



between the BRANCHES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.

SAND HILL LOGGING AND TIMBER

What a top notch crew and good maintenance will do...

— Paul Iarocci

The crew members of Sand Hill Logging and Timber are a particular bunch when it comes to their equipment. Tigercat's district manager for the Carolinas, Kevin Wright, relates to me that "one of the skidder operators, Charles Ruth, parked his machine to let me install a new MDM program. After installing the program I did a quick test drive and parked it in a different spot. He asked if I had a problem with where he parked the machine. I told him no, and he then asked why I drove it."

It is this protective attitude and high regard for the machinery that apparently prompted Sand Hill Logging and Timber owner, Alvin Dobson to once remark, "They aren't my machines, I just make the payments."

Dobson's harvesting company, based in Savannah, Georgia, logs for the Elliott Sawmilling Company in Estill, South Carolina and works primarily in large pine saw timber up to 30 inch diameter.

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The Sand Hill crew. (L-R) Pete Frickling, Leroy Ruth, Alvin Dobson, Willie Walls, Lil Daddy, Charles Ruth and Carl Duncan

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He got his start in the industry in 1979 after working a stint selling logging supplies and as a sub-dealer for the now defunct Franklin Equipment Company. Coincidentally, his initial partner in the start-up logging operation was Miles Elliott, now the co-owner of Elliott Sawmilling, along with brothers Dickie and Robert Elliott. This is a company that Alvin speaks highly of.

Alvin recalls that in 1984, two guys in sunglasses, all dressed in black, pulled up to his job in a black Lincoln. The two young men turned out to be Johnny Boyd (now district manager for Tigercat and based in Alabama) and Gerry Mallory, another industry veteran whose company represents Hultdins and Indexator in North America and like Tigercat is based in Brantford, Ontario.

Dobson ended up purchasing a Koehring 625 track feller buncher from Boyd, who was fresh out of Auburn University's forestry engineering program, and Mallory. (Johnny claims they rented the Lincoln because it was only nine dollars more and besides, he had never rented a car before.) And so began a relationship between Alvin, Johnny, Koehring and eventually Tigercat that has endured for over 30 years.

Alvin's relationship with Tigercat began in 1996 when he purchased a 720 feller buncher. "Johnny Boyd talked me into that one," says Alvin. "He put the hammer on me." Then in 1997, Alvin had a look at fellow harvesting professional, Frampton Ferguson's

new Tigercat 230 loader. "Although I was a Prentice man at the time, I said 'I've got to have that loader.' It was so smooth it was like sitting in my living room," recalls Alvin.

Alvin bought one soon after and the serial number plate on the machine read 107 – the seventh loader ever produced by Tigercat. The loader is still on Alvin's job and has produced for over 30,000 hours.

Alvin currently operates a single crew. "I used to have three crews running me. Now I run one crew," he quips. The all-Tigercat line-up consists of a 718E feller buncher fitted with a 5600 series bunching saw with 8,500 hours on the clock, a new 620D dual arch skidder, a 10,000 hour 620C skidder, a later model 230B loader and the number seven 230 loader. With this set-up, the crack operators log 100 loads per week, although without quotas, Dobson is pretty confident they could do 150 loads.

Foreman Pete Frickling has been with Sand Hill for eight years. He says that operator Leroy 'Rabbit' Ruth is the best buncher operator he has ever seen and it shows. Alvin purchased the 718E when the company did quite a bit more thinning work than now. With narrow offset 24.5x32 tires and the 5600 saw, it is specified as the perfect thinning machine – very narrow with a head suited to accumulating nine stems at a time – not plowing through beautiful 50 to 60 year old saw timber. Twelve 60 ft (18 m) logs make a 30 ton load – by my rough calculations, I'm guessing



620C and 620D skidders stand behind the 718E.



these 80 ft (25 m) trees weigh well over three tons (1 ton equals 0.9 metric tonne). Regardless, Leroy can put down the wood, although he says that with a 724E with bigger tires and a 5702 single post saw he could really perform due to the better suited saw head, quicker saw recovery and wider machine stance.

Although many operating in similar conditions might opt for a 234 or even 250 series loader, the operators, Alexander 'Lil Daddy' Ling and Willie Walls, handle sorting, merchandising and loading the big timber without issue. The 230 and 230B have been solid and reliable performers. Elliott takes super pulp, chip 'n saw and saw logs up to 32 in (800 mm) diameter.

The skidder operators are Charles Ruth and Carl Duncan. The 10,000 hour 620C looks practically new. The exterior decals are completely intact and the paint is hardly marked. In fact, all of the machines look for the most part the same as they did when they were new.

Charles and Alexander have been with Alvin for 30 and 31 years respectively. "The crew are like family to me," says Alvin. "They have worked together for so long, they trust each other and work well together."

Pete is meticulous about maintenance and as a trained mechanic heads up and performs maintenance on all machines. The sensitivity of the operators to the performance of the machine also ensures they remain in top condition. The cab interiors are spotlessly clean. Great operators and meticulous attention to

maintenance are key to Sand Hill's success. Regarding his philosophy on aged machinery, Alvin says, "I don't understand why someone would buy a tractor that they can only keep for three or four years just to save \$18,000 up front."

"I've seen a lot of coming and going over the last 34 years," he continues, "Salesmen, equipment dealers and manufacturers. But out of all of it, thank God that Tigercat came along. It has made things a lot easier. We used to have to run around all weekend, fixing machines to get ready for the next week. We don't have to do that anymore."

Alvin sums up his formula for success: "To be a logger these days, you better have a damn good wife." He describes lamenting and stressing over quotas, bad weather and fuel prices and asserts that not just anyone can put up with that. He continues, "A damn good crew is just as important and to be hooked up with someone that can keep you in good wood is important too – Elliott has been great to work with." ■



The 718E fells some large timber.

CHAIN SHOT PRIMER

While the risk of a chain shot event can't be eliminated, it can be reduced by following some simple operational recommendations.

— Jerry Locker
Originally appeared in Canadian Forest Industries, Sept/Oct 2012 (reprinted with permission)



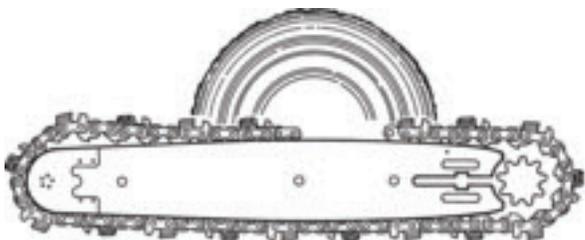
'Chain shot' is not a new term to the forestry industry. However, events within the last two years have brought this term to the forefront of our industry.

Chain shot is the high-velocity separation and ejection of a piece or pieces of saw chain from the end of a broken loop of saw chain in mechanized timber harvesting. Chain shot typically originates near the drive end of the cutting system, but can also originate from the guide bar tip area. In either case, it poses the same risk of serious injury or death to the machine operator, ground personnel and bystanders.

Saw chain pieces usually travel in the cutting plane of the guide bar, but can deviate to either side. Although the shot cone (a term used by Oregon) reflects the most likely chain shot path, deflection can occur, substantially expanding the distance saw chain pieces may travel.

How Chain Shot Happens

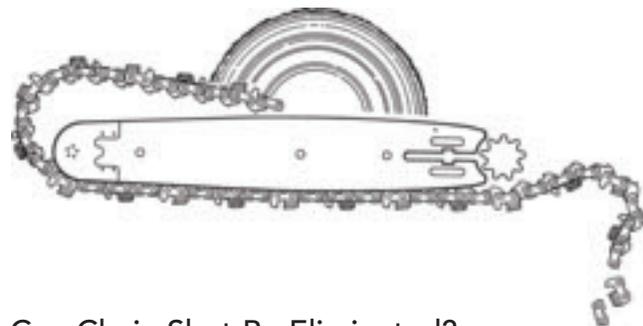
After a saw chain break, the free end of the saw chain begins to whip away from the break.



If the saw chain is not contained by the saw box or by a chain shot guard, the broken saw chain's free end can speed up rapidly, carrying immense dynamic energy.



At the peak of the whip, saw chain parts may break loose and be ejected at high speed, especially if the free end of the saw chain strikes the saw box.



Can Chain Shot Be Eliminated?

In simple terms, no, it can't. Properly designed chain shot guards and shields reduce the danger of a chain shot from the drive sprocket area. However, there is currently no known way to place similar guards in

the bar tip area without significant disruption to the cutting operation. Because no guarding is currently possible in the bar tip area, chain shots can be generated and pose the same risk of injury and death as those generated at the drive sprocket area.

To reduce the risk, your equipment should be designed with appropriate guards, shields, and window enclosures and care should be taken to minimize the exposure of the machine operator, ground personnel and bystanders to the cutting plane of the cutting system and shot cone. The mechanical timber harvesting industry advises ground personnel and bystanders to stay at least 70 metres (230 feet) away and outside the shot cone of a working harvester. Chain shot projectiles travelling at the speed of a bullet can travel far beyond the recommended setback distance. The setback distance will help reduce the risk of a chain shot injury, but not eliminate it.



Chain shot can travel in many different directions, not just in the cutting plane of the guide bar.

It is important that windshields and windows be made of appropriate material. Test results from SMP Svenska Mankinproving AB found that 12 mm material is being penetrated by chain shot. For 19 mm Polycarbonate – LEXGARD MP750 Laminate, projectiles penetrated and caused a 5 mm deformation on the rear surface of the window. The test on 19 mm Polycarbonate/Acrylic – LEXGARD MP750 laminate found that projectiles penetrated the outer polycarbonate layer, but were contained by the acrylic layer and the rear polycarbonate layer partially delaminated.

As for 32 mm Polycarbonate – LEXGARD SP-1250, projectiles penetrated to a maximum depth of 18 mm.

Chain shot guards and chain catchers should be in place and in good working condition. Refer to your equipment manufacturer for details. Do not exceed the manufacturer's recommendations for chain speed. Cutting systems must be inspected frequently. Cutting systems must be maintained in agreement with manufacturer's recommendations. Dull, damaged saw chains should be immediately removed from service for inspection, repair or replacement. Saw chain loops, which have broken twice, must be removed from service. Saw chains must be maintained in agreement with the manufacturer's recommendations. Guide bars must be cleaned and dressed on a regular basis in agreement with manufacturer's recommendations. Drive sprockets must be replaced when observed wear exceeds manufacturer's recommendations. Drive sprockets must be aligned with the groove of the guide bar. Ensure the saw chain/guide bar lubrication system is functioning properly: 0.404-pitch cutting systems should use approximately 7.6 litres (2.0 gallons) of guide bar/saw chain lubricant or more per eight-hour shift in harvesting operations – more when used in processing operations. Three-quarter-pitch cutting systems should use approximately 9.5 litres (2.5 gallons) or more per eight-hour shift in a harvesting application – more when used in processing operations.

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Operational Recommendations

In general:

- Never engage in a cut with the machine operator, ground personnel or bystanders in the shot cone zone.
- Always engage in a cut as close to the ground as possible.
- Always use new parts when assembling and repairing saw chain.
- Maintain saw chain in agreement with your manufacturer's recommendations.
- Never force a dull saw chain to cut. Sharp chain places less wear and tear on the cutting system.
- Saw chain should be sharpened or replaced with a sharp chain at least once per operational shift, or more if damaged.
- Depth gauges (rakers) must be maintained through the life of a saw chain.
- Never exceed your saw chain manufacturer's operation recommendations.

In cold cutting conditions:

- Use a lighter-weight lubricant, if possible, doubling the flow rate.
- Periodically cycle the guide bar without cutting

(air cuts) to increase lubricant present on the cutting system.

- Reduce bar feed force.

Conduct proper guide bar maintenance:

- Clean the guide bar groove from bar tip to bar tail, and keep the oil hole open.
- Turn the guide bar over to equalize wear on a daily basis.
- Cycle the guide bar several times to remove moisture from the guide bar tip.
- Ensure you maintain proper chain tension, checking it often.
- At breaks and at the end of each shift, relieve saw chain tension to prevent damage to the guide bar tip, saw motor and/or the saw chain as the saw chain cools and contracts.
- Reduce saw chain speed.

In simple terms, your harvester head, when operational, should be treated as if it is two loaded guns (the bar tip and the bar tail) that pose a risk of serious injury or death to the machine operator, ground personnel and bystanders.

The risk of a chain shot event cannot be eliminated, but the risks can be reduced by following the recommendations provided by your equipment

manufacturer, your cutting system manufacturer, and the operational recommendations presented here.

Jerry Locker is the OEM harvester manager – North America for Oregon. Additional details regarding Harvester products, technical and safety information and Mechanical Timber Harvesting Service School, and links to websites offering additional information on chain shot are available at www.oregonchain.com/harvester. ■



Oregon uses the term Shot Cone to reflect the likely path travelled by the chain shot.



The first Tigercat in Ghana.

TIGERCAT TAKES ON ENERGY WOOD IN WEST AFRICA

— Gary Olsen, factory sales representative, international

The planting of rubber wood trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*) in the west part of Africa has been going on for decades. The climate very closely matches the rainfall demands required to sustain this species, originating in the Amazon jungle. Companies like Firestone have been present in this region since early plantings began, reaping the valuable latex for the production of tires and other rubber products.

Malaysia and Indonesia, where favourable growing conditions also occur, have vast rubber wood plantations. The spread of rubber wood outside of its natural habitat was initially driven by the British in the late 1800s, which is the reason that these plantations are most common in former British colonies with suitable climatic conditions. The western city of Takoradi in Ghana finds itself at the heart of this industry with many plantations under the

management of the company, Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL).

Unfortunately, rubber trees — like most other living things — begin to underperform as they approach old age and so at 25 to 30 years, the rubber tree no longer yields the amount of latex required for the economic viability of the plantation. These extended rotation crops need to be cleared and replanted, generating great volumes of wood fibre that until recently have simply and tragically been pushed over and burned with the prevailing opinion that there is no market for such fibre. Conversely, in Malaysia and Indonesia, rubber wood has long been used for high value furniture. Despite its name, rubber trees yield a very hard and durable wood highly regarded in the south Asian furniture industry.

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The 635D emerges with difficulty from the container.

Enter the Kyoto Accord, the bio-fuel industry and the environmental targets set for European energy producers and suddenly a market for this west African fibre materializes. In Ghana, with the establishment of Takoradi Renewable Energy Limited (TREL) under the auspices of London-based Africa Renewables Ltd and the vision of founder and managing director Jean Francois (JF) Gullion, we now see the regular arrival of vessels to the port of Takoradi to load rubber wood chips. Chips are sold to the European energy utilities for the production of clean and sustainable power.

The use of a Tigercat 635D six-wheel drive skidder to help accomplish the task of harvesting the rubber trees is something that JF had been toying with for some time. His operations manager, Ian Paterson, had worked in similar conditions in Liberia. The application required

a skidder that would allow the extraction of the rubber trees in a rateable fashion that was virtually independent of precipitation and resulting soil saturation. The average annual rainfall in these areas can be as much as 5 metres (that's almost 200 inches) and sometimes it feels like it all comes down in one day! Maintaining the ability to extract even when it rains — but without damaging the sensitive soil — plays into the hands of a six-wheel skidder. And if you dual it up, as TREL does in the wettest areas, then essentially it becomes a twelve-wheel skidder with truly excellent flotation characteristics.

Another challenge which arises from a lack of roads, the shape and the layout of the plantations are extreme skidding distances. Cost effective payload is critical for success. The rubber trees, averaging around one and a half tonne per stem, have to be harvested inclusive of their large root stock to prevent subsequent pathogens or disease that would kill future plantings. To achieve this cost effectively the trees are simply pushed

over with a dozer or excavator. A team of chainsaw operators follows behind, severing root stock from stem and crown. Finally, the skidder accumulates and skids the trees to the roadside where they are then fed through a CBI chipper into high capacity walking



The machine was assembled in a day.



The rubber trees are chipped at roadside. The CBI unit feeds the chips into high capacity walking floor trailers.

floor trailers, transported to a staging area near the port and stockpiled.

When a vessel arrives to be loaded, all of the harvesting and transport equipment is withdrawn from the field and used to load the vessel as quickly as possible. The skidders, including the 635D, are lowered into the hold of the ship and are responsible

for the spreading and compacting of the chips to maximize the ship's payload.

The 635D skidder, extra tires and spare parts were sent to Ghana in two 40 foot containers. Jeff Cave, factory sales and support representative, Africa, and I travelled to Takoradi from South Africa to assist with final assembly, and technical and operator training.

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The rear bogie axle and dual tire arrangement allows the 635D to operate consistently in a region with very high rainfall.

(We both of us took our malaria medication this time. I learned a valuable lesson the hard way in Angola which you can read about in BTB #25.)

The assembly process was not without its delays, frustration and amusement. It started with the sad passing of Ghanaian President, John Atta Mills, prior to our arrival. The result was a week of mourning followed by a state funeral set for the very date our skidder was to clear customs. Finally the two containers arrived midway through the following week to the TREL workshop.

The recent discovery of offshore oil and gas near Takoradi has brought on an influx of new mobile heavy lift equipment fuelled by unlimited oil industry



The lifespan of a rubber wood plantation is 25-30 years. Afterward the trees must be removed, root mass and all.

budgets. This raised our hopes – our toughest challenges would be to lift the containers off the transport trucks and drag the skidder out of the container onto our working surface. But clearly Jeff and I had champagne ideas backed up only by beer money!

We ended up with a mobile heavy lift crane purchased second hand in Austria 47 years ago. The machine came complete with the proud Austrian owner who regaled us with stories of old: How his crane had lifted 20 tonne logs onto trucks for the export of native hard woods. Together with a later model wheeled loader and an excavator, the task of safely lifting the containers was onerous to say the least.

Finally to the task at hand of getting the machine assembled inclusive of installing the bogies, the front axle wheel ends and the tires. Within a day the machine was ready for inspection by the local Cummins technicians and it was time to pull some rubber trees. Jeff Cave performed some technical and operator training and since then, the machine has worked flawlessly for five months. Jeff made a follow-up visit to the operation in November to perform additional technical and operator training. Based on the performance of this pioneering 635D, Jeff noted the potential to see further machines sold into the Ivory Coast, Liberia and other west African countries. ■

From the archives:

Picking your Poison in Angola – BTB Issue 25, July 2010

employee news

WAYNE CALE RETURNS TO TIGERCAT

After a nine year stint as a partner in CTW Forest Products, a North Carolina based logging business established along with founding partners Ben Twiddy (also a former Tigercat district manager) and industry veteran, Jimmy Witherspoon, Wayne Cale is returning to Tigercat.

Originally formed as a swamp logging and sawmill operation, CTW switched over to pine harvesting in 2007 with Cale and Twiddy each leading a crew. Forestry Mutual recently presented CTW with its top safety award, the E.K. Pitman Safety Award, as its North Carolina Logger of the Year for 2012. Cale will maintain his interest in CTW Forest Products as a non-active partner.

Cale initially began in his role as district manager in 1997 and left to start CTW in 2004. He will be taking on his former territory of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland, once again serving as district manager for the region. This will allow district manager, Kevin Wright, to focus his efforts strictly on South Carolina and north Georgia, enhancing Tigercat's support capabilities in both territories.



From the archives:

CTW Forest Products Finds a Niche – BTB Issue 9, Fall 2004



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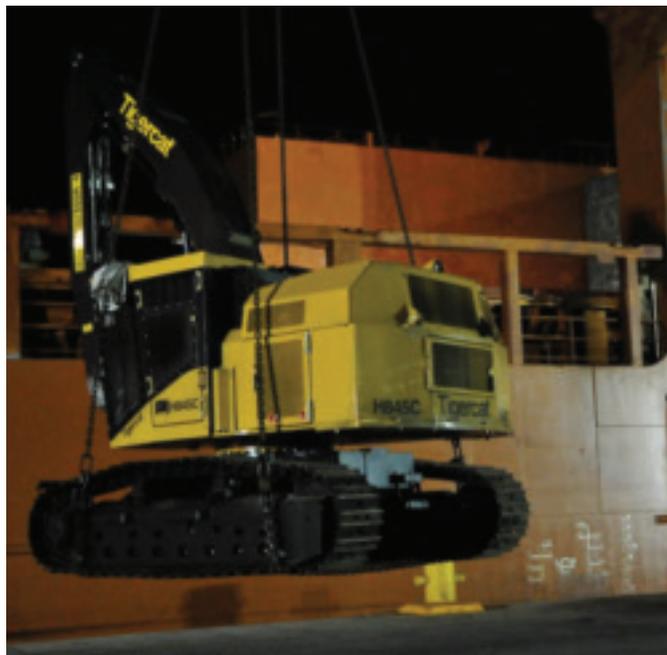
SUZANO PURCHASES 49 TIGERCAT MACHINES

— Rossana Constant, international sales administrator

Suzano Papel e Celulose is a Brazilian pulp and paper producer belonging to the Suzano Group, one of the largest corporations in Latin America with a presence in over 80 countries. The company is a leader in the paperboard market in Latin America and is among the 10 largest producers of pulp and the largest producer of eucalyptus pulp in the world.

Suzano has five industrial units located in the States of Bahia and São Paulo. In Mucuri, south of Bahia, is its largest integrated pulp and paper facility. Three facilities are located in Suzano, Rio Verde and Embu, in the state of São Paulo.

Suzano purchased 44 Tigercat machines for its harvesting operations in Maranhao and an additional five units for the Bahia operations in early 2013. Tigercat achieved this order with the commitment and cooperation of its Brazilian dealer, Tracbel S.A., one of the strongest and most successful heavy equipment dealer organizations in the country.



A Suzano bound H845C is offloaded at the Itaqui port.

Wagner Itria, Suzano's director, comments, "We knew Tigercat equipment, we carried on some tests at the beginning of 2012. Tigercat was the most dedicated company to work with through these tests; they gave a lot of attention to Suzano. We went to visit their factories, we could see the fabrication process, the hard work of their employees and the robustness of their equipment and on top they count with Tracbel as their dealer in Brazil, a consolidated company in the Brazilian market with an excellent background in after sales support." ■



Suzano executives along with Tracbel and Tigercat representatives at the conclusion of negotiations for the 49 machine deal.

FROM THE GROUND UP

— Paul Iarocci

Glenn Henderson Logging and Timber Co. is a large and successful harvesting company by any measure. With a total of seven crews, owner Glenn Henderson and son Manuel describe the company's operations with an obvious sense of pride.

“Manuel runs all the logging jobs,” explains Glenn. “We have three Plum Creek crews that can do thinning and clear fell. Plum Creek works on 28-30 year rotations with a thinning at thirteen years.” An additional three crews – two set up for thinning and one for clear felling – work exclusively on private timber purchased by the company.

“The seventh crew is a swamp crew,” says Glenn. Maybe this crew serves a nostalgic purpose for Glenn since he cut his teeth swamp logging long before the profession had the benefit of state-of-the-art, high



B&G Equipment sales specialist Cleve Altman, general manager Manuel Henderson and Glenn Henderson.

flotation track feller bunchers, shovel loggers and dualled up six-wheel drive Tigercat skidders.

Glenn has also recently started a chipping job, deploying a Morbark 22 inch disc chipper that he already owned and had utilized previously in his sawmill. He has a contract with Bosie Cascade in Jackson, Alabama to supply 40 loads of fuel chips per week. The sawmill business which primarily produces mats has picked up lately on account of strong demand from the oil and gas industry.

Henderson started out at the bottom and paid his dues, first working in the woods as a saw hand on a job run by two of his uncles. After a stint working in the oilfields and a year of college, he went back to the woods, trading a football scholarship for a position on a Scott Paper company crew. “Scott Paper had a lot of company crews and I ended up working for them for five and a half years,” Glenn recalls.

Glenn learned a lot about the many different facets of the logging industry while working for the Mobile, Alabama based company. He transferred from the logging side



Glenn and Manuel prefer the versatility of the 5500 saw in the clear fell operations.

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Glenn built his company from the ground up over the last twenty years.

to land management and then finally to a road crew before leaving after more than five years.

Brimming with confidence and youthful enthusiasm, Glenn left Scott around 1986 to join his father, Van, in a family timber venture. “He was going to buy timber and I was going to cut it. We started out buying some used machines from the Scott Timber Company with the help of a loan from the Scott Credit Union.” They worked together for a year but ultimately decided against continuing and parted ways.

Next Glenn applied for a swamp job run by Leaf River (the company was later purchased by Georgia-Pacific) and was affiliated with GP until 2000 when Plum Creek purchased the forestland portfolio throughout the United States. To this day, Glenn’s company cuts for Plum Creek.

In 1995 Glenn started buying timber and as he did so his operations expanded. These days the company employs two full time timber buyers.

Glenn was also involved in the early days of the Mississippi Loggers Association (MLS) and the association’s Self Insurance Corporation established in 1991. “We were one of the earliest associations involved with self-insurance,” says Glenn.

The relationship between Glenn Henderson Logging and Timber and Tigercat began back in 2002 when Glenn purchased a 630B skidder from David Long (then a salesman for B&G Equipment out of Hattiesburg). “I have bought almost all Tigercat skidders since then,” says Glenn.

These days Glenn has specific preferences regarding equipment. For clear felling, he favours 724E feller bunchers equipped with 5500 felling saws. “The 5500 has a lot more versatility if we switch from clear fell to



Glenn favours 724E feller bunchers for the clear fell crews.

thinning,” explains Glenn. The dedicated thinning crews use 718E bunchers with 5000 series bunching saws. Plum Creek generally employs fifth row thinning on twelve foot rows.

All skidders are 630D models with 35.5 tires for added stability and longer tire life. The operators like the machines in the thinning applications because they use Turnaround to back down the thinning rows. And of course, they work well in the big clear cuts. “With the 630D, you can pick up a load and go. You can’t do that with other brands of skidders.”

Choice of equipment is important for Glenn not only

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Glenn has purchased a number of Turnaround equipped 630D skidders with 35.5 tires for added stability and longer life. The 630D machines are employed on the clear fell and thinning crews.



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in terms of productivity. “We are hands on. I run [the machines] myself a lot. I feel like if the operator is comfortable and satisfied, he will stay on it a little longer and we find the Tigercats smooth to operate.”

Weekly volume is 300-350 loads per week. Glenn does his own hauling with a fleet of 25 trucks. His wife, Jackie, runs the office and older son Jonathon has two crews of his own. ■

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product news

ENHANCED 5702 FELLING SAW

Next generation Tigercat 5702 felling saw is enhanced for versatility and increased performance.

Tigercat has recently made a number of design enhancements to the 5702 felling saw aimed at increasing versatility and performance in a wider variety of felling conditions.

Although the 5702 is well known and widely used throughout the world for big timber felling applications, the next generation 5702 features an all-new accumulating arm design. The arms are longer with a revised profile to improve accumulation of small trees, increased accumulating capacity while reducing the incidence of crossed trees in the accumulation pocket. (For contractors wanting to upgrade older model heads, a complete set of arms will fit earlier heads using the same link.)



Also in a move to increase accumulating capacity and performance, the front saw motor cover which formerly protruded into the accumulating area is now a flat cover. This increases the accumulating area and allows trees to move into the pocket more easily.

The left ski and saw housing exit have been modified to improve chip exhaust and to reduce plugging when felling large trees or when operating in deep snow or heavy undergrowth. Service access and hose routings have also been improved.



604C AND 610C GET TURNAROUND

Tigercat 604C and 610C skidders are now Turnaround equipped.

The Tigercat 604C cable skidder and 610C grapple skidder are now standard equipped with Turnaround™. The 2-position, 100 degree rotating Turnaround seat is unique to Tigercat skidders.

Tigercat's Turnaround seat swivels effortlessly, locking in either the forward or rear-facing position. Once facing rear, the operator has full control of

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all machine functions including drive controls. The steering wheel has been replaced with an armrest mounted joystick for improved ergonomics in either seating position.

The operator has one drive pedal at the front of the cab and one pedal at the rear of the cab. A direction selection switch on the joystick determines if the machine will travel blade-first or grapple-first. The computer system automatically adjusts the controls based on which direction the seat is facing; when the operator is facing rear, and selects 'forward' direction, he will travel grapple first. The joystick steering operates the same way.

In analyzing skidder duty cycles and cab ergonomics, Tigercat expects a significant reduction in operator

fatigue, neck and upper back strain, especially in applications where the operator is required to drive for extended distances into the cut block in reverse, when picking up multiple bunches to build a sufficiently large drag or when performing decking duties at the landing. With better neck and spine alignment, the operator is less vulnerable to the jarring effect that is typical of skidder operating conditions.

Other advantages of Turnaround include fuel savings and the ability to work on smaller decking areas due to reduced machine travel (no need for looped or three-point turns) and improved visibility when travelling in reverse.

NEW GRAPPLE FOR KNUCKLEBOOM LOADERS

Tigercat has released a new grapple design to complement the LG4053 which has been equipped on Tigercat knuckleboom loaders for many years. The new LG5057T has a 5 in (127 mm) close (or minimum opening) and a 57 in (1 450 mm) maximum opening as well as an all-new tapered tong profile.

The grapple was conceived and developed in order to improve loader performance and productivity in sorting applications. In first and second thinning operations there are often many types of logs that must be merchandized and sorted – ranging from pulpwood to super pulp to chip 'n saw logs.

The most noticeable feature of the LG5057T grapple is the tapered tongs. The narrow grapple tong tips significantly improve the ability to efficiently and quickly pick logs out of a pile. The new arm profile is also more rounded at the tips allowing the logs to roll up into the grapple easily. This increases the holding capacity of the grapple when gathering numerous smaller diameter logs.

The LG5057T is equipped with cylinder guards to protect the rods from truck stakes and other hazards that could scratch or bend the cylinder rods. The rotator assembly is the same as the current LG4053.



New LG5057T with tapered tongs.

dealer news

ONETRAK TAKES OVER AUSTRALIA

Tigercat is pleased to announce that Onetrak Pty Ltd is now the Tigercat dealer for all of Australia, effective February 1, 2013.

Early in 2012, Onetrak was appointed as Tigercat distributor in the Australian states of Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. The organization has proven to be highly customer focused and Tigercat is confident that Onetrak will continue to be an asset to Tigercat's worldwide distribution network.

Lex McLean, owner and managing director of Forest Centre, Tigercat dealer for Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland, has decided on a well-deserved retirement. As such Forest Centre will cease to be the authorized dealer for Tigercat in the states of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia as of February 1, 2013.

Onetrak intends to lease Forest Centre's full service facility in Tumut, New South Wales and will also open an additional facility in Bunbury in order to support customers in Western Australia. Tigercat and Onetrak are striving to make this transition as smooth as possible for all Tigercat customers in Australia.

Onetrak managing director David Hazell comments, "All of us at Onetrak are very excited about building on our relationship with Tigercat as it is an exceptional product that receives factory support here in Australia that is second to none. Our role as the national dealer for Tigercat in Australia is to pick up from the good work that Lex and his crew at Forest Centre have done with the product and take it to the next level. We look forward to building strong relationships with our existing forestry clients and new ones right across Australia and feel very positive about the future."

The Tigercat team extends its appreciation to Lex and the entire Forest Centre staff for twelve years of dedication and commitment to Tigercat and the Australian forestry industry.

Incorporated in 2006, Onetrak has rapidly grown into a major player within the Australian construction and forestry equipment industries. Employing over 40 people across Victoria and Tasmania, Onetrak prides itself on the quality of its people, carefully chosen from a diverse range of backgrounds within the industry and with one common trait – a desire to provide exceptional customer service.

In addition to new Onetrak facilities to be opened at Tumut, NSW and Bunbury, WA, Onetrak has branches currently located in South Dandenong in Victoria, Brighton in Tasmania and a service centre at Mt Gambier, South Australia. All of these locations boast state-of-the-art service facilities and are supported by several field service vehicles to cover work in any region – no matter how remote.



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The new Forestry Machines facility in Bratsk. (L-R) Alex Chornyy, Tigercat district manager – Russia, Yuri Torokhov, chairman, Forestry Machines Ltd., Alexander Fetyukov, managing director, Forestry Machines Ltd., Ken MacDonald, Tigercat CEO.

FORESTRY MACHINES LTD. EXPANDS PRESENCE IN RUSSIA

Forestry Machines Ltd., Tigercat dealer for Russia, retailed their first units in 2006. This was the first time that Russian loggers met Canadian machinery. By now the logging equipment market in Russia has matured and Tigercat machinery has become an integral part of the industry.

Tigercat logging machines operate in an enormous geographic area: from the most western point to the eastern part of Russia – Siberia. The largest population of machines is located in eastern Siberia in the northern parts of Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk Regions. More than 150 units operate in the most difficult landscape and climate conditions.

Forestry Machines' head office, stock-house and mobile technical unit are located in the city of Perm – Ural's logging and wood processing centre.

However, the most important area of development for the company these days is Siberia. Recently, a new warehouse in the town of Bratsk (Irkutsk region) was built and launched. Its area is 500 m² (5,400 ft²).

The Siberian forests occupy an enormous area. Bratsk is located significantly north from Irkutsk, so it is in close proximity to the large commercial logging areas where Forestry Machines' customers operate. Highly qualified technicians are in constant duty in the area. This helps to provide fast and efficient service in case of any planned or unforeseen requests from the customer base.

In addition, the existing stock and service centre in Krasnoyarsk was revamped last year and the number of spare parts and consumables has increased.

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