

B E T W E E N the BRANCHES

TIGERCAT CELEBRATES 5000th machine milestone

On Friday May 28, Tigercat hosted an employee appreciation event on the grounds of 140 Consolidated Drive in Paris, Ontario to celebrate the shipment of a 720D feller buncher, the 5000th machine produced by the 12-year old company.

A large tent was erected for the event, which included a meal and multi-media presentation for the 900 employees and spouses in attendance. "We are delighted to have reached this significant milestone so early in the life of our company," comments Tigercat president Tony Iarocci. "More importantly, we are very pleased with our progress in the development of a full line of innovative, productive logging machinery that has been well accepted by the logging community."

The 5000th machine is quite a milestone for the relatively young company that industry watchers in 1992 never suspected would last a year in such a competitive business dominated by large, well-entrenched manufacturers.

"All Tigercat machines have been designed from scratch with a high degree of innovation. Virtually all Tigercat prototypes have been sold shortly after their introduction, the majority of which are still in operation today. Tigercat greatly appreciates the loggers who have placed confidence in our products, especially those who purchased our early models," says Iarocci.

Although Tigercat began with the 726 feller buncher, a drive-to-tree machine that was marketed in the southeastern United States, Tigercat now builds upwards of twenty-five different models including feller bunchers, skidders, loaders, forwarders,

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harvesters and mulchers as well as a full line of felling attachments. Product development has proceeded at a rapid pace.

“We are very pleased with the excellent performance and enthusiastic acceptance of more recently introduced machines such as the C-series skidders and the 822 and L830

track feller bunchers. We are extremely optimistic about the future prospects for these and other models,” explains Iarocci. “Tigercat machines are now in use worldwide. We look forward to continued growth, both in terms of product offering and expansion into new markets.” ■

Night Moves

By Anthony Goad

Wally Givens experiences success with double shifts in southern Mississippi.

Squeezing more production out of the same overhead increases profits in any business endeavor. Wally Givens of Jayess, Mississippi knows this so when Weyerhaeuser came to him with a new concept for his harvesting operations, he listened attentively.

A year ago, several local Weyerhaeuser representatives approached Wally Givens of Monticello Forest Products with the idea of adding a night shift to his existing clear cutting operation. Weyerhaeuser’s objective was to attempt to lower the cost per ton to the logger by drastically increasing production without increasing fixed costs.

Givens says that at the time he was very interested but did not hear anything official for a couple of months. “When I didn’t hear from Weyerhaeuser right after I thought that they weren’t interested and I had kind of given up on the idea.” But then in December 2003, Givens received the news that he could move forward with the plan. Within four weeks, he had a second crew in place to begin skidding and roadside processing at night on the clear fell operation.

At that time Givens was operating one selective-thinning crew and two independent clear felling crews. Givens’ plan was to amalgamate his two clear-fell sides to form one large crew. Then he

would add the night shift to this operation. Givens states that he was fortunate to have the right people and the right equipment on hand and was able to begin almost immediately upon receiving the go ahead from Weyerhaeuser.

All of the felling and bunching is done during the day. Three skidders follow two Tigercat 724D feller bunchers. On deck, three loaders delimb and load trucks. During the second shift, a skidder and Tigercat T240B track loader work from 4:00 pm to 1:00 am. By 5:00 am there is a large backlog of merchandized wood at the deck. Givens and his other daytime loader operators begin loading trucks. “Getting the head start in the morning is really important,” Givens explains. “Doing it this way, my trucks are generally at the mill when it opens in the morning.”

Givens sees his employees as a valuable asset in taking on a venture like this. “You need reliable, dependable and independent guys working for you,” he says. “They have to know how to make decisions on the fly. If a piece of equipment breaks down during the evening they have to get it fixed right away because you can’t slow down the chain of operation. In the time that we have been running this operation they’ve only had to wake me out of bed once.”

Givens also sees regular maintenance on equipment as particularly important when running two shifts, so he promoted his mechanic, Russell Smith to be the foreman of the night crew. “Russell operates the

The 724D feller bunchers work nine-hour shifts, dropping enough wood to keep the night crew busy.



loader, but can do any repair in a pinch,” Givens says proudly.

According to Givens, his wife Peggy does all of the hard work including accounting, bill payment and trucking. This allows him to focus on the harvesting part of the operation. “Peggy handles the difficult stuff. All I have to do is the easy part.”

In addition to valuable employees, Givens considers the right type and brand of equipment to be particularly important to the success of the business. “The cutters have to fell enough during the day to keep up with the skidders and loaders, during the extra hours that they work at night. I have no problem cutting enough during the day with my two Tigercat feller bunchers to keep enough timber on the ground.”

Givens has two Tigercat 724D wheel feller bunchers with Tigercat 5700 felling heads working nine-hour shifts. “I don’t care how you want to write it, but the 724D is the real deal. The stability and power is exceptional. The cross-flow fan on the buncher makes a big difference. It can get really dry and dusty in these parts of the country, and by keeping the machine clean, you get better performance — without even having to get out of the cab.”

Givens is also impressed by the versatility of the 724D. Although it is a high production clear-fell machine, it is also effective in select thinning applications. “The 724 doesn’t have the fuel capacity of the [Tigercat] 726 but it can get into tight places and still be able to handle the large trees,” Givens explains.

Givens sees the Tigercat 5700 head as a big advantage because there “isn’t the wear and tear and breakage on the bunching arms, like on previous heads.”

He recently added a Tigercat T240B track loader with CSI remote controlled delimeter and slashing package. According to Givens, it has been very beneficial to his operation. The bigger boom, rotation movement and the tracking are important advantages over the competition. The ability to track on its own allows the loader operator to keep ahead of the operation, without needing a skidder to move it. As well, Givens com-

ments that while the conditions are often very dry, it can also get wet and boggy at times. Having the large undercarriage with 915 mm (36 in.) shoes allows the T240B to “get into places that other loaders can’t.”

In 1994, Randall “Red” Williamson, salesman at B & G Equipment of Magnolia, sold Givens his first piece of Tigercat equipment - a Tigercat 726 wheel feller buncher. Williamson comments, “It took awhile to get him to buy. I had to keep seeing him and getting to know him.” Givens was really impressed with his first 726 and has subsequently owned several other Tigercat bunchers.

Prior to purchasing his first Tigercat feller buncher, Givens was trading in his units every two and a half years. Now he is able to keep his cutters for over four years. The longevity of his equipment is crucial to the double shift operation. The cutters are working hard to get enough wood down to keep the night shift busy. “And working the loaders 18 hours a day will allow me to get my investment back faster,” says Givens.

According to Williamson, the forty-year old logger is wise beyond his years. “Givens knows how to produce when the rates are not as good. He is really well respected by Weyerhaeuser because he has no loose ends. He runs a very efficient operation; no wasted motion. As well, he leaves his tracts very clean and does it as he goes to allow him to move his crews really quickly.” Williamson believes it was this solid reputation that enticed Weyerhaeuser to approach Givens with this project.

Givens knows that running the nighttime operation for Weyerhaeuser may not last forever. The company is reviewing the current situation every six months. Givens says that he will just have to “take a wait and see” approach to the project. ■



The 240B is productive in delimiting applications.

“I don’t care how you want to write it, but the 724D is the real deal. The stability and power is exceptional.”

Wally Givens

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CTW Forest Products Finds a Niche

By Tracy Culp

For former Tigercat district managers Wayne Cale and Ben Twiddy, the possibility of owning a logging and sawmilling operation seemed like an impossible dream. Good business sense, technical expertise, hard work and a unique position in the marketplace is turning the dream into a reality.

In March 2004, Tigercat bid farewell to US district managers, Ben Twiddy and Wayne Cale. The two had recently began a new business venture in partnership with long time Tigercat customer Jimmy Witherspoon, owner of JC Witherspoon Jr Inc., Alcolu, South Carolina.

While working as district managers for Tigercat, Cale and Twiddy met Witherspoon and Twiddy in particular worked closely with him on account of his large fleet of Tigercats which included prototypes and early production models.

Cale and Twiddy were impressed with Witherspoon and his ability to successfully manage logging and milling operations simultaneously. They saw an opportunity to learn about logging and sawmill operations from an owner's perspective and a very successful one at that.

Cale and Twiddy struck a deal with Witherspoon and CTW Forest Products based out of Windsor, North Carolina was born. Witherspoon has brought financial backing to the table but that is just the beginning. Cale comments, "Jimmy's been in this business a long time, he really knows the ins and outs of it all and you can't beat that. A young person starting out today, unless they're born into it, they might not make it."

Witherspoon's participation has allowed



CTW Forest Products mill yard in Roper, NC

the team to acquire equipment and property and to secure timber purchasing agreements. Cale and Twiddy are appreciative of Witherspoon's input and look to him for advice in all areas of the business. "Without Jimmy we wouldn't be here today. We've both got young children at home and financially, it is a big risk for us, for anyone," says Cale.

Both Twiddy and Cale stayed on with Tigercat, managing their respective territories and the new business until early March 2004. This transition period was difficult. They credit the support of their families for helping them get through the hardest of times.

Although Cale and Twiddy work together closely, they have agreed on a distinct division of tasks. Twiddy is responsible for the harvesting side of the business, including timber procurement, handling, delivery schedules and logging equipment. Cale is in charge of the sawmill operation.

They run Tigercat equipment both in the mill yard and on the logging job, "We've got a Tigercat T240 loader and 630 skidder in the woods and a T240B in the yard," says Twiddy. They were lucky to pick up some good used equipment and also acquired machines from Witherspoon's South Carolina operation.

Twiddy is running a fairly typical shovel logging operation, specializing in cypress and hardwood swamps. One distinction between this job and other sensitive site operations is that the felling machine is equipped with a Hultdins directional felling

Wayne Cale oversees the mill yard operation and runs the mill.



saw. It performs the dual functions of felling and shoveling. This eliminates one piece of equipment from the operation.

The feller buncher feeds wood to the 630 skidder, which always runs on a log mat over the swamp terrain. A T240 track loader at the deck adds versatility and speeds up the merchandizing process.

The cypress and low-grade oak saw logs all go to the CTW sawmill. 17 ½ ft. soft hardwood ply logs go to Weyerhaeuser in Moncure, North Carolina and all the pulpwood goes to Weyerhaeuser in Plymouth, North Carolina. Average production is running around 20-25 loads per week.

Success in the woods has a lot to do with the caliber of the logging crew. “Ben’s hired two guys in the woods that had been logging swampland, actually they’d been logging juniper. We’ve been fortunate to get some good people and that has really helped the business take off,” says Cale.

Once the logging side was up and running, Twiddy and Cale turned their attention to finding a sawmill. Twiddy’s sister, a local real estate agent, found a retired mill site in Windsor that seemed to fit the bill. CTW purchased the property. The team has spent a significant amount of time cleaning up. The mill had shut down ten years prior and many of the buildings were in need of extensive repair. “We’ve done a lot since we’ve been here,” say Cale. “The place was pretty worn down. We’ve torn down some buildings.”

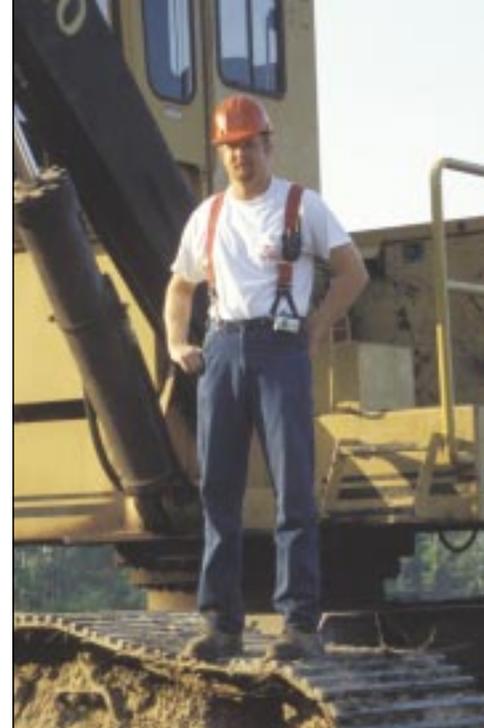
When it came time to purchase the equipment for mill the three partners got together to design the layout and determine how to best set up the flow of material through the mill. They worked round the clock for three weeks putting it all together and by early June the mill was operational. They now have a yard crew consisting of ten employees and have been running one 9-hour shift, 5-6 days per week.

The first employee hired for the mill was Brent Griffin. Cale had worked with him years before at another mill and says that Griffin was the first one that came to mind in the beginning.

“Brent handles the log yard. He does it all from the scales to the sawmill. You don’t have to worry about him, he just does his thing.” Cale notes the dedication of the entire crew, commenting that all of them have put forth a great effort to ensure that the mill stays up and running.

The mill is set up to saw all the cypress and low grade oak that the logging side harvests plus saw logs purchased from other contractors. They sell the lumber as rough cut green. The mill also manufactures mulch from cypress pulpwood and waste wood from the sawmill. All sawdust byproduct is sold to Weyerhaeuser as boiler fuel. “Basically, we don’t waste anything here,” explains Cale. “We take the waste wood and grind it into mulch, we grind the slabs into sawdust.”

Both Twiddy and Cale express their sincere thanks to all those that have supported them in starting CTW Forest Products. Given the many risks involved in starting this operation, the two are grateful for their partnership with Witherspoon and for the ongoing encouragement from those that they had worked with at Tigercat. ■



Ben Twiddy heads up the 3 man logging crew and operates a Tigercat T240 loader.



Brent Griffin operating the Tigercat T240B unloading a log truck in the yard



Left to right; Travis Hardison, Wayne Cale, Brent Griffin and Randy Goodwin

Florida Logger Bill Harrison's Dream Home Nearly Complete

By Tracy Culp



Harrison's home overlooking a scenic pond built by Harrison himself.

Harrison Logging owner Bill Harrison of Williston, Florida is a hard-working man and owner of twelve Tigercat machines. Harrison saw the first Tigercat 726 in 1992 at the Tifton, Georgia show. "When I saw it I said to myself that's a tractor right there, I got to get one. I tried to get the first one but about eight people got there before me so I ended up with number nine."

Harrison is pleased with the performance of the machine noting that it racked up 23,000 hours before a nearby fire destroyed the machine a year ago. "It was a good tractor. It would keep up with a brand new one any day. I guarantee you that." Just before the accident, Harrison had spent \$38,000 upgrading the machine.

Harrison Logging, founded in 1971, has alternated between harvesting lowland hardwood and pine. Currently, Harrison runs four sides: two shovel logging crews and two pine crews. He also oversees the timber buying and manages his 500 acre property. "I head off to whatever crew needs me first thing in the morning or sometimes I'll run the property line or maybe set out to buy some timber. Doesn't matter, I'll go wherever they need me." The shovel logging crews run five 10-hour days, each producing 60 loads per week on average. The pine crews produce 10-12 loads per day each.

In late April, 2004, Harrison purchased a Tigercat C640C clambunk skidder from Tidewater Equipment in Starke, Florida. His intention is to combine the two swamp crews, replacing the two 630 skidders with

the new C640C. The 630 machines will be deployed on the pine operations.

Based on the performance of the C640C to date, he is confident that the Tigercat will perform to his expectations. "We think that we can still get the same amount of wood with a lot less effort. We just haven't had a chance to do it yet because of quotas and the tracts we've been cutting. I know its going to work because I've seen it pull three loads an hour. I know what it'll do."

Harrison has been monitoring the fuel consumption of the C640C. He claims it is burning no more than 55 (US) gallons per day and averages 45-50 gal. (4.5 - 5 gal. per hr.). He says that is about half of what his 630s (A-models) consume. "Hard to believe it just pulls that wood out. It's coming and going and it ain't burning no fuel." Harrison has his 630 operator, Armando running the C640C, "He's been running that 630 since it was new. He takes real good care of the equipment and keeps it clean." Armando says the hydraulic oil temperature is running about 118° and at that temperature Harrison figures the machine will last a long time. "Most people will say that a machine should last about three to four years," Harrison explains. "To me they ought to last about 15 years."

When asked if he feels that his Tigercats can achieve that life span, Harrison responds, "You might have to put a pump on 'em every now and then but as far as the machine holding up, I think it will. I already had a 726. 12-years old and it was still in tip-top shape. It wasn't going down in three more years, I can tell you that."

Harrison recounts that a friend of his who faithfully runs a competitive equipment brand, has looked over his Tigercats carefully and come to the conclusion that structurally, Tigercat is better than his equipment will ever be. "He's wanting to find something wrong," says Harrison. "He said there ain't but one thing wrong with 'em,

(L-R) Jo-Ann Harrison, wife; Kirkland Harrison, granddaughter; Bill Harrison; Michelle Harrison; daughter-in-law. The family is seated in a custom built love seat carved in timber by Harrison.



they're built too heavy. I told him, they are not, they do a good job."

Harrison's fleet includes the C640C clambunk, a 720B feller buncher, 230 and T240 loaders, three 845 track bunchers, two 630 skidders and two 860 shovel loggers. Harrison is pleased with the performance of all his Tigercats. "You just can't beat those Tigercat pins and bushings, they just don't wear out," says Harrison. He adds, "I've pulled some [pins] off of my oldest tractors and you can't even tell they've been used. There's no wear on them at all. You know on ten, eleven machines that is saying a lot."

On an average day, Harrison enjoys an early breakfast with his wife Jo-Ann and is out the door by five o'clock to start the twelve-hour workday ahead. Although Harrison is busy five to six days a week with the business, he has managed to find time to commit to a special project. After purchasing wood for the last sixteen years, Harrison is building his dream home.

The house is being constructed on the 500-acre parcel of land that has been in the Harrison family since 1862. While a good portion of the land has been planted in pine, the property also acts as a base of operations for the business and family. Many members of Harrison's family live on the property. Harrison points at the other houses and says, "There's a place for everyone here, my father lives here, my brother, my son Tripp with his wife and kids. It's a family place. When my daughter comes in from Tampa there is a place for her family to stay. I've never lived anywhere else, I just can't imagine it."

The new home overlooks a large pond that Harrison added to the grounds almost two years ago. When he got to the point that he had enough lumber and other materials prepared, Harrison decided that he had better get his plans on paper. He recounts that once he sat down with some notebook paper and started drawing he could tell the house was going to be a little bigger than originally anticipated.

Harrison hired a local architect, a custom build team out of New York for exterior construction and a local contractor for the

finished carpentry. The open concept design allows the eye to flow through the entire space providing a clear view to the pond from every room.

While walking through the house, one can immediately sense that great attention has been paid to every detail. The carpenters have custom built every door and cabinet. Each closet is cedar lined; each window and doorway is perfectly trimmed. Both Harrison and his wife admit they are overwhelmed at times by the outstanding craftsmanship in every area of construction. Harrison's crew has utilized over ten kinds of wood: pine, red and white cypress, red gum, ash, eucalyptus, red oak, cherry, poplar and cedar, all collected from logging jobs in Georgia and Florida that Harrison has done over the years. In the center of the house are two massive support beams that Harrison estimates at over 500 years old.

Harrison's recollection of the origin of the timber is impressive. During our visit Harrison was able to walk the interior and exterior of the building and recall specific details of the different pieces of lumber including the time of year the wood was harvested and milled.

Harrison has added a few custom pieces of his own, including a hand peeled cedar rail banister and outdoor furniture he has carved. He is hoping to complete another two sets of stairs and a few more benches and seats before construction is complete.

To date construction has occupied 20 months. Although they've missed the original deadline, the family is certain that they will celebrate Thanksgiving, 2004 in the finished house. ■



Harrison relaxes on the veranda of his home with Tidewater salesman, Kenny Stemple.



Harrison's new C640C is burning 4.5-5 (US) gal. of fuel per hour. This machine may prove to be the lowest cost, most efficient transporter available for shovel logging applications.

Demo International 2004

Billed as the largest, active forestry equipment exhibition in North America, Demo 2004 was held at Laval University's research forest, *Fôret Montmorency*, 100 km North of Quebec City, Canada from September 18-20. Total attendance for the three-day event reached 10,000.



A young black bear's curiosity briefly shut down the demonstrations on Saturday.
Photo by Tigercat employee Dan Spoelstra

Being new to the industry, I had never seen a logging operation in action. It was a great opportunity to see first-hand what these machines get put through, and also what the competition is coming out with.

Adam Coderre
student designer, skidder group

Visitors to the Tigercat site witnessed an outstanding product display. The harvesting system consisted of an H822 harvester with telescopic boom, 620C skidder, 870 feller buncher and 1014 forwarder. The static display included a T250 loader, H822 harvester with two-piece boom, 822 feller buncher and 630C skidder.

Tigercat district manager, Don Snively headed the show set-up crew, towing the Tigercat show trailer all the way from Vidalia, Georgia. The set-up crew, pulled out all the stops to build what was by all accounts the best stand at the show. It included multi-tiered wooden observation decks, providing optimum viewing of the live demonstrations.

Machine demonstrations and live commentary by Tigercat team members Martine Léveillé, Steve Crosby and Rick Routliffe drew crowds of spectators to the Tigercat booth. The working machinery allowed onlookers to see Tigercat equipment in realistic conditions. Jon Cooper, product manager, cut-to-length comments. "the Tigercat machines were working wide open with the operator's demonstrating what a responsible logging job with highly productive equipment looks like. Tigercat had a very well thought out and organized demo site."

"We were very pleased with outcome of this event. The Tigercat booth was busy everyday," comments Léveillé, adding that "it was incredible to see the increase in attention Tigercat received at this show since we were last here for Demo '96."

Tigercat district managers Yves Léveillé, Derek Tremblay and Chris Baldwin enlisted operators from four contracting companies that run Tigercat equipment. Paul Hodgson of Hodgson's Chipping, Truro, NS operated the Tigercat 1014 forwarder. Raymond Lévesque of Les Forestiers RMD Inc., St-Augustin QC, operated the 870 feller buncher. Ghislain Belanger and Marcel Belanger of MGM Contracteurs, St-Quentin NB, handled the skidding with the 620C and Guy Ladrie, of Les Chantiers du Lac Inc., Pohenegamook QC, processed with the H822 harvester.

The active demo was superbly managed by Yves Léveillé who revealed, "I was very nervous about this demo. This is a very big event, people come from all around the world to visit this show." He added, "I can say now that the success of our live demo was the result of tremendous team work and in my experience, when you are talking about team work, there is nothing better than Tigercat."



Aside from the set-up crew, sales, marketing, customer service and engineering staff who worked the Tigercat stand, Tigercat owner and chairman, Ken MacDonald flew 280 employees to the show for a day.

MacDonald comments, "Personally, I would like to take everyone in the company to this event but unfortunately, it's just not feasible. Everyone in the organization is working toward a common goal of supplying the best quality, lowest cost per ton equipment to logging contractors throughout the world. There aren't many opportunities this close to home to get our people to see our products at work and also have an opportunity to see what our competitors have out there. When a show like this comes around we'll make every effort to send as many people as possible. When our people see the finished product in action and how tough the working environment really is, it motivates them to do their best and shows them what their hard work and tireless effort has achieved."

Tigercat also extended invitations to several international dealers and customers to visit the manufacturing facilities either prior to or following the event. Andy Bays, managing director of Latin Equipment was delighted with the feedback he had received from his group. "This has been great, the whole lot of them are very impressed with everything they have seen. The factory tours, the Tigercat staff, the booth and demo site here, it's just outstanding, really amazing!"

Stacy and Rina Taylor, from Putaruru



New Zealand won a trip to the Demo through New Zealand Logger magazine. In a letter to NZ Logger they commented:

We would also like to thank Ken MacDonald and his team from Tigercat Industries for their hospitality. We were amazed by the way we were treated in the short time we were in Quebec with your team.

Many thanks to Glen Marley [Tigercat district manager for Australia, New Zealand and south Asia] and his wife for the ride to the Demo 2004 and the great sight seeing tour along the way.

The Demo itself was massive and the machines were impressive even though they were harvesting matchsticks, their trees were no where near the size of our NZ trees. Watching the live demo displays was primo seeing what they could do and being able to see all the different makes and models in action in one place. My most favourite demo site was Tigercat as they harvested their area as if it was a production situation.

Tigercat expresses appreciation to its own team members for the phenomenal effort and to all the customers who attended for their continued support. ■

The total Tigercat contingent numbered over 300.

Demo 2004... very educational. I've never seen a show so impressive. Tigercat stood out as one of the big dogs (or cats.) You can really see how cost per ton matters.

Adam O'Brien
production planning, fabrication

It was impressive to see our 1014 with a full load make it up the hill. Some see gravity as an obstacle. Others see it as an opportunity.

Tony Sousa
MIS





The U.K. debut of the 1014 forwarder attracted a lot of attention.

APF show

Tigercat exhibited three machines in conjunction with UK dealer Forestry Shop at the APF show held

September 24-26 near Alcester, England. The mixed oak and spruce forest proved unsuitable for live demonstrations of the Tigercat equipment. The static machine display consisted of the LH830 harvester, equipped with the telescopic boom, an H822 harvester with the two-piece harvester boom and the 1014 forwarder.

Although there are currently six LH830 harvesters equipped with telescopic booms working in Scotland, the H822 and 1014 are new to the UK market. The APF show provided area contractors their first sight of

these machines. The machines generated interest from Scotland, Wales and Ireland and as far afield as Russia.

Two years ago at the last APF show, Tigercat debuted and sold the LH830 in the UK. Tigercat engineers have been working closely with Forestry Shop and customers in Scotland to make modifications to the harvester to better suit operator preference and the operating conditions specific to the Scottish market.

Forestry Shop recently opened a new store about one hour south of Glasgow in Beattock, Scotland. Service manager, Kenny Scott was impressed with the attendance. "It was a great show for Forestry Shop. We spoke to a lot of customers from Scotland and Ireland, who traveled quite a distance to get here and ended up spending most of their time at our stand. We also made some new contacts in England and Wales." ■

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Can't grab this tiger by the tail

Stephen Wood had been really pleased with his Tigercat H845 harvester when he upgraded to the zero tailswing H822. His expectations were high, but he hasn't been disappointed.

By Bruce McCallum, Canadian Forest Industries, May 2004, Reprinted with permission

Stephen Wood of B&D Wood, Springhill, NS, fits the mold of a lot of Irving contractors - a former trucker who has made the jump to forest machine contracting. It hasn't been easy, but in a period of only four years, he and his five employees have become an efficient harvesting team.

Wood's initial machine purchase was a Tigercat H845 with a LogMax 750 head. The machine provided reliable service and had accumulated over 13,000 hours by the fall of 2004.

Wood knew that he would soon have to make a choice between refurbishing the H845 or trading up to a new machine.

"The company wants us to be productive," he says in explaining the need to make a move. "I thought about doing a refit, but then an opportunity arose to sell my machine."

The local Tigercat sales agent, Sandy Hodgson of Strongco Dartmouth, brought around Tracy Matheson who was looking to buy a used Tigercat harvester to harvest blowdown from Hurricane Juan. He already owned a Tigercat 860 feller buncher and wanted to see a Tigercat harvester with some real hours on it.

After he left, Wood mentioned to Hodgson that he would consider trading his machine, and a deal was made in due course allowing the logger to move up to the new Tigercat zero-tailswing H822 harvester.

"It was a good deal for both parties. Tracy got a good used machine that had been well looked after, plus I got a real good dollar for my old machine," Wood says.

Twice not shy

Wood went back to Tigercat for his second machine because he had confidence in the



company after four years with his 845, a mid-size line since replaced by the 822. Service was also a factor. "The service is 100% from Strongco and Tigercat," he adds. Despite high expectation levels based on the 845, he has not been disappointed.

"The new 822 is 100% better than the 845. Serviceability is the main thing. Everything is very accessible and at eye level. Compared to the 822, quite a few things on the 845 were hard to get at."

He also finds the new machine quieter. On the 845, the engine is behind the cabin, while on the new machine, it is on the right, on the other side of the stick boom. The fan is also on the right side of the machine and it is hydraulically driven, so that its speed can be varied to match the cooling needs of the motor. The fan can also be reversed to quickly purge the radiator of accumulated debris, a convenient touch.

Stephen Wood atop his new producer. "Production is up significantly," the Nova Scotian logger says of the H822.

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“The ER boom concept was one of those slap on the forehead moments that you have on rare occasions when you suddenly discover a great new idea.”

Access to the engine, pump and cooling system is one of the major innovations in the H822. A lot of effort has been spent on improving the layout and service access, including engine and cooling system cowlings that open up fully to provide ready access to all the major power system components, which are separated and can be approached from both sides. Access for service, repair and even replacement of the engine, pumps and cooling system could not be better.

The cab has also seen major improvements - it is much larger with better front and right side lateral visibility, as the crane is mounted farther back. There is plenty of storage room behind the operator's seat and a left side door that offers a possible emergency escape route. Wood also finds the Sure-Grip control levers comfortable to use, and the new Motomit computer control system more user friendly. “There is a lot more information in it, but you do not need a book to use it.”

Buyers can choose between two new Tier II Cummins engines - the 240 hp QSC 8.3 litre, which Wood bought, and the larger 280 hp QSL 9 litre. According to Matt Roberts, product manager for tracked vehicles at Tigercat in Paris, ON, there is not much difference in the fuel consumption or performance between the two engines. “The QSL9 runs slower at only 1,800 rpm compared to 2,200 for the 8.3 litre engine. That should extend the life of the nine litre engine.”

The reach on Stephen Wood's zero tail swing H822 with ER telescopic boom is 35 feet, at which it can still heft 5,000 lb (bare pin), while the cab is noticeably larger than the older 845. The LogMax 7000 is also improved over older models, Wood says.



Reach out

A major difference in the new H822 over the older 845 is the ER telescopic boom, which has a reach of over 35 feet, yet a lift of over 5,000 pounds at full reach. This compares with a reach of 30 feet for the 845. “It's a strong crane and I do use that reach for smaller trees, but I like to move in closer for the bigger stuff,” Wood explains.

The ER telescopic boom is a new type of crane designed and patented by Tigercat. It was developed by retired consulting engineer John Kurelek, who had a long, distinguished career in the forest machine field.

“The ER boom concept was one of those slap on the forehead moments that you have on rare occasions when you suddenly discover a great new idea,” Roberts says. It involves the employment of a second lift cylinder on the jib or secondary boom. This cylinder is actually a slave cylinder that is hydraulically interconnected to the big lift cylinder on the main boom. When the crane is extended to reach a tree, the main stick boom goes down and the oil from the big lift cylinder is transferred to the slave lift cylinder in the jib boom. When the operator gives the “retract” command to bring in a tree, the jib boom is retracted and the oil in the slave cylinder goes to help power the lift on the main boom cylinder. This reduces the oil flow and energy requirement from the hydraulic pump. “It is also easier to use,” Roberts adds.

“The operator only has to give the controls the “extend” or “retract” command. It basically works like a parallel crane. While it is more energy efficient, most operators find that they still use about the same amount of fuel. The main difference is that they experience a 20-30% increase in productivity compared to a conventional knuckle boom crane. The only time the slave cylinder actually exerts any force is when the crane is at full reach and pump pressure is applied to the main boom lift cylinder. That pressure also flows to the slave cylinder to provide additional lifting force to the jib boom.”

The H822 can be fitted with either the Log

Max 7000, which Wood purchased, or the larger 9000. "The H822 handles either head equally well. The hydraulic system is quite capable of handling the 9000," Roberts notes.

Wood is enthusiastic about the new Log Max 7000 head. "Log Max made some really nice improvements over the 750. The frame is beefed up quite a bit to make it stronger and it also has bigger cylinders. The hoses and valve bank are better situated and it's a lot easier to work on. It's a little bit quicker and it seems like it has more power."

Full CTL crew

Wood operates with a crew of five: two on the harvester and two on the forwarder, each doing 12-hr shifts. Another forwarder operator does extra shifts on the weekend to keep the wood cleaned up behind the harvester. Wood's wife, Patricia, does the books and writes the cheques.

Wood is an exception to the norm with JD Irving in that he operates both a harvester and a forwarder, while most Irving contractors run just one machine. In the fall of 2003, he began leasing a 16 tonne Rottne SMV 8WD forwarder from Rocan of Dieppe, NB.

"The Rottne is a nice machine, and I like having the two machines. It's convenient to be able to move your wood right away, rather than waiting for a forwarder. It's better not to have snow covering your wood," he adds.

The logger's care for his machine extends beyond regular maintenance, and includes the use of premium lubricants. In the winter months he uses 0W40 motor oil.



One of the biggest improvements to the Tigercat H822 over his older 845 is serviceability. Access to all the major components is simple and direct.

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cont. from pg. 13.

“The 0W40 makes for a lot easier starts when it is really cold. Cold starts are hard on an engine, and this helps.”

He also uses HVI (high viscosity index) hydraulic oil, which provides easier cold starts and better film strength at high temperatures, especially during the hot summer months, both of which contribute to longer pump and motor life.

At the time of the visit by CFI, Wood had only 325 hours on his new H822. But already he is comfortable with the new machine.

“The production is up significantly. We can cut 450-500 cords (1,080 to 1,200 m³) in decent wood in a week with this machine,” These are bottom-line numbers that make him confident that trading up for the H822 was a sound decision. ■

H860 processors in Nova Scotia

E&R Langille Contracting based in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia has a fleet of ten Tigercat machine feller bunchers and processors. In speaking with Darren Langille, we learned something about the H860 processor. E&R’s H860 processors are equipped with both standard feller buncher

and long reach boom sets. Both configurations easily handle a heavy-duty five tonne single grip processing head.

When asked why he prefers to run the 860 carriers instead of smaller machines with lighter heads, Langille replies, “For the uptime.

The 860 with the Hornet gets higher uptime. Also the wood is not uniformly sized.” Although most of the wood is small diameter spruce, there are often larger diameter trees mixed in.

The 860 processors come in after a feller buncher has finished clear-falling a block of timber. All E&R 860 feller bunchers have high rotation wrists that allow the operators to double bunch, meaning that they bunch all the wood to the same side on the first pass. Returning on the second pass, they bunch on the opposite side, laying the second pass bunches on top of the bunches from the previous pass.

With this method the H860 processor travels directly in line with the row of bunches, reducing the total travel and percentage of terrain that is tracked over. The wood is merchandized into three to seven different sorts and forwarded to roadside. ■

Tigercat H860 processor works in spruce.



2005 Show schedule

SHOW	LOCATION	DATE
TLA Annual Convention	Vancouver, BC	Jan 19 - 21
Oregon Logging Conference	Eugene, OR	Feb 24 - 26
Interior Logging Association Annual Meeting	Vernon, BC	April 14 - 16
Northern Alberta Forestry Show	Grande Prairie	May 5 - 7
Northeastern Forest Products Expo	Bangor, MA	May 13 - 14
Elmia Wood 2005	Jönköping, Sweden	June 1 - 4
LOGFOR	Quebec City, QC	Sept 8 - 10
2005 Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show	Starkville, MS	Sept 9 - 10



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Tigercat appoints Lyons Equipment

This summer, Tigercat appointed Lyons Equipment as a full-line Tigercat forestry equipment dealer in western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. This agreement along with Tigercat dealers CJ Logging Equipment, Frank Martin Sons and West Mount, solidifies Tigercat's coverage in the northeastern region of the United States.

Lyons is a strong, well-established dealership with locations in Little Valley, NY; Allenwood and Brookville, PA; Circleville, OH and Flatwoods, WV.

Lyons recently terminated their relationship with Timberjack. "We are extremely pleased to have joined forces with a manufacturer of such high quality equipment," comments Lyons president, John Lyons.

Lyons Equipment has a long history in the logging equipment industry. According to Lyons, the company became involved in the forestry business in 1962 after signing distribution agreements with equipment manufacturers Timberjack, Prentice and Morbark.

In a few short months Lyons has retailed a number of loaders as well 630C skidders. At 240 hp, the 630C is being retailed by Lyons in areas that have traditionally been dominated by small cable and grapple skidders in range of 120-160 hp.

Wilson Equipment acquires Vines Equipment

Wilson Equipment recently acquired Tigercat dealer, Vines Equipment in Glenwood Arkansas.

The dealership is now called Wilson Equipment and is located at:

322 HWY 70 EAST
P.O. BOX 2039
GLENWOOD, AR
71943
tel: (870)356-5500
fax: (870) 356-5350

Phil Wilson now owns three stores in Arkansas. The other two locations are in Monticello and Sheridan.

Personnel changes

Tigercat export manager, **Gary Olsen**, who spent the last five years developing Tigercat's offshore markets, has returned to South Africa where he will be managing harvesting operations for a forestry company.

Olsen's contributions resulted in dealer expansion into South America, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and Russia. **Matt Roberts**, former product manager for trackmachines has joined the export sales department to continue with Olsen's efforts. **Mike Ross** has also moved over to the sales department from the wheel feller buncher group.

Andy Hoshel will take over Roberts' current engineering function as product manager of track machines. Hoshel's solid engineering foundation and thorough product knowledge will enable him to quickly assume his new responsibilities.

New Tigercat Website

Tigercat has revamped tigercat.com for improved navigation and usability. Take a look at the new site to find the latest news, the most current product information, locations for every Tigercat distributor and other important information.

www.tigercat.com



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