from Tigercat and MidSouth. They have been really good to us. Our production has increased considerably with the Tigercats.”

Getting a leg up

Jimmie boasts that the six-wheel skidder is able to work in conditions and areas that his previous machines could not. His crew no longer has to return to any sites in the summer, when the ground is a little harder, to finish cleaning up areas that were previously inaccessible. The ability to stay on one site from start to finish, not only saves the company time and

money, it leaves a better impression on the landowner.

In a county where most land is privately owned, leaving a lasting impression on the landowner can go a long way. “If I pull up on a job and I’ve got bent up, ragged machines with hydraulic oil spilling out, and grease everywhere, the customer is going to think I’m not looking after my equipment,” Jimmie explains. “And if I’m not looking after my equipment, why should the customer think I would look after his land and timber?”

With a fleet of durable and versatile Tigercat machines to get the job done year-round and MidSouth providing parts and service support, Cedar Hill Services won’t be letting a little rain stop them any time soon. ■

575 OPERATOR FEEDBACK *from* AUSTRALIA



The LH822D equipped with the 575 harvesting head.

The updated Tigercat 575 harvesting head equipped with the latest iteration of the Tigercat D5 Optimization control system made its debut in Australia at a series of infield demonstrations in southern New South Wales (NSW) earlier this year. The demonstrations were held at three separate pine fire salvage recovery operations. The 575 is fitted to Tigercat's LH822D harvester, one of the more popular harvester carriers in Australia.

"This was one of the machines destined for AUSTimber 2020 that is now postponed to 2021," states Glen Marley, Tigercat district manager for Australia and New Zealand. "This unit has the shorter 8,2 m (27 ft) boom option for added stability and lift capacity in larger trees.

The machine was working in the Green Hills and Bago State Forest region of southern NSW where approximately 52 000 hectares (128,500 acres) of plantation Radiata pine were lost in the 2020 bushfires.

Phil Turnbull, territory manager for Tigercat dealer Onetrak says, "The 575 head has been performing very well at our recent demonstrations. We received some very positive feedback. Everyone in attendance was very impressed."

Glen Marley concludes, "The feedback from these operators is excellent and gives us great confidence in this head and its suitability for Australian conditions. We are particularly happy with the reliability and performance of the

StanForD end-of-shift production data reporting, including the usual PRI, KTR, and Geo Mapping file transfer and reporting. The reviews we have had for the 575 from local operators are the most positive reports we've had on a demo unit to date, which is very encouraging."



Watch the LH822D/575 bushfire salvage operation on Tigercat TV: www.tigercat.com/lh822d-with-575



Callum Lonergan, P & T Lonergan

It's an excellent head. It took me a couple of hours to get used to the different geometry, and then it felt perfect. The main saw has heaps of torque, and cutting speed through the log was very consistent. The

automatic saw limiter only allows the bar to go out as much as it needs to, so cutting in rocky ground is easy, and stump height can be lower.

Twin tilt cylinders on the tilt frame give it a robust feel, and the head's balance, when it is standing up to cut the next tree, is excellent. Delimbing and twin cylinder knife arm synchronization is good, as it cleaned the logs very well. And the geometry allows the tree to flow effortlessly through the head.

The Tigercat D5 computer was easy to navigate. The end of shift PRI and KTR data file transfer was easy and accurate. The painter system worked exceptionally well and was very easy to adjust.

The combination of the 575 and the LH822D base made the head feel quite light and well balanced. The one-stop shop support for the base and attachment from Onetrak and Tigercat is also a massive advantage.



Lee Worley, G & J Groves Pty Ltd

The Tigercat 575 has plenty of feed power and processing speed. It holds the trees up into the head well, and has plenty of drive motor torque. The Tigercat Autoshift™ three-wheel drive to two-wheel drive

was seamless, and I experienced minimal feed slippage even in heavily limbed trees.

The optimizer was excellent with automatic log selection being quick and faultless. It made operating this head a breeze, and I was noticeably less exhausted at the end of my shift.

The auto-tensioner on both the main saw and top saw

worked very well. Saw torque and power was excellent and fast to cut, especially when felling. The bar lube oiler worked very well and used less oil than my current head.

Through-the-tip hosing was excellent, neat, and made felling more comfortable and quicker, as I wasn't watching for my hoses to get tangled in the lower limbs of the standing trees.

The automatic colour marking system was excellent, especially on felling cuts. The butt marking was clear and worked without fault.

Data reporting was simple, and all the PRI and KTR files made it easy for end-of-day reporting. The calliper calibration was also easy and accurate. Daily servicing was much smoother than what I'm used to, and the grease fittings were accessible and easy to get to, so the end-of-day maintenance was quick. All the guarding and hoses were neat, yet easy to access. Tigercat thought of the operators when they built this head. I would love to operate the 575 full time.



Tyson Edwards, Oldina Logging

It is in a league of its own. The main saw and top saw performed exceptionally with both power and speed on demand. I would have to say they were the best saws I have used. The drive wheels performed well with

good power and manoeuvrability. The knives held and delimbed well. The balance of the head was well thought out with the front knife tilting downwards slightly.

Both the paint marking and bar oil lubrication worked well, with a good-sized 20 L (5.3 US gal) bar lube tank.

The valve bank and hose layout were excellent. You can tell it would be relatively easy for hose changes. I think it would be a great head to work on from a maintenance point of view. I also loved the two head tilt up cylinders, making it stand with ease. The optimizer worked well, and the Tigercat D5 screen was easy to use. I never seemed to have any measuring issues, which was great to see. ■

It's a SMALL WORLD



Remote control model enthusiast faithfully reproduces Tigercat skidder in multi-year spanning labour of love project.

– Chris McMillan

A quick glance at a photo may lead you to believe you are looking at a 630D skidder built at the Tigercat factory. On closer inspection, you will see that it is actually a highly detailed remote control (RC) replica, built in a small shop on Vancouver Island. The craftsman behind this and other models is Reg Clark, owner of RCP's Scale Models and Accessories.

Reg Clark, who once worked as a commercial fisherman on the island, began building remote control models in 2010. His first build was a 1961 Euclid R18 rock truck, modelled after a truck his father owned. Then, because a truck is no fun without something to load it, he built a 955K Caterpillar® loader, another machine his father owned.

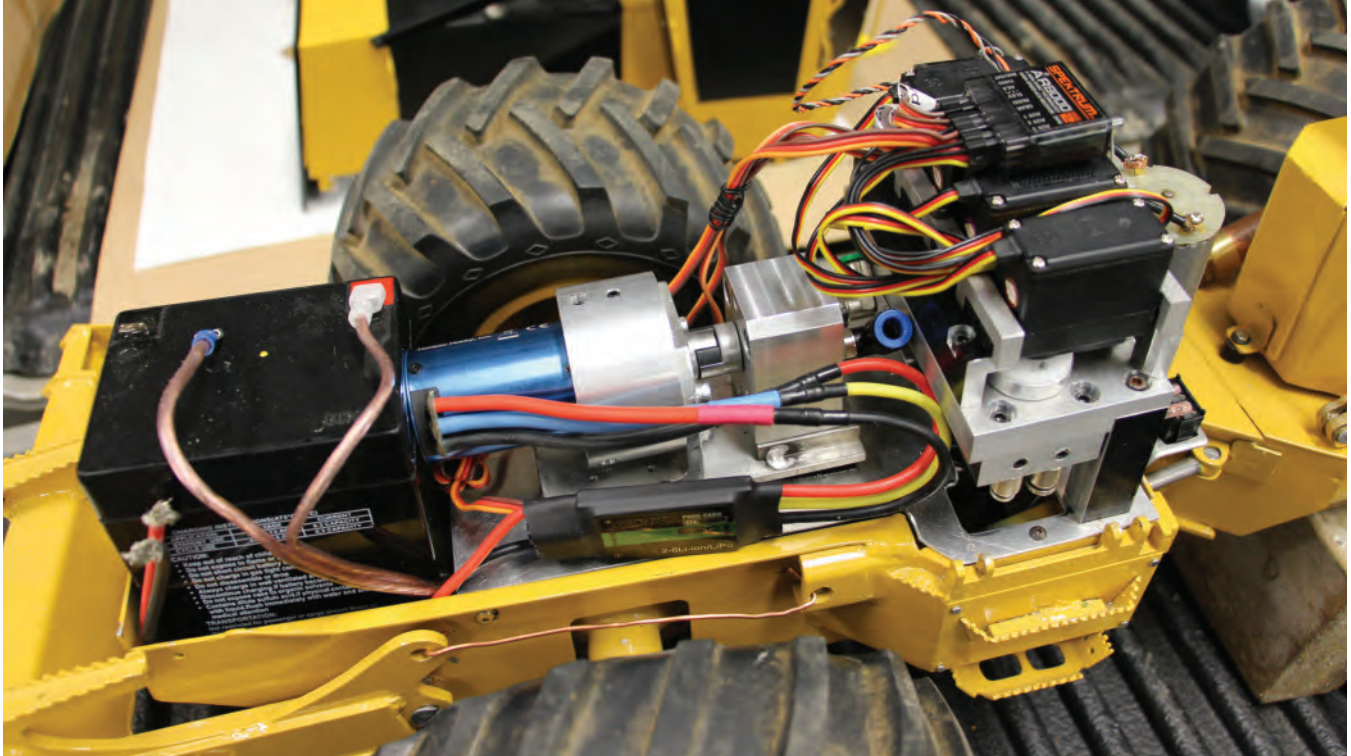
Rather than spend money on expensive RC models, Reg says he preferred to purchase the tools and make his own models. Reg and his wife started by purchasing a milling machine and then a small lathe. His dad had a larger lathe in his workshop that Reg could use for bigger parts. Then, as the hobby grew, Reg added a box and pan brake, a slip roll, and a better TIG welder. "I've pretty much got a hobbyist level machine shop here at my disposal," said Reg.

Why a Tigercat?

After seeing some other remote-control logging equipment videos on YouTube, Reg decided to try his hand at building one. "I really wanted to have a log skidder," he said, so in February 2012 he set out to find some specifications. He

decided to build a Tigercat 630D. "I was intrigued with it since it was new on the market." There was a 630C not far from his home that he used to take overall measurements, but the body and the grapple were quite different so it was a struggle with a few of the scale details.

A while later while Reg and his wife were on vacation in Williams Lake, they passed by the local Inland dealership and a 630D was sitting on the lot. This was a perfect opportunity to get photos and measurements and see some of the details not visible on photos and brochures. The sales staff at the dealership were intrigued by what he was doing, so they gave him some brochures and let him get the information he needed.



The skidder uses electric and hydraulic circuits to control all functions.

Reg's model 630D is built at 1:10 scale and is completely fabricated out of aluminum. It is battery operated and features a moving dozer blade, arch and boom, an opening and closing grapple, and forward and reverse drive with an articulating centre joint. The front and rear axles are driveshaft driven with a ring and pinion differential (made from angle grinder gears). The steering is controlled by a motor mounted in the cab, and the dozer, arch, and boom cylinders are hydraulically controlled. An electric motor powers a small hydraulic pump, which draws fluid from a tank on the rear chassis. A machined manifold with servo-powered valves controls the oil to the cylinders. Reg admits, "My father-in-law helped me with the hydraulic parts." The skidder model weighs 16 kg (35 lb) and is just over 1 m (3 ft) in length.

You might ask how one can purchase one of Reg's models and what do they cost. Well, although Reg's passion is building highly detailed machines and trucks,

he is busy running his business making aluminum dump boxes, dump trailers and accessories for RC construction equipment. Since the models he builds are so involved and take a long time to complete, he does not feel that he could sustain a business selling them alone. "There are tens of thousands of truck kits out there, so the audience is much larger to sell a set of exhaust to, or bumpers or a dump bed, or whatever. I can build something like that in a week or two like a dump kit or trailer and then it's gone," Reg explains.

For a project that takes years of tinkering Reg says he builds it because he wants to, "It's not a money thing." So, when time permits, Reg will work on his next scale model to add to his personal collection of trucks and machines to run in his miniature world. ■

Visit Reg's YouTube channel to watch the 630D and other remote control machines in action:
www.youtube.com/c/RCP57/videos



The boom and arch are controlled by small hydraulic cylinders.

MECHANIZATION IN MEXICO'S NEW FORESTRY FRONTIER



Latin Equipment Norte places Tigercat harvesting system into Mexican teak operation.

– José Carlos Rocha Filho, Latin Equipment Norte

The commercial planting of teak forests in Mexico began in 2000, primarily in the southeastern region of the country. Today, Mexico's teak plantations amount to 30 000 ha (74,000 acres), ranking the country among the top five producers worldwide.

Currently, teak products are best described as a niche of the timber supply chain business, with a total annual trade value amounting to 450 million USD per year. 90% of the total goes straight to the Asian market, with India being the primary importer.

This hardwood is widely known for its quality, beauty, durability, and easy workability compared to other hardwoods. It is used extensively in India for the construction and furniture industries, and there is significant demand from luxury car manufacturers and boat builders.

Teak supply chain

Decades of overharvesting, illegal logging, and mounting public pressure have resulted in a severe reduction in native teak supply from natural forests in South Asia. Extreme deforestation of these natural stands has occurred primarily in countries like India, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand. This, along with the implementation of trade sanctions, have not only served to drive the cost of teak wood higher, but has also led consumers to look for environmentally sustainable

alternative sources. As such, many forestry companies began to grow the species in the subtropical Americas.

Due to the massive size of native teak trees in Asia, operations were typically harvested using a very manual process. Teak forestry management in Central America has been conducted by way of a selective thinning system: a first thinning occurs at the age of three to four years, followed by a second thinning at age six to eight years, a third thinning at ten to twelve years and a final harvest at age eighteen to twenty years. The trees are felled manually using a chainsaw and then extracted to roadside using a small tractor fitted with a rear grab-type attachment.

Yucatán Peninsula

Professional assessment of timber harvesting operations is part of my routine. Every month, we receive requests and provide customized solutions to meet customer demands. In 2018, Latin Equipment Norte, based in Panama, started working closely with different teak growers throughout Central America and Mexico. We initiated the journey with Latin Equipment Norte authorities, Derek Smythe, director, and Gabriel Turturiello, managing director, by visiting the Yucatán Peninsula. After consulting with several forestry companies and contractors involved with teak wood, something caught our attention. We realized there was a lack of consistent management techniques.





Latin Equipment Norte staff and the harvesting team. Mechanization has improved the workers' skill level, while increasing productivity and reducing workplace accidents.

We had heard about some tests in Brazil using harvesting heads, and in Ecuador using feller bunchers,

“WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE OF A TEAK INDUSTRY THAT IS SCALABLE, ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE LIES IN SOUTHERN MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.”

– José Carlos Rocha Filho,
Latin Equipment Norte

but not something that we might have considered consistent in terms of a proper mechanized system.

Our concern was understanding the relationships among the species we were managing, the equipment, conditions, and local culture as well. All of that made us reflect a lot on how purpose-built equipment might support the growing harvesting operations safely, profitably and sustainably.

When I visited the plantations for the first time, the landscape took me straight back to 2015 when I had an opportunity to carry out studies involving forestry machinery in the southern United States. At that time, I worked closely with fleets of drive-to-tree feller bunchers and skidders, and thanks to that previous experience on flat terrain, I had a firm insight that the full-tree system could lend itself well to Mexico's southeastern plantations. On that very same day, I called Ivan Maillet, Tigercat international sales, to brainstorm some ideas.

The right fit

The demand for trading an increasingly large amount of wood to Asia has triggered the need to improve and develop the entire teak supply chain in Mexico's southeast region. Due to labour force shortages and high incidences of workplace accidents, many forestry companies and contractors have been seeking out viable methods to mechanize teak harvesting operations.

Teak logs have significant added value when they are free of deep scratches or damage. Therefore, the equipment chosen should interact appropriately with the felled trees and especially with the remaining stand in the case of thinning. From our perspective, the first challenge was selecting the right equipment capable of carefully felling and handling the trees, and also a machine with a narrow-offset



Among all types of typical plantation species, teak has one of the highest economic values.



José comments, "It is incredible how quickly and precisely the feller buncher can lay wood down."

wheel for seamless transitions between thinning and final felling applications.

Considering the conditions and variables, the 720G drive-to-tree feller buncher was the first model that popped into our minds – a simple and proven machine, easy to operate, highly productive and with low long-term maintenance costs. Because of its relative size and stability, the 720G can both control mature teak trees and manoeuvre with them easily. What more could you expect from a felling machine.

To sum up, we selected the 720G feller buncher and 610E skidder with the aim to optimize productivity and improve worker safety. After a few months running the 720G, we won the trust of those who initially had bet against the success of the project. Once they had the opportunity to watch the equipment in action,

they quickly understood how flawlessly the equipment could work. We knew that as long as the operations remained within defined parameters – namely flat terrain – that the harvesting system would excel.

It is incredible how quickly and precisely the feller buncher can lay wood down. The 5702 felling saw is performing very well. Stem diameters are approaching 50 cm (20 in) with some irregular stem form. The head is accumulating up to four stems per cycle, while demonstrating rapid saw recovery. This is allowing the system to comfortably meet the defined production targets.

The most valuable part of the teak tree is the thicker part of the stem, which is typically at ground level. After understanding the machine's design, functions and daily maintenance, the main challenge

to overcome was training operators to cut as close as possible to the ground, maximizing log recovery.

**"I AM CONFIDENT
THESE MACHINES
WILL BE THE FIRST
OF MANY PIECES
OF PURPOSE-
BUILT FORESTRY
EQUIPMENT TO
COME INTO OUR
TERRITORY."**

– José Carlos Rocha Filho,
Latin Equipment Norte

After a few training sessions, we noticed that operators were achieving outstanding results. We are now carrying out some tests

About *the* Author



José Carlos Rocha Filho is a marketing and commercial manager at Latin Equipment Norte. He holds a bachelor's degree in Forest Engineering from the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, specializing in forestry and agriculture machinery operations at the Southern Illinois University. At Latin Equipment Norte, he is in charge of conducting business development, promoting new opportunities and innovative solutions for the forestry industry throughout Ecuador, Colombia, Caribbean, Central America and Mexico.

José's father was involved in machinery maintenance, exposing José to heavy-duty equipment at a very young age. José's passion has continued ever since.

to find out which types of saw teeth will be the most suitable and resistant for this particular application.

Next steps

Based on our knowledge and experience thus far, we firmly believe that the future of a teak industry that is scalable, ethical and sustainable lies in southern Mexico, Central and South America. We are convinced that Latin Equipment's efforts and the exciting results of this project will not only serve to drive further penetration of Tigercat machines into Mexican teak operations but also to other hardwood growers throughout Latin America. ■



"The head is accumulating up to four stems per cycle, while demonstrating rapid saw recovery," explains José.

The 610E skidding in Campeche.



TAPSCOTT BROTHERS LOGGING NAMED 2020 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LOGGER

– Rick Meyer, FRA Regional Manager

In August, the Forest Resources Association (FRA) and STIHL Incorporated honoured Tapscott Brothers Logging of Scottsville, Virginia, as FRA's 2020 National Outstanding Logger.

Charles “Binky” Tapscott and Troy “Guke” Tapscott started logging with their father, Harvey, in the 1980s, when they were only in their late teens. They have steadily grown the operation into the current business that now operates five logging crews and one chipping crew, numerous company-owned and contract trucks, and a large inventory of mostly in-house built log and chip trailers. The Tapscotts’ multi-faceted harvesting operations deliver wood to numerous mills throughout Virginia and beyond. Additionally, the Tapscotts’ outstanding ability to maintain logging equipment led them to form their own logging equipment dealership, Forest Pro, with Tigercat as the primary line. Forest Pro has quickly grown to three locations across central Virginia.

The Tapscotts have a long history of innovating. They were one of the first logging contractors in Virginia to employ a farm tractor with a “street sweeper” brush and a water truck to clean the roads if their truckers happened to track any mud onto a public roadway. Binky and Guke have always been mechanically gifted, building their

own gate delimiters and fabricating their own log trailers. Binky created his own version of a chain flail delimber and patented a reversible slasher saw. They also created their own gigantic clambunk trailer for long hauls from the woods to the log deck and are now experimenting with a drone for monitoring the progress of their crews’ forest harvesting and BMP work.

The Tapscotts are known across Virginia for their ability to conduct all types of timber harvests, and they receive high praise from the landowners whose timber they harvest. Proud of their work, Binky and his team have often cooperated with the Virginia Department of Forestry and local schools to allow students and others to observe their harvesting operation and learn more about logging and forestry.

The Tapscotts became big supporters of the Log A Load for Kids program soon after it first started in Virginia.

Additionally, Binky Tapscott has been a long-time member of the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) and the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA), and he serves on the VLA Board of Directors. Each year, he and other forest industry members visit Virginia’s legislators and educate them on important forest issues in Virginia and the nation. Binky and his wife have made numerous visits to Washington DC with the VLA as part of the American Loggers Council’s annual legislative Fly-Ins.

FRA’s Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. Impressively, the Tapscotts have won FRA regional Outstanding Logger Awards three times now, spanning three decades: In the Appalachian Region in 1992 and in FRA’s Southeastern Region in 1998 and 2020. ■



Troy (Guke) Tapscott and Charles (Binky) Tapscott.



The first 635G swing boom skidder sold in North America.

STRONG WESTERN FORESTRY SECTOR

– James Farquhar, Tigercat district manager

The forest sector remains strong in my territory. The high price of building materials and continued forest fire prevention efforts in the United States have kept machine demand high.

Titan Machinery has strengthened its market share with the sale of several LX830D feller bunchers, some of which have been converted to run mulching heads for forest fire prevention. Titan also delivered to Montana, the first LH822D/570 package in its region. The package replaced an older C-series harvester while upgrading to a Tigercat harvesting head. Like many other

regions, Titan's territory has seen a lot of interest in the new 850 processor platform.

Machine deliveries in Alberta have rebounded since the double impact of spring break-up and the COVID-19 lockdown. Wajax has secured some significant orders from long-time customers. One, in particular, included an order of six of the newly introduced H-series 632 skidders. Again, the 850 processor is turning heads in this region with its stability, balance and multifunctioning capability.

I was fortunate to be able to deliver the first 635G swing boom skidder in the province of Alberta, and anticipate some great opportunities with this machine in the future. A swiss army knife, this swing boom skidder will perform well in soft and steep ground. Roadside decking will be easier with less ground disturbance, and most importantly, will result in better quality logs due to reduced breakage. ■

James is based in Beaumont, Alberta. His area of responsibility includes Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico.



The fleet of Tigercat machines owned by Peace River Logging in Peace River, Alberta.

LH822D with 570 harvesting head in Montana.



COVID-19 LOCKDOWN FROM SOUTH AFRICA



Bostek 604E handover taken at Barberton, Mpumalanga. (L-R) Eddie Barnard, AfrEquip field technician; John Barbour, AfrEquip technical manager; Brendan Moore, AfrEquip business development manager; Mark Venter, AfrEquip area manager.

— Gary Olsen, international sales manager, southern hemisphere

March 27 marked the first day of a very harsh lockdown in South Africa. The Level-5 lockdown consisted of strict rules as we all experienced globally but with a nasty twist – no sales of tobacco products or liquor. Without any warning, it was all shut down, but luckily it would only be for three weeks, and then this nightmare would be behind us, and we could carry on life as usual, or so we thought.

Fortunately, forestry was deemed an essential service. So, our customers and our dealer AfrEquip were able to continue with operations, albeit under stringent conditions and protocols. For

AfrEquip, only essential, technical-related travel was allowed to support the customers. Schools and non-essential businesses were shut down. Households were filled nearly twenty-four-seven, putting everyone's patience to the ultimate test. Mine grew from a regular two adults and three dogs to four adults and five dogs overnight!

Our customers' most significant challenge was bringing the workforce to and from the job site while adhering to social distancing restrictions. As a result, mechanized operations were ramped up over manual or semi-mechanized operations to reduce the number of people required at the workplace.

During this time, AfrEquip managed to deliver several machines to new customers and placed new orders to the Tigercat factory. It was very encouraging that despite renewed erosion of the rand against the US dollar, and all of the other business uncertainty related to the pandemic, contractors were not only working but confident to purchase new machines.

Three weeks transpired, and liquor inventory levels were starting to run low in the Olsen household. Then disaster struck when the President announced another four weeks of Level 5 lockdown. Other irrational bans were instituted, such as no retail sales of summer



SOS Contractors' operators getting some practice in on the new 1075C forwarder in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands area.

clothing, open shoes, or appliances. After shutting down hair salons and barbershops, the sale of all hair care products was banned. We could buy a can of food, but not a can opener.

COVID-19 lockdown policies flipped flopped throughout the summer until August 17, when some semblance of normality returned to

the country and the local economy. However, the situation remains uncertain as daily data is watched closely and rumour-driven panic buying episodes have occurred.

Getting through the lockdowns has been a much greater mental challenge than a physical one. One certainty is that creative thinking

and problem solving on the part of AfrEquip and the customer base allowed tree harvesting to continue throughout. ■

Gary is based in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa and is Tigercat's international sales manager for the southern hemisphere.

SOS Contractors 1075C handover taken at Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal. (L-R) Neels Potgieter, SOS Contractors harvesting manager; Kobus van Staden, SOS Contractors harvesting technician; John Barbour, AfrEquip technical manager.



DAMN *the* TORPEDOES



The fabrication plant in Woodstock, Ontario in early September. The three-phase expansion includes office and manufacturing facilities, as well as an expanded yard and parking lot.

Tigercat expands facilities and increases production capacity on multiple fronts with major construction projects and new capital investment to ready itself for the next economic expansion.

– Paul Iarocci

Near the apex of the COVID induced economic slowdown, when fear and uncertainty broadly prevailed across the world community, Tigercat was involved in three expansion projects – breaking ground simultaneously for major facility additions in Woodstock and Kitchener Ontario, while completing construction of a new office and material processing R&D facility in Fremont, New Hampshire.

Drivetrain component manufacture

The Tigercat drivetrain facility located in Kitchener produces axles and transmissions for most of Tigercat's wheeled machines. The team also builds pump drives for

drive-to-tree feller bunchers and some track machines, as well as track drive gearboxes. Just a few years ago, Tigercat invested heavily in machining and heat treating equipment for the production of axle and saw spindles.

In June, a twenty-week construction project commenced to further increase the breadth of the production activities by adding the floor space and specialized machinery required for the manufacture of gears. As plant manager, Michael Ellig explains, "This expansion and the related capital equipment expenditures will enable Tigercat to develop a new skill set in power skiving and oil press quench heat treating." Power

skiving is a continuous machining process where the tool meshes with the gear that is being produced – similar to the way a pinion and gear mesh in a gear train. Press quenching reduces distortion as the gears are being cooled.

"As was the case with the axle and saw spindles, adding this new process of machining, heat treating and final hardening will allow Tigercat to take command of our supply and quality of these critical gear components as we support the next economic expansion," adds Michael.

Fabricating in Woodstock

At Tigercat's Woodstock facility the majority of weldments for swing machines are manufactured,

including track driven harvesters, processors, feller bunchers and all knuckle boom loaders. These components and sub assemblies then proceed a half hour down the road to the final assembly plant in Paris.

The expansion project consists of three phases. The first phase includes new offices, meeting and training rooms, and employee amenities. The second phase is a 50% increase in manufacturing area comprised of fabricating space, heavy duty robotic welding cells, large machine tools, and finishing and paint preparation operations. The third phase is an expansion of the parking and hard-surfaced yard areas.

According to plant manager and VP Mike Fischer, “The team we have assembled at this plant simply outgrew the amenities and the facilities. Over my 35 years with the company, and under the stewardship of Ken MacDonald, he has been absolutely unrelenting in his commitment to building a superior team, superior

manufacturing facilities and a product line that can compete on a global basis. The current situation with the global pandemic obviously threw some challenges our way. However, we continued to proceed full pace. Perhaps it is a contributing factor for our success that outside economic factors have rarely slowed down our pace of product development or expansion of manufacturing capacity.”

Material processing

Shortly after Tigercat purchased ROI in October 2019, construction began on a new 1 860 m² (20,000 ft²) facility in Fremont, New Hampshire to house the US based material processing team. Of course there were COVID related delays, but in early August, the team began the move into the new building. According to Jim Oberg, product manager grinders and chippers, “The office has been set up to accommodate 24 employees and includes two conference rooms. The shop area was developed to allow the team to focus on

developing and prototyping new machines to bring to market.”

In addition to these expansion projects, owner and CEO, Ken MacDonald, explains that additional investments have been made throughout the company’s facilities. “Inside almost all of our manufacturing buildings, we have continued with the installation of new welding robots, metal cutting lasers with semi-automated load and unload material storage towers and more computer controlled boring mills.”

By year’s end, Tigercat’s total facility footprint spanning Canada, the US and Sweden will be a million square feet (93 000 m²). At some point, the COVID era will end and plant tours will resume. Start your training now. There will be a lot of walking. ■



Mike Fischer talks about the Woodstock facility expansion on Tigercat TV:
www.tigercat.com/expansion



The drivetrain facility expansion in Kitchener, Ontario will bring additional expertise in-house.

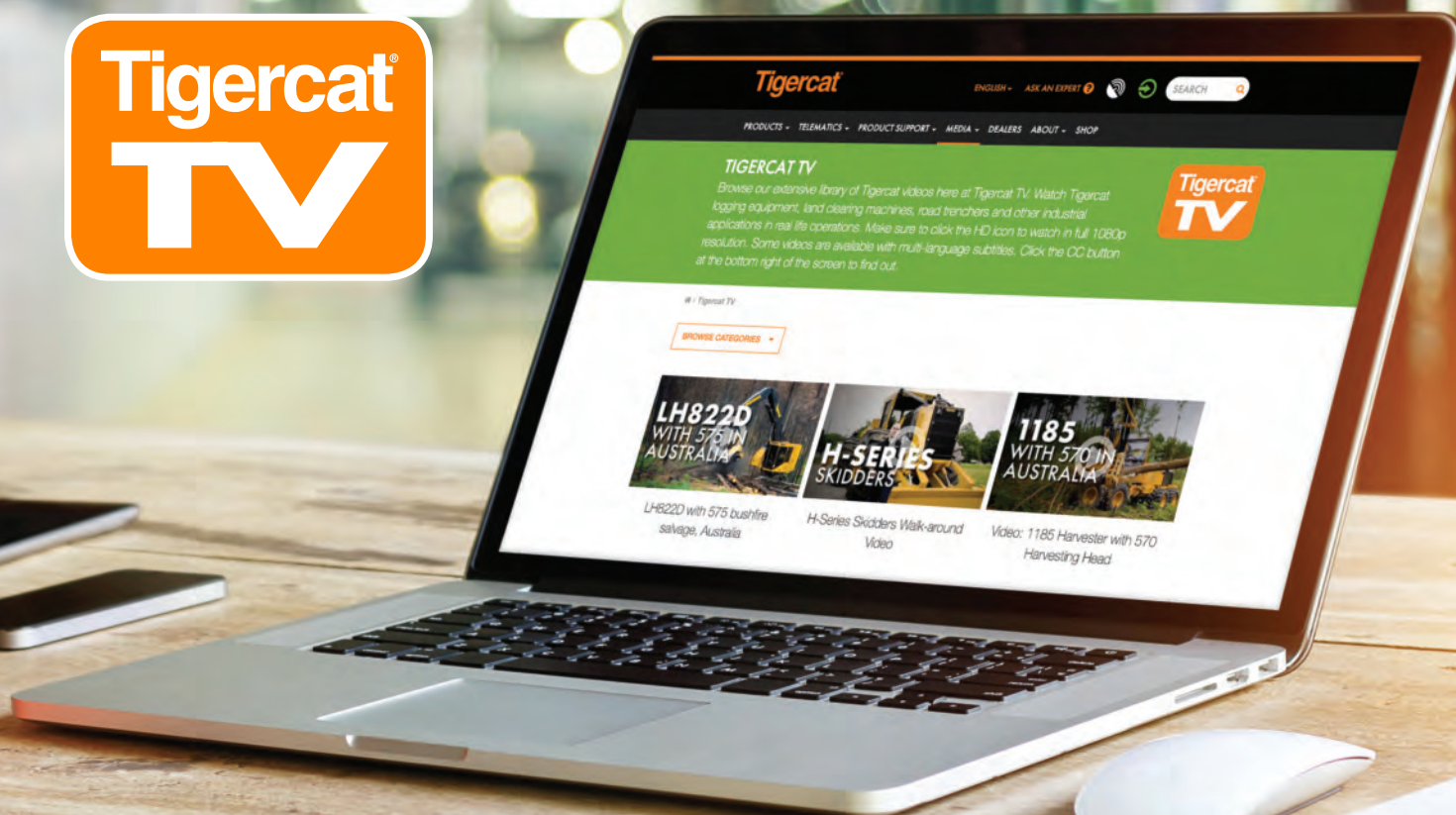
The prototype 865 logger, surrounded by a portion of the design and production team that contributed to the effort.

The 865 logger is a much-anticipated product across a significant swath of the Tigercat dealer network. As a result, work on this project continued throughout the most uncertain days of the global pandemic. I think that this image captures the essence of teamwork, the spirit of problem solving and obliteration of obstacles, during a time when it was easier to feel hopeless and isolated. The team was steadfast in its commitment to the project. The effort is emblematic of the attitude and actions that have prevailed across the entire company.



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