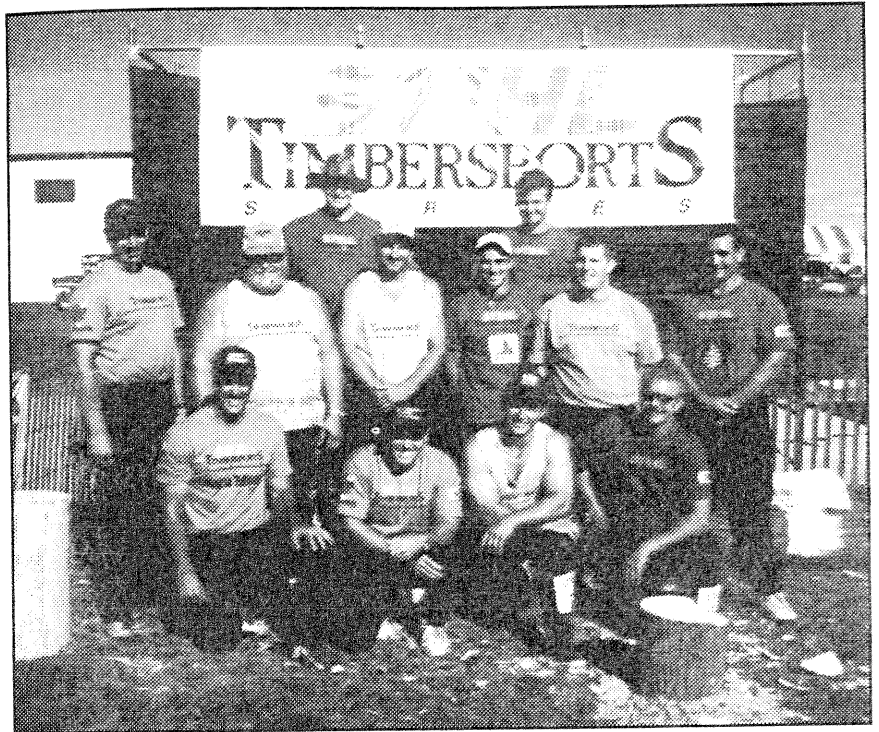


North American

A XEMEN'S NEWS S

APRIL 2000-2001 PRICE \$5 U.S. \$6 CAN.



1999

Stihl Timbersports™ Series Finalists:

(Front Row): (L to R) Mike Sullivan, Harry Burnsworth, Gaston Duperre, Jim Taylor (Middle Row): Matt Bush, Rick Halverson, Melvin Lentz, Dave Jewett, Brad Turner, Jason Wynyard (Back Row): David Bolstad, Dale Ryan



MERCIER
RACING SAWS



-Crosscut

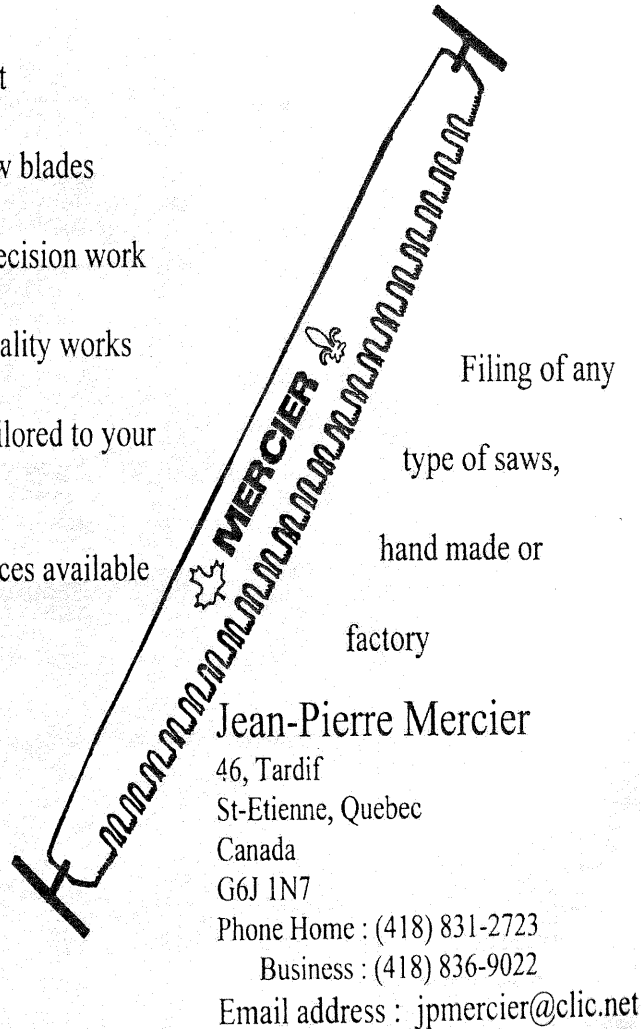
-Bow saw blades

-High precision work

-High quality works

-Saws tailored to your
needs

-References available



Filing of any

type of saws,

hand made or

factory

Jean-Pierre Mercier

46, Tardif
St-Etienne, Quebec
Canada

G6J 1N7

Phone Home : (418) 831-2723

Business : (418) 836-9022

Email address : jpmmercier@clic.net

NORTH AMERICAN AXEMEN'S NEWS

911 Somerset Drive
Charleston, WV 25302

Editor/Publisher: Arden Cogar Jr
Co-Editors: Mike & Barb Slingerland, David & Jinny Montague
Data Entry: Arden Cogar Jr., Linda Leighton, Lisa Nuttall
Secretary/Treasurer: Wilsie Herlihy-Cogar
Contributors: Everyone associated with Lumberjack Sports

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well here we have it, another year and continued growth in this hobby I call Lumberjack Sports! Is it just me, or are Lumberjack Sports getting a lot of air time on ESPN, ESPN 2, Outdoor Channel, HSE, etc. ? It seems that the sport is getting more exposure and popularity.

2000 will be an auspicious year for Lumberjack Sports. In late April, the Olympics of Woodchopping will be at full bore in Sydney, Australia. Melvin Lentz, Arden Cogar Jr., Dave Jewett, Harry Burnsworth, Carson Bosworth, Mike Slingerland and Dennis Daun have been chosen to bear the red, white and blue before thousands of spectators and the board of selectors of the International Olympic Committee. While not an Olympic event, the IOC has tentatively agreed to view the relay races and some of the individual events for consideration for future Olympic Games.

In late July, ESPN's Great Outdoor Games will take place in Lake Placid, New York. While a lot of issues are yet to be resolved, the GO Games will offer the largest purses in the history of Lumberjack Sports. Moreover, the conditioning that will be necessary for this event is uncanny, as the contestants will be required to compete in heats, quarter finals, semifinals and finals in various, rigorous events. Further, the GO Games will mark the first time that all disciplines of Lumberjack Sports (Rolling, Climbing, Sawing and Chopping) will be exhibited by the best Lumberjacks and Lumberjills from around the world.

In August and September, the Stihl TimberSports Series will move into its seventeenth year. Already offering unbelievable prizes and awards, the Stihl TimberSports Series will prove more competitive than ever. With three time champion, Jason Wynyard, returning in top form and the influx of overseas competitors for the GO Games, it looks like the 2000 Stihl TimberSports Series will be the most competitive ever. Don't count out the likes of Matt Bush, Dave Jewett, Melvin Lentz, Arden Cogar Jr. or Mike Sullivan; each or any of these fellows is capable of winning the Timbersports Series given the right day, the right mood and the right frame of mind.

How about the United States Axemen's Association? Kudos for Mike Slingerland, Dennis Daun, Peg Engasser, Dave Engasser, Carson Bosworth, Dwight Severson, and Arden Cogar Jr. for organizing and orchestrating Team USA for the "Olympics of Woodchopping." The Board of Directors for the USAA spent several hundred hours laboring on various issues ranging from t-shirt design to whom to ask for sponsorship. Our hats go off to the guys and gals of the USAA for working hard to give Lumberjack Sports a shot at Olympic recognition. Moreover, our hats are off to Stihl for being the major sponsor of Team USA.

Simply put - Hat's off to Stihl for it's unparalleled support of Lumberjack Sports. Not only has Stihl fostered and developed the Stihl TimberSports Series, but it has also contributed substantially to the Great Outdoor Games and Team USA. People such as Ken Waldron and Heather Petry deserve special recognition for working very closely with the competitors and the Board of the USAA. Moreover, the people at Cortani Morrison, such as Bob Morrison and Sharon Freeman deserve special recognition for working closely with the competitors and being supportive no matter what the endeavor.

For those of you who don't know it, the USAA is up and running on the North American Lumberjack Guide at "www.starinfo.com/ljguide". Beyond the USAA, the North American Lumberjack Guide is a godsend to those neophytes who wish to learn more about Lumberjack Sports and have who take the time to surf the net; the North American Lumberjack Guide will provide them with volumes upon volumes of information to get started.

On a sad note, Lumberjack Sports lost a great friend and a fierce competitor during this off season. Jim Mariar, a long time competitor and founder of Honey Creek Logging, passed away in December of 1999. Jim was always dapper and full of cheer bringing sunshine into the eyes of those who knew him. Jim will be missed, but his legacy will live on through the likes of his grandsons Mike and Tom Forrester.

In any event, 2000 will leave it's mark on Lumberjack Sports. As sure as the sun is to set in the West, those of us who endeavor to grasp an axe handle or the handle of a crosscut saw will surely sweat much for the hobby we have grown to call a sport. Personally, I look forward to all of these wonderful events and am very thankful for having the opportunity to know those of you who enjoy Lumberjack Sports. As time goes on, the staff at the NAAN will continue to endeavor to put forth a better product. Further, on the road, we competitors will even try to get along amongst

ourselves. The latter will be the hard one, but beyond a shadow of a doubt the NAAN will continue as long as the fans and competitors feel it is warranted. I have been told I am crazy for putting forth such an effort for such minimal return; my retort is "love will make you do strange things". Simply put, I love my sport; I love Lumberjack Sports. I enjoy the feeling of an axe handle, and I enjoy the camaraderie among competitors. Keep my sport alive; let it live, and let it thrive. In the meantime, I will enjoy the ride.

Thanks again and yours in Wood-Chips (Thanks Rod Cumberland - where are you??)

Arden Cogar Jr.

Send your suggestions, show results, new shows, canceled shows, photos, to:

THE NORTH AMERICAN AXEMAN'S NEWS
911 Somerset Drive
CHARLESTON, WV 25302
PH: (304) 346-0211

The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show

is Looking For Good Used Chopping Axes & Crosscut Saws

Contact us at:
907-225-9050
or Fax a List of Gear to
907-247-9050

*Anyone interested in doing shows can
contact us at the phone number above*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LUMBERJACK WORLD RECORDS AND CHAMPIONS	6
ESPN STIHL TIMBER SPORTS SERIES	14
GREAT OUTDOOR GAMES	18
THE UNITED STATES AXEMEN'S ASSOCIATION	25
VARIOUS LUMBERJACK TIDBITS	28
CANLOG AND BRITISH COLUMBIA	72
NEW BRUNSWICK LUMBERJACK'S ASSOCIATION	84
NOVA SCOTIA LUMBERJACK'S ASSOCIATION	87
ONTARIO TIMBER SPORTS ASSOCIATION	88
WEST VIRGINIA AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION	92
SOUTHERN AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION	98
SOUTH ATLANTIC WOODSMEN'S ASSOCIATION	102
PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO	103
NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, AND MASSACHUSETTS	107
VERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND MAINE	115
AMERICAN LUMBERJACK ASSOCIATION AND THE WEST	119
MIDWEST	124
OVERSEAS INFORMATION	129
RESULTS FROM THE COLLEGIATE CIRCUIT	130
CUSTOMARY RULES AND REGULATIONS	132



Mountain State Forest Festival

**On October 7, 2000, come and enjoy the fall colors
as well as an intense Lumberjack Competition!**

The Mountain State Forest Festival is the home of the

- 10x10 World Championship Two Person Crosscut
- 10x10 World Championship Jack & Jill Crosscut
- North American Hard Hitting Championships

For More Information Contact:
Mountain State Forest Festival
101 Lough St., P.O. Box 369
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
Phone: (304) 636-1824
Fax: (304) 636-4020

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

World Championship Events began in the 1940's with the Albany Timber Carnival. As time passed, other events, similar yet different, with different sizes, or distance, of logs or trees developed. After the ATC, the Pacific National Exhibition, the Lumberjack World Championships, and the Webster County Woodchopping Festival came to be the largest contests in their respective regions. Each of the aforementioned contests used different sizes of timber and different species of timber in their contests. Given as much, each contest sought to become the focal point of Lumberjack contests in their respective regions; in doing so, these contests offered some of the best purses associated with Lumberjack Sports.

Prior to 1996, World Championships were a subjective part of Lumberjack Sports. However, recently the Australian Axeman's Association promulgated a rule whereby a World Championship event must have a \$5,000 Australian Dollar Purse with eight place getters and the final championship heat (after preliminaries) requiring all blocks (or wood) used in the final championship heat to be out of the same tree. Accordingly, and to legitimize the North American World Championship events, the NAAN believes North America should recognize a similar rule: at least a \$500 first (\$700 Canadian) paying at least 6 to 10 places, with a total purse per event of approximately \$3000 (\$4,200 Canadian). Given this criteria the following events would qualify:

- Webster Springs, WV USA - **Webster County Wood-Chopping Festival**
.13" Standing .13" Underhand .10" Springboard .12" Two-man Crosscut .24" One Man Crosscut
- Albany, OR USA - **Albany Timber Carnival**
.100' Speed Climb .100' Tree Topping
- Hayward, WI USA - **Lumberjack World Championships**
.14" Standing .14" Underhand .14" Springboard .20" Two-man Crosscut .20" Jack+Jill Crosscut
.Women's' Birling .Mens' Birling .90' Speed Climb .11" Women's Underhand
.14" Women's Single Hand Sawng .20" Single Hand Sawing
- Squamish, BC Canada - **Squamish Days**
.18" Three-Man Standing Butcher Block .110" Speed Climb .12" Springboard(up-down-up).
- Elkins, WV USA - **Mountain State Forest Festival**
.10x10 Two Man Crosscut .10x10 Jack-N-Jill Crosscut
- Powell River, BC Canada - **Powell River Lumberjack Contest**
\ Three Person Relay
- Gladstone, WI -
.Men's birling .Women's Birling

There are other events in North America that have been termed World Championship Events prior to any monetary standard. These events include:

- Webster Springs, WV USA - 12" Power Saw
- Albany, OR USA - 15" Underhand .12" Standing .13" Springboard .24" Single Handed Sawing
.30" Double Handed Sawing .Obstacle Pole .Choker Setting
- Hayward, WI USA - Men's Boom Run . Women's Boom Run
- . Shevlin, MN USA - 8x8 World Championship Bow Saw
- . Squamish, BC Canada .22" Two-man Crosscut .Championship Power saw Tree Falling
- .Orifino, ID USA - 18" Jack-N-Jill Crosscut
- Elkins, WV USA - .Manual Tree Falling

There are also events in the Midwestern United States that should be considered World Championship Events in the near future:

Ronchesterfest - Ronchester, MN USA - 11" Standing, 12" Underhand, 10" Springboard, 18" Single Hand Sawing, 18" Double Hand Sawing, 18" Jack-n-Jill.

The following events should be considered World Championship Events irrespective of a monetary standard:

- New York Woodsmen's Field Days**- Boonville, NY USA - Overall Lumberjill Champion
- Ronchesterfest** - Ronchester, MN USA - 15" Maiden Single Handed Sawing, 15" Jill and Jill Crosscut,
10" Maiden Underhand
- Lumberjack World Championships** - Hayward, WI USA - Overall Lumberjill Champion

The criteria was set forth to help alleviate any confusion associated with World Championship events. Lumberjack Sports is growing each year. The aforementioned standards or criteria may not satisfy everyone, however the NAAN is striving to promote, legitimize, and further Lumberjack Sports; basically, we have to start somewhere. Accordingly, we here at the NAAN, in conjunction with all the subassociations and the USAA, are attempting to stamp some continuity in our sport for our public relations people as well as encourage growth of our sport.

Some events that the NAAN would like to see show organizers develop or find sponsors (and wood) for world championships in the following events:

- . Combination chop (underhand block chop followed immediately by standing block)
- . Larger sized wood events - e.g. 15" to 17" Underhands and Standing chops, 24"-30" Single Hand Sawing events
- . Bow Sawing Events
- . Endurance events (three to four underhand blocks in a row!)
- . Tri-athalon events (Underhand followed by Standing followed by Single Hand Sawing)
- . Hard Hitting events (fewest number of blows to sever a log)
- . Team Relay events

If any show organizers would like some assistance on how to run any of these events please contact the administrative staff of the NAAN and well will supply you with detailed instructions on how to conduct the above mentioned events.

Yours in Wood-Chips,
Administrative Staff of the NAAN

High Quality Standing Block Leggings made from Chainmail

*For the experienced axeman who
wishes to dispense with fear of
cutting oneself.*

Contact:
Karl Bischoff
P.O. Box 103
Celista, B.C. V0E 1L0
Ph: (250) 955-6250

1999 World Champions in their individual events:

Standing Block:

11" Jason Wynyard
12" Arden Cogar Jr.
13" David Bolstad
14" Jason Wynyard
18" (Butcher Block): Dale Ryan/Jason Wynard/Mitch Hewitt

Underhand Block:

12"
13" Mel Lentz
14" David Bolstad
15"

Tree Falling (Manual): Melvin Lentz.

(Mechanical): Brad Laughlin

Two-Man X Cut:

10x10 Dave Jewett & Mike Sullivan
12" Gaston Duperre & Gilles Levesque
20" Matt Bush & Donald Lambert
22" Jason Wynyard & Gil Lane
24"
30" Rolin Eslinger & Jim Taylor

One-Man X Cut:

20" Jason Wynyard (Hayward)
24" Mike Forrester (Albany)

Springboard Block:

10" Harry Burnsworth
11"
12" David Bolstad
12" Mitch Hewitt (Squamish)
20" Rick & Penny Halverson

Jack & Jill X Cut:

10x10 Mike & Barb Slingerland
16"
12" Gaston & Dany Duperre
15"

Bow Sawing

8"
10x10 Matt Bush

Tree Climbing

80" Brian Bartow
90" Wade Stewart
100" Brian Bartow
80" (Squamish) Brian Bartow

Obstacle Pole

(Albany) - Rob Waibel
Tina Salzman (Gladstone)

Log Rolling

J.R. Salzman (Gladstone)

Need your axes ground, or your cylinder ported?

Call Rudy Sanetta at (412) 751-7334

Rudy can fix anything, and make anything - over fifteen years as a machinist

Axe Covers or Axe Handles?
Call Arden Cogar Sr at (304) 847-2353

Lumberjack/Lumberjill Records
(as of 2/14/2000)

UNDERHAND BLOCK CHOP**YELLOW POPLAR**

8X8	Arden Cogar Sr	07.05	1975
10"	(women)Chris Van Gee	54.25	1995
10X10	Mel Lentz	12.10	1994
11"	Doug Fleggle	24.16	1993
12"	Arden Cogar Sr	15.15	1978
13"	Melvin Lentz	18.85	1995
14"	Mel Lentz	30.29	1993
15"	Arden Cogar Jr	38.17	1999
16"	Arden Cogar Jr	40.88	1999

WHITE PINE

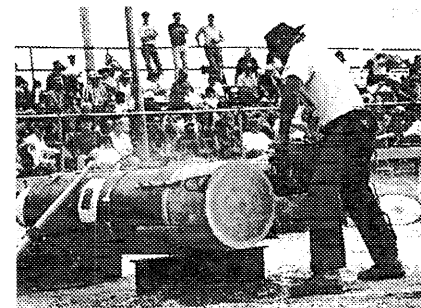
8x8(women)	Shannon Strong	19.30	1998
8x8	Mike Sullivan	06.25	1990
9" (women)	Shannon Strong	22.53	1998
10X10	Mike Sullivan	10.60	1992
11" (women)	Dany Boulanger	43.58	1999
11"	Paul Cogar	12.15	1992
12"	Arden Cogar Jr	13.41	1997
13"	David Bolstad	12.28	1999
14"	Laurence O'Toole	17.84	1987
15"	Mel Lentz	25.78	1995

ASPEN

8" (women)	Shannon Strong	21.20	1999
8X8	Arden Cogar Sr	07.10	1974
8x8 (women)	Lori Ransom	21.02	1999
10x10	Mel Lentz	13.45	1989
11"	Mike Eash	15.67	1998
11"(women)	Penny Halverson	30.73	1998
12"	Jason Wynyard	13.65	1998
13"	Jason Wynyard	14.36	1997
14"	David Bolstad	16.69	1999

SWEET GUM

10x10	Mel Lentz	18.43	1991
11"	Mel Lentz	19.66	1992
12"	Mel Lentz	20.05	1993



Don Lambert gives his saw a "good shove" at the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days held in Boonville, New York.

ALDER

12"	David Bolstad	11.69	1999
13"	David Bolstad	16.835	1999
14"	Jason Wynyard	21.72	1996
16"	R. W. Dimick	1:29.0	1949

PONDEROSA PINE

12"	Jason Wynyard	15.01	1996
13"	Jason Wynyard	16.32	1998
14"	Mel Lentz	20.68	1987
15"	Mel Lentz	23.50	1988

RED PINE

12"	Mel Lentz	20.05	1995
13"	Gib Engel	37.56	1987

COTTONWOOD-Albany/PNE aspen

11"	Chris Miller	16.18	1996
12"	Jason Wynyard	14.77	1997
13"	Jack Brown-John	23.09	1996
14"	David Bolstad	20.59	1999

STANDING BLOCK**YELLOW POPLAR**

8X8	Arden Cogar Sr	08.50	1974
10X10	Arden Cogar Sr	16.20	1976
10"	Arden Cogar Jr	16.25	1999
11"	Rolin Eslinger	14.46	1984
12"	Mel Lentz	15.97	1995
13"	Carson Bosworth	31.35	1995
14"	Arden Cogar Jr.	37.17	1999
15"	Arden Cogar Jr	44.80	1999

WHITE PINE

8X8	Mike Sullivan	08.68	1994
10X10	Arden Cogar Sr	14.45	1972
10"	Matt Bush	12.45	1993
11"	Arden Cogar Jr	11.88	1999
12"	Jason Wynyard	13.58	1998
13"	Arden Cogar Jr	18.16	1996
14"	Mel Lentz	22.05	1988

ASPEN

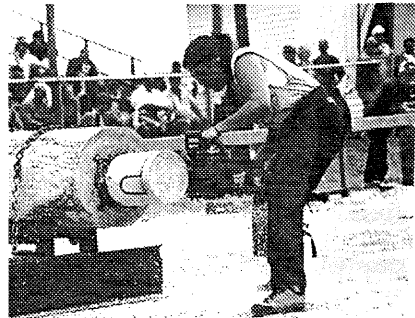
8X8	Arden Cogar Sr	7.85	1979
10X10	Arden Cogar Sr	14.60	1979
10"	Dave Jewett	12.55	1998
11"	Jason Wynyard	13.28	1998
12"	Jason Wynyard	13.20	1997
13"	Carson Bosworth	26.99	1995
14"	Jason Wynyard	18.33	1998

SWEET GUM

8X8	Mel Lentz	16.23	1991
10"	Arden Cogar Jr.	18.45	1998
11"	Mel Lentz	16.77	1992
12"	Arden Cogar Jr.	20.85	1999

ALDER			
10"	Ryan Hatfield	15.00	1997
11"	Jason Wynyard	12.38	1996
12"	Brian Herlihy	16.80	1976
PONDEROSA PINE			
11"	Karl Bischoff	16.15	1995
12"	Jason Wynyard	16.15	1996
13"	Mel Lentz	19.54	1992
RED PINE			
11"	Arden Cogar Jr	16.95	1995
12"	Arden Cogar Sr	20.50	1970
COTTONWOOD			
12"	David Bolstad	15.51	1999
WESTERN WHITE PINE			
12"	Carson Bosworth	19.41	1997
<u>SPRINGBOARD CHOP</u>			
YELLOW POPLAR			
8x8	Harry Burnsworth	45.22	1993
10"	John Gossov	43.24	1992
10x10	Harry Burnsworth	1:04.80	1992
11"	Carson Bosworth	48.73	1996
12"	Harry Burnsworth	1:04.80	1996
WHITE PINE			
10x10	Mike Sullivan	52.76	1993
10"	Harry Burnsworth	43.31	1999
11"	David Bolstad	36.92	1999
12"	Dale Ryan	53.10	1999
14"	Bill Youd	1:18.45	1985
ASPEN			
8x8	Mel Lentz	46.30	1995
10"	Warrick Hallett	44.23	1993
11"	Dave Jewett	45.03	1998
12"	Warrick Hallett	45.445	1999
13"	Warrick Hallett	1:06.61	1994
SWEET GUM			
10"	Carson Bosworth	1:09.65	1999
11"	Mel Lentz	1:25.13	1992
ALDER			
11"	Clayton Stewart	48.35*	1978?
12"	Bill Youd	56.45	1985
PONDEROSA PINE			
10"	Mark Etcheberry	42.45	1995
11"	Mark Etcheberry	55.485	1995
12"	Mel Lentz	55.54	1994
RED PINE			
10"	Carson Bosworth	46.57	1995

COTTONWOOD			
11"	Carson Bosworth	43.43	1996
12"	Mitch Hewitt	52.47	1999
WESTERN WHITE PINE			
11"	Dale Ryan	40.31	1999
<u>TWO-PERSON X CUT</u>			
<i>This is assumed to be 2 cuts in wood smaller than 15"</i>			
YELLOW POPLAR			
8x8	G. Duperre & G. Levesque	7.95 (3 cuts)	1994
	M. Lentz & P. Cogar	5.08 (2 cuts)	1999
10x10	Matt Bush & Mike Slingerland	6.47	1997
10x10(women)	Beverly Wine & Becky Cogar	5.25	1988
12"	Mel Lentz & Rolin Eslinger	8.14	1986
14x14	Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush	6.44	1998
WHITE PINE			
8x8	Mike Sullivan & Jim Colbert	3.24 (2 cuts)	1989
8x8 (W.)	A. Robarge & M. Dooley	2.91 (1cut)	1999
8x8 (Women)	A. Robarge & M. Dooley	5.95 (2 cuts)	1999
10x10	C. Vroman & G. Hammond	5.12 (2 cuts)	1998
9"	(Women) B. Slingerland & J. Bush	6.83 (2 cuts)	1999
12x12	Jerry & Herb Gingras	3.57 (1 cut)	1999
12x12	Andy Schreiner & Pat Hoffa	8.40(2 cuts)	1999
15"	Rick Halverson & Jeff Crago	5.24	1989
16"	(Women) P. Halverson & L. Ransom	7.315	1999
16"	Mike Slingerland & Mike Sullivan	4.28	1999
18"	G. Duperre & Gilles Levesque	5.47	1998
18"	(Women) Penny Halverson & April Berg	9.35	1997
20"	Matt Bush & Don Lambert	6.03	1999
24"	Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush	10.06	1999
ASPEN			
8x8	Cliff & Jason Helsel	6.44 (3 cuts)	1998
	Gaston Duperre & Gilles Levesque	4.02 (2 cuts)	1994
10x10	Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush	.05(2 cuts)	1995
10x10	Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush	8.98(3 cuts)	1998
12"	(Women) D. Boulanger & J. Bush	12.40(2 cuts)	1999
12"	Paul Pfenninger & Wally Robarge	11.45(3 cuts)	1999
18"	Gaston Duperre & Gilles Levesque	6.755	1998



Christine Van Gee gives the Stock Power Saw a whirl at Boonville, New York.

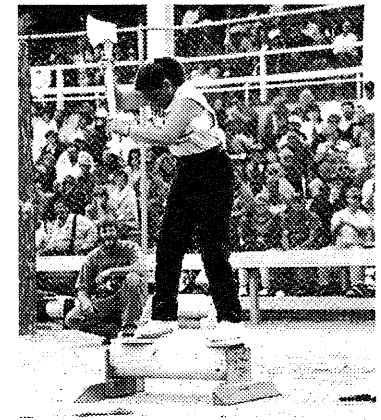
SWEET GUM			
12"	Kirt Hall & Harry Burnsworth	9.95 (2 cuts)	1997
PONDEROSA PINE			
18"	Ryan Hatfield & Mike Forrester	6.72	1999
DOUGLAS-FIR			
18"	Jason Wynyard & Alistair Taylor	9.50	1996
22"	Mike Forrester & Ryan Hatfield	15.32	1999
24"	Arden Corey & Forest Corey	21.40	1976
26"	Terry Warfield and Dan Sjostrom	17.06	1982
30"	Melvin Lentz & Rolin Eslinger	28.21	1990
COTTONWOOD			
20"	Bob & Carson Bosworth	10.76	1995
22"	Bob & Carson Bosworth	8.77	1998
24"	Dennis Daun & J.P. Mercier	11.88	1997
26"	Ryan Hatfield & Mike Forrester	17.87	1999
WESTERN LARCH			
12"	(Women) S. Rodman & M. Bosworth	8.91	1997
16"	(Women) C. Marcellus & Jean Bradley	17.16	1998
22"	Gary Lester & Carson Bosworth	10.95	1996
WESTERN WHITE PINE			
20"	Keith Johnson & Jack Brown	John 8.01	1995
22"	Carson & Bob Bosworth	12.15	1994
24"	J.P. & Napoleon Mercier	11.18	1996
<u>ONE-PERSON X CUT</u>			
YELLOW POPLAR			
15"	Mel Lentz	17.75	1991
18"	Rolin Eslinger	21.44	1988
WHITE PINE			
14"	(women) Penny Halverson	15.69	1995
15"	Carson Bosworth	09.80	1996
16"	(women) Penny Halverson	16.29	1996
18"	Matt Bush	12.65	1998
19"	Jason Wynyard	11.45	1998
20"	Dave Jewett	12.65	1999
24"	Jason Wynyard	25.655	1999
ASPEN			
15"	Jeff Crago	12.71	1990
16"	J.P. Mercier	16.83	1996
18"	Dave Jewett	14.915	1999
SWEET GUM			
12"	Mel Lentz	13.87	1994
PONDEROSA PINE			
18"	Carson Bosworth	15.??	1999
20"	Mel Lentz	19.76	1990
DOUGLAS-FIR			
18"	Brad Laughlin	24.81	1995
22"	Bill Miller	32.64	1991
24"	David Jewett	43.25	1996

26"	Mervin Lentz	57.70	1965
37"	Ben Lentz	2:50.20	1941
COTTONWOOD			
22"	Jason Wynyard	18.50	1998
24"	Jason Wynyard	28.16	1997
SUGAR PINE			
18"	Carson Bosworth	17.25	1993
WESTERN LARCH			
16"	Carson Bosworth	14.95	1997
WESTERN WHITE PINE			
22"	Jason Wynyard	29.42	1996
24"	Matt Bush	25.23	1996

JACK & JILL X CUT

This is assumed to be 1 cut unless specified:

YELLOW POPLAR:			
8X8	Rob & Theresa Taylor	2.35	1996
10X10	Gaston & Dany Duperre	3.53	1997
12"	Gaston & Dany Duperre	4.39	1996
WHITE PINE			
8X8	Peg Pasek & Dave Engasser	2.01	1998
	Peg Pasek & Dave Engasser (2 cuts)	4.69	1999
10X10	Gaston & Dany Duperre	3.20	1996
	Andrea & Wally Robarge (2 cuts)	6.35	1998
16"	Rick & Penny Halverson	5.08	1999
18"	Rick & Penny Halverson	6.26	1998
19"	Rick & Penny Halverson	7.03	1998
20"	Rick & Penny Halverson	7.23	1999



The petite powerhouse, Christine Van Gee, chokes up on the handle as her ever-watching husband, Jeff Towner, watches on.

ASPEN

8x8 Mike & Barb Slingerland 4.95(2cuts)	1995
10x10 Mike & Barb Slingerland 7.10(2cuts)	1995
12" Mary Dooley & Paul Pfenninger 9.02(2cuts)	1999
15" Rick & Penny Halverson	6.32 1992
16" Dave Jewett & Tina Salzman	8.25 1997
18" Gaston & Dany Duperre	7.75 1999

SWEET GUM

10X10 Adrian & Brenda James	6.15 1995
12" Mike & Barb Slingerland	5.32 1996

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Rick & Penny Halverson	07.44 1995
----------------------------	------------

DOUGLAS-FIR

16" Mel Lentz & Liz Sears	8.70 1990
18" Carson Bosworth & Tina Salzman	12.02 1996

WESTERN LARCH

16" Carson Bosworth & Ulanha McCoy	8.98 1991
------------------------------------	-----------

WESTERN WHITE PINE

15" Matt & Sarah Mooney	6.78 1995
-------------------------	-----------

HOT SAW (Modified & Unlimited)

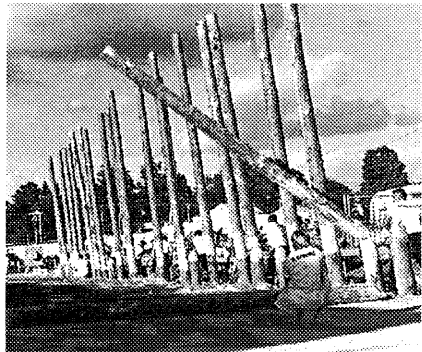
Note: 3 cuts & cold start on timber smaller than 30"

YELLOW POPLAR

8x8 Gary Hammond	3.16 1995
10x10 Gaston Duperre	3.72 1997
12" Gaston Duperre	4.40 1999
18" Rick Halverson	6.95 1995

WHITE PINE

8X8 Leo Lessard (LS)	2.205 1999
8X8 Jerry Gingras	2.68 1999
10X10 Jerry Gingras	3.38 1999
12" Harry Burnsworth	4.47 1995
12x12 Paul Woodland	4.96 1999



A careful eye takes note of the Tree Falling Championship at Boonville, New York. Thank Pepsi for the pegs.

15" Rick Halverson	4.95 1993
18" Gaston Duperre	5.16 1998
19" Rick Halverson	5.95 1996
20" Rick Halverson	6.65 1996

ASPEN

8X8 Cliff Helsel	2.53 1999
10x10 Herb Gingras	4.45 1999
12" Jerry Gingras	3.87 1999
15" Rick Halverson	4.76 1993
18" Rick Halverson	5.95 1994

SWEET GUM

12" Mel Lentz	6.14 1992 (dead start)
12" Terry Warlick	5.47 1999 (live start)

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Rick Halverson	5.74 1995
20" Rick Halverson	7.15 1995
34" Mel Lentz	4.85 1993 (live start)
36" Dennis Harvey	5.10 1993 (live start)

DOUGLAS FIR

30" Dennis Harvey	6.86 1993
-------------------	-----------

BOW SAWING

WHITE PINE

8" Gilles Levesque	2.4 1980?
8x8 Gilles Levesque	3.05 1984?
10" J.P. Mercier	3.75 1998
10x10 Don Lambert	4.82 1996
12" Don Lambert	5.48 1999

ASPEN

8x8 Gilles Levesque	3.17 1980
10" Dave Jewett	4.71 1999
10x10 Gaston Duperre	5.67 1994
12" Don Lambert	8.41 1999
12" (Women) Lori Ransom	20.00 1999

ALDER

8" Don Lambert (3 cuts)	9.40 1996
-------------------------	-----------

SWEET GUM

10" Carson Bosworth	7.80 1999
12" Kirt Hall	11.84 1995

TREE CLIMBING

100 FEET: Guy German 24.82 (Albany)	1989
90 FEET: Brian Bartow 20.05 (Hayward)	1999
80 FEET: Brian Bartow 18.61 (Squamish)	1999
60 FEET: Brian Linville 13.88 (Hayward)	1999

TREE TOPPING

100 FEET: Guy German 58.95 (Albany)	1989
80 FEET: Wade Stewart 56.46 (Morton)	1999
60 FEET: Wade Stewart 36.50 (Hayward)	1999

Want a High Quality Crosscut Saw?

Call J.P. at (418) 831-2723 or jpmercier@clic.net

Want to sell your old outdated equipment?

Call Dwight at (503) 675-9172 or logsport@aol.com

Need a refiling on an M-tooth or Tooth and raker??

Call Jim Taylor at (530) 241-6746 or (530) 245-0922

Want to perform exhibitions outside the United States??

Call the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show

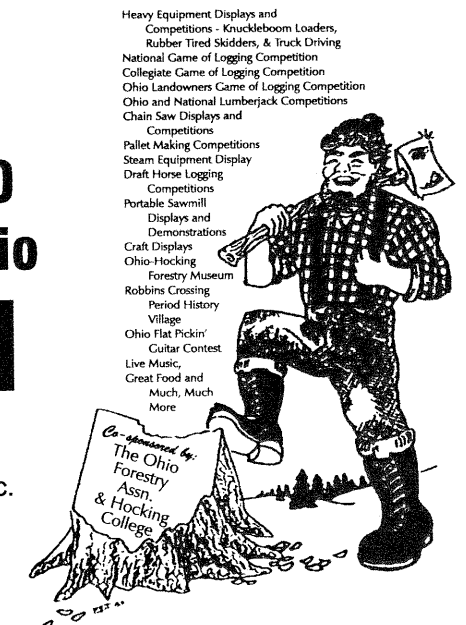
Ask for Lee
407/597-5990

Lecaptain@mindspring.com

The 43rd Paul Bunyan Oct. 6-8, 2000 Nelsonville, Ohio

Ohio's Largest Forestry Exposition!

Contact:
Daria Mayo,
The Ohio Forestry Assn., Inc.
(740) 497-9580 or
Debbie Fraunfelter,
Hocking College
(740) 753-3591, ext. 2112



NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LUMBERJACK WORLD RECORDS SINCE THEY WERE SET AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

EVENTS

STANDING BLOCK

11"	Alder (PNE)	Jason Wynyard	11.85
11"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Rolin Eslinger	14.46
12"	Alder (ATC)	David Bolstad	17.33
12"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz	15.97
12"	White Pine (WCWF)	Arden Cogar Jr	15.01
14"	Aspen (LWC)	Jason Wynyard	18.33
14"	White-pine (LWC)	Mel Lentz	22.05

UNDERHAND

11"	Aspen(maiden)(LWC)	Penny Halverson	30.73
12"	Alder (PNE)	Mel Lentz	14.25
12"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Arden Cogar Sr	15.15
13"	Alder (PNE)	Jim Alexander	18.80
13"	Yellow Poplar(WCWF)	Mel Lentz	18.83
13"	White Pine(WCWF)	Arden Cogar Jr	17.18
14"	Alder(ATC)	Jason Wynyard	21.95
14"	Aspen(LWC)	David Bolstad	16.69
14"	White-pine (LWC)	Laurence O'Toole	17.84

SPRINGBOARD

10"	White Pine (WCWF)	Harry Burnsworth	43.31
10"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Harry Burnsworth	43.24
11"	Alder (PNE)	Clayton Stewart	48.35
12"	Alder (ATC)	Bill Youd	56.45
12"	Aspen (LWC)	David Bolstad	48.81
12"	White-pine (LWC)	Carson Bosworth	5.743
14"	White-pine (LWC)	Bill Youd	1:18.45

ONE PERSON X CUT

16"	White-pine(maiden)(LWC)	Penny Halverson	17.77
20"	White-pine (LWC)	Dave Jewett	12.65
24"	White-pine (PNE)	Matt Bush	25.23
24"	Douglas Fir (ATC)	Dave Jewett	42.57

TWO MAN X CUT

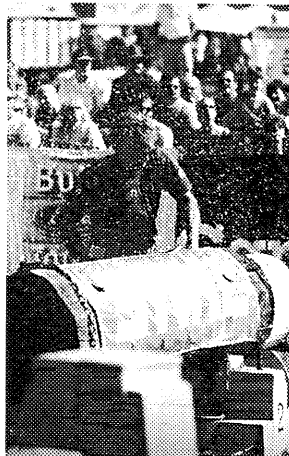
10X10	Yellow Poplar(FF)	Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush	6.47
12"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz&Rolin Eslinger	8.14
20"	White-pine(LWC)	M att Bush & Don Lambert	6.03
24"	White-pine(PNE)	J.P.Mercier & Napoleon Mercier	11.18
24"	Cottonwood(PNE)	J.P. Mercier& Dennis Daun	11.88
30"	Douglas Fir(ATC)	Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	28.21

JACK & JILL X CUT

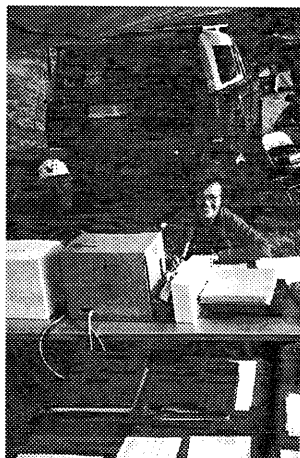
10x10	Yellow Poplar(FF)	Mike & Barb Slingerland	3.75
12"	Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Gaston & Dany Duperre	4.39
15"	White-pine(PNE)	Carson Bosworth & Ullanah McCoy	7.24
20"	White-pine(LWC)	Rick & Penny Halverson	7.23

HOT SAW

12"	Yellow Poplar(WCWF)	Gaston Duperre	4.40
20"	White Pine (LWC)	Rick Halverson	6.65
30"	Douglas Fir (ATC)	Dennis Harvey	6.86



Never too small, nor long in the tooth, Jim Taylor's youthful vigor and constant professionalism make him a man to meet on the professional lumberjack circuit.



The New York Professional Lumberjacks' Association would like to extend special thanks to Russ McKittrick and Eileen Vrcman for the invaluable services they provide as the Secretary and Technology people associated with the Association.

OBSTACLE POLE

8" Alder (PNE)	Kim Olney	13.18
9" Alder (ATC)	Rob Waibel	14.65

BOW SAWING

8" Alder (PNE)	Don Lambert	9.40
10x10 White-pine (Shevlin)	Gilles Levesque	5.35

SPEED CLIMBING

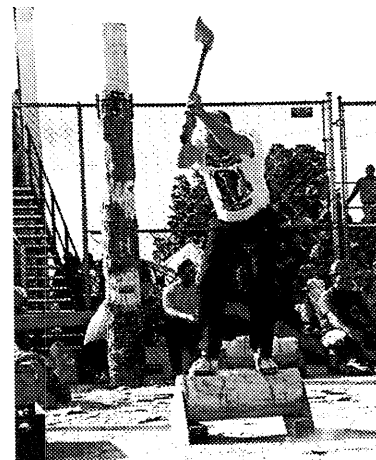
100 FEET:	Guy German	24.82 (Albany)
90 FEET:	Brian Bartow	20.55 (Hayward)
80 FEET:	Brian Bartow	18.61 (Squamish)
60 FEET:	Brian Linville	14.31 (Hayward)

TREE TOPPING

100 FEET:	Guy German	58.95 (Albany)
-----------	------------	----------------



Peg Engasser of Newfield, New York, shows the form that makes her one of North America's top lumberjills.



Jerry Scutt of Portville, New York, cuts an underhand with the best that North America has to offer. Note the flatness of his feet and the positioning of his hips as he readies himself for his second chip hit and the bottom of his front side.



Brian Duffy gives Pat Ogle a bath at the Lumberjack World Championships held in Hayward, Wisconsin.

S A W
Donald Lambert
490, Rte 273,
St-Gilles, Québec, Canada
GOS 2PO
418-888-5023

STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® S E R I E S

1999 STIHL Timbersports SERIES RULES & REGULATIONS

EVENTS, SCORING AND PRIZE INFORMATION

Regional Events

Contestants will have the opportunity to win prize money and qualifying points during the first four regional events. Points will be tracked for all STIHL Timbersports competitors, and accumulated throughout all four events. After the fourth event, invitations will be issued to the leading competitors to compete in the **STIHL Timbersports Final Event**. Trophies and prize money will be awarded according to the following for the four regional qualifying events. This year's series there will be one cumulative division with the **Carhartt Chopping** Division and the **Quaker State Sawing** Divisions points being combined for an overall winner. Events that qualify for STIHL Timbersports:

Carhartt Chopping

Standing Chop - vertical
Underhand Chop - horizontal
Springboard Chop

Quaker State Sawing

Hot Saw
Stihl Stock Saw
Single Buck

Scoring for Stihl Points will be on a 10 thru 1 point basis; first place is awarded ten points and tenth place is awarded one point. In addition there will be individual cash prizes for first through tenth place in the following descending order: \$500, 400, 350, 300, 250, 200, 175, 150, 100, 75. In addition the same prize listing will be available for a Jack-N-Jill cross cut sawing and the Relay events (which will be held at the end of the qualifiers). Depending on overall points accumulation for the first four Stihl events, invitations will be sent to approximately twelve STIHL Timbersports competitors to attend the final event.

Rudy Sanetta

Axe Grinding (Flatgrind, Banana, Super, etc.)

Axe Drifts

Axe Polishing

Portable, but sturdy, Standing Block and Underhand
Cradles that will hold up to 17" Blocks
without having to trim the blocks down

Rudy Sanetta
275 Broadlawn Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone: (412) 751-7334
E-mail: axemen1@aol.com

In addition to being invited to compete at the finals, the top sixteen point earners will receive an individual cash prizes for all sixteen finalists for first through twelfth place in the following descending order: \$6,000; 5,500; 4,500; 4,000; 3,500; 3,500; 3,500; 3,000; 2,500; 2,000; 1,500; 1,000.

Final Event

All competitors at the FINAL EVENT start out equally with **no points**. Awards, trophies and plaques **will not** be given in each individual contest event, but will be awarded by overall point accumulation in both Divisions, plus overall awards for **all** events. Awards will be given as follows:

STIHL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

OVERALL AWARDS:	1st Place- Truck + \$5,000	7th Place- 5,000.00
	2nd Place- 10,000.00	8th Place- 4,500.00
	3rd Place- 9,000.00	9th Place- 4,000.00
	4th Place- 8,000.00	10th Place- 3,500.00
	5th Place- 7,000.00	11th Place- 3,000.00
	6th Place- 6,000.00	12th Place- 2,500.00

1999 STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® RULES & REGULATIONS

REGISTRATION: There will be a competition field of 28. The 16 finalists from 1998 are automatically included in the field, but still complete all registration forms by May 15, 1999. Should a finalist from 1998 fail to register properly, their position will be considered open and will be filled with other competitors. All contestants must be PRE-REGISTERED, including fees paid with Granite State Lumberjack Shows, Inc. by May 15, 1999. Registration fees will be refunded at the end of October, by mail, if the competitor registers for all qualifying shows. There will be no refund of registration fee if a competitor registers then fails to compete in any of the qualifiers.

RELEASE FORMS: All competitors must have completed a Release, Waiver, Indemnity Agreement, and Covenant Not to Sue for each Qualifying Show to be eligible for SERIES competition.

COMPETITOR NUMBERS: All competitors will be assigned a number that must be worn in a clearly visible location on the right or left leg.

DRESS CODE: Competitors must wear long pants, shirt, and shoes. Pants must be long and either solid black or white in color. Competitors will be issued a SERIES shirt for each show, a tank top and a t-shirt, provided by the SERIES (size must be submitted on Contestant Application form). Competitors are required to wear the SERIES shirt during qualifying and competition. Competitor's individual sponsor(s) have a specific location for placement on the t-shirt and/or tank top. T-shirts will be sent to address on Application on June 1st. This will allow time for you to incorporate your individual sponsor(s) in the designated location. Hearing protection, eye protection and chaps are required in the Hot Saw and the Stihl Stock Saw events. There will be an ample supply of both available at each event. No clothing or other items that bear the logos, marks, or other product identification of products competitive to STIHL INC. or SERIES sponsors, or any apparel deemed to be offensive, may be worn by a competitor. STIHL officials and other involved sponsors reserve the right to determine at any time what is considered to be "competitive" or "offensive."

HEAD JUDGE: The head judge's job is to enforce the rules. All calls by the head judge will be final. The use of a video camera is determined by the head judge and is restricted to determining a "False-Start" situation and to review timing when deemed necessary. Only the head judge reviews the video.

STARTER'S CADENCE: The starter must attempt to make the cadence (timers ready, contestants ready, three-two-one-go) as consistent as possible to ensure that no competitor is advantaged or disadvantaged. (The starter's pistol will be fired on "go." If the pistol does not fire, the heat will begin on "go").

TIMERS AND OFFICIALS: There will be at least two timers on each contestant, three-two-one-go reaches the word "go," and ends when the block severs. The commencement of timing for the Underhand, Standing, and Springboard occurs when the head judge or starter's cadence (timers ready, contestants ready, three-two-one-go) reaches the word "go," and ends when the "Cookie" severs from the log. It is under the discretion of the head judge if a contestant is to be disqualified for "Jumping the Gun."

DISQUALIFICATION: Indication of disqualification for any infraction will be made to the competitor concerned at the conclusion of the heat by the head judge. In the finals portion of each event (places 1-10), should a competitor DQ for any reason, they will now receive one STIHL point instead of zero. There will be no monetary reward for a DQ.

PERSONS IN THE ARENA: NO PERSON other than the participating competitor, wedger for the Single Buck event, and a helper to set up the Hot Saw event may be within the arena during competition. The head judge will clear the arena with the sounding of a whistle prior to competition. The reserved competitor area is for registered competitors only. No other individuals, including family members, will be allowed in this area.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: All axe heads must be pinned. All Hot Saws must have sprocket covers. Hearing protection, eye protection and chaps are required for the Hot Saw and the Stihl Stock Saw events. Shields must be used in the front and back of the competitor station for the Hot Saw event.

WOOD: All wood for the Stihl events will be round wood in the following sizes: Stihl Stock Saw - 16" round; Hot Saw - 18-20" round; Single Buck/Crosscut - 18-20" round; Springboard Chop - 11" round; Standing Chop - 12" round; Underhand Chop - 13" round.

DRAWING OF THE WOOD: Contestants' names or log number will be put into a hat and positions and logs will be drawn by the contestant or a disinterested third party. For qualifying days the Block numbers are assigned by random draw by contest officials.

SERIES POINTS: Points will be tracked for all STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® SERIES competitors and accumulated throughout all four regional shows. Scor-



Chuck Norris' Stock Sawing twin, Terry Warlick, of Taylor, Arkansas, demonstrates the proper technique for finishing an upcut in the Stock Power Sawing event.

ing for STIHL, points will be on a 10 through 1 point basis. First place is awarded ten points and tenth place is awarded one point, and 12-1 in the championships. Bonus points of 25 will be awarded for the participation in each regional show, with a possible accumulation of 100 by the end of the 4th regional show. Note any competitor cursing, swearing or behaving unsportsmanlike in the arena will receive a 25 point deduction at the Head Judge's discretion.

THE BREAKERS: Ties will be broken in the following manner for the 4 regional Series shows. If a tie exists in a sawing event, the stock saw times from qualifying will break the tie. If a tie exists in a chopping event, the underhand time from qualifying will break the tie. In the championships, ties will be broken within each event with a repeat of the tied event between the individuals in question. Overall point ties existing after the 4 Series shows will not be broken.

BOUNUS EVENTS: There will be two bonus events, one run on each regional final day. The rules and registration associated with these events will be sent out in the competitor acceptance package.

Chopping Events

A slab rule will be in effect for all chopping events. There will be no disqualification if four nails are placed in each end of the block to prevent the block from slabbing. Competitors are responsible for the proper mounting of the blocks.

SLABBING: A slab is defined as a portion of a log which has been dislodged as a result of a split off to a foothold or a "rinning up" of the first chip in the standing. Any competitor who slabs and has not taken the necessary precautions to prevent slabbing, to the satisfaction of the head judge, shall be disqualified unless he or she cuts the slab while still attached to the block. Four (4) nails will be used to prevent slabbing.

FOOTHOLDS: Any competitor cutting through any foothold in a round log shall be disqualified.

STRIKING OF BLOCK: A competitor is not allowed to make any cut or mark with an axe or other tool prior to the timed cutting of the block. (A cut or mark is defined as a striking of the block or crushing the fiber, in any manner possible, in the area that is to be cut during the competition).

SHAVING OF BLOCK: Only the head judge may remove bark, loose fragments of wood or imbedded grit from competitor wood blocks.

PLACEMENT OF BLOCKS: All contestants should finish facing the spectators. Contestant is responsible for the proper and secure mounting of his/her block.

SPRINGBOARD CHOP: Competitors are to use two "springboards" to ascend to the top of the pole and chop a firmly attached block from the top of the pole. Competitors cutting into or through existing board holes may be disqualified. Under certain circumstances (i.e., no more room on a given pole). The head judge must determine if the competitor is to move to another springboard pole or "to climb" at the corner of an existing hole. No competitor gets a second chance unless the head judge determines that the competitor has been unintentionally wronged. No competitor may be physically assisted by any other person. No test "board-holes" will be allowed by any competitor into the springboard pole until after the show. Slab nails will be used on the bottom of the block in addition to those on the top. The block must be cut from two sides. Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the block is clearly severed. Note: The first hit on the block will be an "up" hit. 11-12" wood.

UNDERHAND/HORIZONTAL CHOP: Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the block is clearly severed. Note: Do not touch the block until the head judge has determined that the block is completely cut. 12-13" wood.

STANDING/VERTICAL CHOP: Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the block is clearly severed. Note: The first hit will be an "up" hit. 12-13" wood.

STIHL STOCK SAW: One down cut, one up cut. STIHL 011 Magnums will be used for this event. The stock saws will be tacked by a STIHL designated technician. The wood will be marked with a line drawn around the entire block. If the line is completely severed, the competitor is disqualified. The saws are to be running and competitor's hands must be resting on the top of the block until "go." Warm up: 15 seconds to warm up the saw. The countdown will begin 15 seconds after the end of the warm up period. Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the second (2nd) disc is clearly severed. 4" of wood is allowed to make the two cuts. 18-20" wood. All discs must be complete, "cutting-out" results in disqualification. Hearing protection, eye protection, as well as chaps, are required. If the saw shuts off after the contestant touches it, he/she can restart it and finish the cut or turn it over to the saw technician who will determine if the saw is still working correctly. If the saw is determined in working order, then the contestant gets no time. If the saw is determined to be malfunctioning, a new saw will be introduced and the competitor will be granted a re-cut.

HOT SAW: One saw per competitor will be tagged at the competitors' meeting. The head judge will remove this tag immediately before the saw is used in the event. If the competitor does not have a tagged saw, they will not be allowed to compete. Three (3) complete cuts, one up, one down, one up. The wood will be marked with a line drawn around the entire block. If the line is completely severed, the competitor is disqualified. The hot saw will be of the contestant's choice, but limited to one cylinder. All hot saws must have sprocket covers. Warm up: 45 seconds to warm up the saw. The countdown will begin 15 seconds after the end of the warm up period. Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the third disc is clearly severed. 6" of wood is allowed to make the three cuts. The saw will be shut off at the end of the warm up period and the competitor's hand must be resting on the top of the block until the word "go." 18-20" wood. All discs must be complete or the contestant will be disqualified. Hearing protection, eye protection, as well as chaps, are required. Stihl does not recommend altering side plates, tie straps or rivets on the saw chain.

SINGLE BUCK/CROSSCUT SAW: Contestants may have a helper to wedge and spray/lubricate the saw. All helpers should stand on the log side of saw. No competitor is allowed to use a counter weight on the opposite end of the crosscut saw. Time starts on the word "go." Time stops when the disc is clearly severed. Competitor is allowed a 12" are starting cut. 1.5" of wood is allowed to make the cut. 18-20" wood. All discs must be complete or the contestant will be disqualified. Contestants may question the location of starting cuts (if given) designated on or near obvious knots. Alternative location of the starting cut will be decided by the head judge. Knots encountered thereafter will be considered luck of the draw. Cut-outs will disqualify the cut.

GOOD LUCK AND LETS HAVE THE BEST STIHL TIMBERSPORTS SERIES YET!

Here are the show dates for 2000:

1st qualifier :2nd Weekend in August Dollywood, TN

2nd qualifier: 2nd Weekend in August Dollywood, TN

3rd qualifier: 4th Weekend in August Bar Harbor, ME

4th qualifier: 4th Weekend in August Bar Harbor, ME

Finals: 2nd Weekend in September Branson, Missouri - Silver Dollar City

RESULTS FROM THE 1999 STIHL Timbersports SERIES

Note All Timber for the 1999 Series was White Pine

Stihl TimberSports Dollywood Show #1 August 14, 1999

11" Springboard: 1.Jason Wynyard (43.710) 2.David Bolstad 3.Dale Ryan 4.Matt Bush 5.karl Bischoff
19" Hot Saw: 1.Mel Lentz (6.290) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Matt Bush 4.Gaston Duperre 5.Jason Wynyard
12" Standing: 1.Dale Ryan (16.240) 2. Arden Cogar Jr. 3.Dave Jewett 4.David Bolstad 5.Jason Wynyard
13" Underhand: 1.David Bolstad (15.81) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Brad Turner 5.Arden Cogar Jr.
19" One Man X Cut: 1.Jason Wynyard (13.710) 2.Dave Jewett 3.Rick Halverson 4.J.P. Mercier 5.Mike Sullivan
16" Stihl Stock Saw: 1.Karl Bischoff (14.160) 2.Warrick Hallett 3.Mike Sullivan 4.John Hughes 5.Dave Jewett
Carhartt Chopping Champion: Dale Ryan
Quaker State Sawing Champion: Jason Wynyard
Overall: Jason Wynyard

Stihl TimberSports Dollywood Show #2 August 15, 1999

11" Springboard: 1.David Bolstad (42.10) 2.Dale Ryan 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Karl Bischoff 5.Jason Wynyard
12" Standing: 1.David Bolstad (14.80) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Matt Bush 5.Brad Turner
13" Underhand: 1.David Bolstad (17.1) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Brad Turner 5.Mike Sullivan
19" One Man X Cut: 1.Jason Wynard (13.56) 2. Rick Halverson 3.Dave Jewett 4.J.P. Mercier 5.Carson Bosworth
19" Hot Saw: 1.Rick Halverson (6.16) 2.Mike Sullivan 3.Gaston Duperre 4.Harry Burnsworth 5.Jim Taylor
16" Stock Saw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (12.39) 2.Jerry Scutt 3.Gaston Duperre 4.Jim Taylor 5.Harry Burnsworth II
Overall: Jason Wynyard
Carhartt Chopping Champion: David Bolstad
Quaker State Sawing Champion: Gaston Duperre

Stihl TimberSports Osh Kosh Show #1, Osh Kosh WI August 28, 1999

16" Stock Saw: 1.Jason Wynard (12.75) 2.Gil Lane 3.David Bolstad 4.Jim Taylor 5.Mike Sullivan
19" Hot Saw: 1.Jason Wynyard (6.02) 2.Rick Halverson 3.Gaston Duperre 4.Harry Burnsworth 5.Jim Taylor
19" One Man X Cut: 1.Dave Jewett (14.20) 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Gil Lane 4.Dennis Daun 5.Mel Lentz
13" Underhand: 1.David Bolstad (16.540) 2.Jason Wynard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Matt Bush 5. Arden Cogar Jr.
12" Standing: 1.David Bolstad (15.75) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Arden Cogar Jr. 5.Jack Brown-John
11" Springboard: ***1.David Bolstad (36.92)*** 2.Dale Ryan 3.Jason Wynyard 4.Karl Bischoff 5.Matt Bush
Overall: Jason Wynard
Carhartt Chopping Champion: David Bolstad
Quakerstate Sawing Champion: Jason Wynyard

Stihl TimberSports Osh Kosh Show #2, Osh Kosh WI August 29, 1999

11" Springboard: 1.David Bolstad (44.83) 2.Harry Burnsworth 3.Jason Wynard 4.Dale Ryan 5.Jack Brown-John
13" Underhand: ***1.David Bolstad (12.28)*** 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dave Jewett 4.Mel Lentz 5.Jack Brown-John
12" Standing: 1.David Bolstad (13.96) 2.Jack Brown-John 3.Jason Wynyard 4.Mel Lentz 5.Dale Ryan
19" One Man X Cut: 1.Jason Wynyard (12.520) 2.Dave Jewett 3.Rick Halverson 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Gaston Duperre
18" Hot Saw: 1.Rick Halverson (5.26) 2.Harry Burnsworth 3.Gaston Duperre 4.Mel Lentz 5.J.P. Mercier
16" Stock Saw: 1.Mel Lentz (11.26) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Brad Turner 4.Harry Burnsworth 5.Gaston Duperre
Overall: Jason Wynyard
Carhartt Chopping Champion: David Bolstad
Quaker State Sawing Champion: Mel Lentz

Stihl TimberSports Finals Silver Dollar City Branson, Missouri October 2, 1999

13" Underhand: 1.Jason Wynyard (17.80) 2.David Bolstad 3.Dale Ryan 4.Dave Jewett 5.Brad Turner 6.Mike Sullivan 7.Matt Bush 8.Mel Lentz 9.Rick Halverson 10.Gaston Duperre 11.Harry Burnsworth 12.Jim Taylor
11" Springboard: 1.Dale Ryan (45.29) 2.David Bolstad 3.Matt Bush 4.Mel Lentz 5.Harry Burnsworth 6.Dave Jewett 7.Jason Wynyard 8.Jim Taylor 9.Brad Turner 10.Mike Sullivan 11.Gaston Duperre 12.Rick Halverson
12" Standing: 1.David Bolstad (14.60) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Dale Ryan 4.Matt Bush 5.Mel Lentz 6.Brad Turner 7.Dave Jewett 8.Gaston Duperre 9.Mike Sullivan 10.Harry Burnsworth 11. Rick Halverson 12.Jim Taylor
19" One Man X Cut: 1.Dave Jewett (14.94) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Rick Halverson 4.Matt Bush 5.Brad Turner 6.Mel Lentz 7.Mike Sullivan 8.Gaston Duperre 9.David Bolstad 10.Dale Ryan 11.Jim Taylor 12.Harry Burnsworth
16" Stock Saw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (12.82) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Jason Wynyard 4.Rick Halverson 5.Brad Turner 6.Mel Lentz 7.Dale Ryan 8.Matt Bush 9.David Bolstad 10.Mike Sullivan 11.Dave Jewett 12.Gaston Duperre
19" Hot Saw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (5.88) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Gaston Duperre 4.Jim Taylor 5.Rick Halverson 6.Mike Sullivan 7.Dave Jewett 8.Matt Bush 9.Brad Turner 10.David Bolstad 11.Mel Lentz 12.Dale Ryan
Quakerstate Sawing Champion: Jason Wynard
Carhartt Chopping Champion: David Bolstad
Overall: 1.Jason Wynyard 2.David Bolstad 3.Matt Bush 4.Dave Jewett 5.Dale Ryan 6.Brad Turner 7.Harry Burnsworth 8.Mel Lentz 9.Rick Halverson 10.Mike Sullivan 11.Jim Taylor 12. Gaston Duperre



THE GREAT OUTDOOR GAMES?

The inaugural multi-sport outdoor extravaganza features world-class athletes competing for medals and prize money in 20 events in four sports categories (Fishing, Sporting Dogs, Target Sports, and Timber Sports). The Timber Sports category will feature the richest purse ever associated with Lumberjack Sports.

The ESPN Great Outdoor Games was conceptualized from ESPN and ESPN2's extensive outdoor programming. The popularity of shows such as *Sportsman's Challenge*, *The Fishin' Hole* and *Fly Fishing America* spawned three to four hour weekend blocks of outdoor programming, shown on ESPN and ESPN2. The ESPN programming department recognized the popularity of these shows and sports

and saw an opportunity to create a multi-sport extravaganza, similar to the wildly successful X Games franchise. The highlight of the ESPN/ESPN2 weekend outdoor blocks is the *ESPN Great Outdoor Gamebook*, which previews Great Outdoor Games events, rules and likely competitors

From July 27 until August 11, 2000, ESPN and ESPN 2 will feature 17 hours of original programming beginning on Thursday, July 27 including primetime telecasts July 27-30 and weekend afternoon coverage July 29-30.

WHERE?

Lake Placid, New York.

WHEN?

July 20-23, 2000

WHAT TIMBER SPORTS EVENTS?

1. Endurance Event Male (Underhand, Standing and Single Buck) limited to sixteen competitors
2. Endurance Event Female (Axe Throw, Underhand, and Single Buck) limited to eight competitors.
3. Hard Hit Underhand limited to sixteen competitors.
4. Hot Saw limited to ten competitors.
5. Run/Roll/Drive Male limited to eight competitors.
6. Run/Roll/Drive Female limited to eight competitors.
7. Speed Climbing limited to twelve competitors.
8. Tree Topping limited to twelve competitors.
9. Two Board Jigger Springboard limited to twelve competitors.
10. Team Relay (Underhand, Standing Block, Single Buck (female), and Stihl Stock Saw) limited to twenty four male and eight female competitors.

WHO WILL COMPETE IN THE TIMBER SPORTS EVENTS?

The best timber sports competitors in the world will be invited to compete in ten disciplines set forth above.

HOW THE BEST LUMBERJACKS AND LUMBERJILLS TO BE SELECTED?

1. The United States Axemen's Association Selection Committee, consisting of Mike Slingerland, Dennis Daun and Arden Cogar Jr., in conjunction with Jason Wynyard, selected the best competitors for the Endurance Events, the Hard Hit, the Two Board Jigger, and the Hot Saw.
2. The International Log Rolling Association Selection Committee, consisting of Brian Duffy, Jenny Anderson, Denise Marquardt, and Bonnie Salzman, selected the best competitors for the Run/Roll/Drive.
3. The United States Axemen's Association Ad Hoc Selection Committee, consisting of Wade Stewart and Robert Scheer selected the best competitors for the Speed Climbing and the Tree Topping.

Each of the aforementioned Committees took extensive efforts to review all the data available in the determination of the selection of the competitors for the various events. Such data included results from not only North American Lumberjack Sports competitions but also data from various overseas competitions. This was not an easy task and required quite a time investment by all those associated with the selection process.

WHAT TYPE OF PRIZE MONEY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

The Great Outdoor Games will offer the largest purse in the history of Lumberjack Sports. The top Lumberjacks and Lumberjills will be vying for approximately \$133,000 in prizes spread over the 10 disciplines/events.

WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED?

1. Endurance Event Male (Underhand, Standing and Single Buck) limited to sixteen competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order):

David Foster, Kerry Head, Dale Ryan, David Bolstad, Jason Wynyard, Dion Lane, Dave Jewett, Matt Bush, Arden Cogar Jr., Jack Brown John, Mel Lentz, Carson Bosworth, Justin Beckett, Steven Kirk, Mike Sullivan, and Brad Turner

Alternates: 1. Harry Burnsworth, 2. Rob Waibel, 3. Brad Laughlin, 4. Matthew Gurr, 5. Gaston Duperre and 6. Warrick Hallett

2. Endurance Event Female (Axe Throw, Underhand, and Single Buck) limited to eight competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order):

Penny Halverson, Sheree Taylor, Peg Engasser, Lori Ransom, Shannon Strong, Chris Van Gee, Dori Kistner, and Dany Boulanger

Alternates: 1. Andrea Robarge, 2. Mary Anne Holcomb, 3. Erica Schreiner, 4. Mary Dooley, 5. Barb Slingerland and 6. Dawn Westfall

3. Hard Hit Underhand limited to sixteen competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): David Foster, Kerry Head, Dale Ryan, Laurence O'Toole, Jason Wynyard, David Bolstad, Dion Lane, Arden Cogar Jr., Mel Lentz, Matt Bush, Jack Brown John, Harold Winkel, Steven Kirk, Mitch Hewitt, Justin Beckett, and Martin O'toole

Alternates: 1. Dave Jewett, 2. Peter Colliver, 3. Mike Sullivan, 4. Brad Turner, 5. Brad Laughlin, and 6. Matthew Gurr

4. Hot Saw limited to ten competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): Harry Burnsworth, Rick Halverson, Jim Taylor, Mel Lentz, Matt Bush, Mike Sullivan, Karl Bischoff, Gaston Duperre, Jason Wynyard, and Tom Fales

Alternates: 1. J.P. Mercier, 2. Dave Stadler, 3. Dennis Daun, 4. Jerry Scutt, 5. Warrick Hallett, and 6. Dave Jewett

5. Run/Roll/Drive Male limited to eight competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): JR Salzman, Darren Hudson, Brian Duffy, Dan McDonough, Travis Wells, Fred Scheer, Gunther Stolze, Sean Duffy

Alternates: 1. Roger Berger 2. Wade Stewart 3. Hutta Marquardt

6. Run/Roll/Drive Female limited to eight competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): Tina Salzman, Heidi Burger, Jenny Anderson, Crystal Salzman, Taylor Duffy, Shana Martin, Judy Hoeschler, Alicia Hare

Alternates: 1. Mandy Erdmann 2. Katie Hoeschler

7. Speed Climbing limited to twelve competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): Brian Bartow, Wade Stewart, Brian Linville, Sean Duffy, Tony Bush, Chris Hughes, Dustin Beckwith, Guy German, Darren Casey, Jody Evans, Buck Willoughby, Mick Lee

Alternates: 1. Rob Waibel

8. Tree Topping limited to twelve competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): Mick Lee, Wade Stewart, Ed Smith, Guy German, Greg Hart, Jody Evans, Dane Marbut, Joel Stefanski, Chris Hughes, Dwight Severson, Scott Hyde, Tony Bush

Alternates: 1. Dustin Beckwith

9. Two Board Jigger Springboard limited to twelve competitors - those competitors are (in no particular order): Matthew Gurr, Mitch Hewitt, Dale Ryan, David Bolstad, Jason Wynyard, Carson Bosworth, Dave Jewett, Rob Waibel, Harry Burnsworth, Warrick Hallett, Karl Bischoff, Mel Lentz, Jack Brown John, Matt Bush, John Gossow, and Dale Beams

Alternates: 1. Mike Sullivan, 2. Arden Cogar Jr., 3. Brad Turner, 4. Jerry Scutt, 5. Brad Laughlin and 6. Jim Taylor

10. Team Relay (Underhand, Standing Block, Single Buck (female), and Stihl Stock Saw) limited to twenty four male and eight female competitors.

This will be determined at a later date but will consist of the competitors who are attending the Great Outdoor Games as of July 20, 2000.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR THE COMPETITION?

NOTE THAT ALL THE FOLLOWING ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY DIFFER FROM WHAT IS ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED JULY 20-23, 2000 IN LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK.

Great Outdoor Games Timber Sports Rules

A. General Rules of the Competition

1. Head Judge's decisions are final.
2. No competitor will be disqualified from any event, however there will be 15 second penalty added to the contestant's time for each infraction of the Rules of Competition. Note an exception will be the hardhit underhand where a two hit penalty will be added per infraction.
3. In the event a penalty is brought to the Head Judge's attention in any way, the Head Judge will immediately conference with the other officials/timers to assess the validity of the penalty.
4. No competitor will behave in an unsportsmanlike manner during the competi-

tion nor in the competition arena. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to: cursing, throwing equipment, and chastising, harassing, or assaulting timers or officials. The Head Judge

will assess a penalty to the competitor for his or her unsportsmanlike conduct; the penalty will be assessed to the event in which the competitor has most recently competed. Assessment of penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct is at the Head Judge's discretion.

5. All competitors may wear clothing of their choice as long as the clothing is not obscene or in bad taste. All competitors will be allowed to wear any logo as long as it does not diminish existing sponsor value and is tasteful in design. All logos must be submitted to ESPN for approval in advance of the competition. Beyond ESPN's approval of logos, assessment of competitor clothing is at the Head Judge's discretion.

6. All contestants must know the rules and be on time for their respective events.
7. The chopping and sawing blocks used for the events will be matched blocks and will come from the same tree and be side by side in their removal from the tree.

use a "Cats Paw Knot." At "Tie-in", the competitor distance from the tree will be the climber's extended arm plus twelve inches; in the event Competitors distance from tree exceeds climber's extended arm plus twelve inches, a penalty will be assessed. Competitor's foot must not leave the ground until "GO" If the Competitor's foot leaves the ground prior to "GO", a penalty will be assessed. A Competitor is allowed to have a "second" hold his or her crosscut saw during the initial portion of the ascent.

Note, on day one of the event, and for television purposes, rounds one and two will be completed back to back. During day two of the event, the semi final matches will be followed immediately by the consolation final, which will be immediately followed by the final.

G. Rules of Competition for the Run/Roll/Drive

The top eight competitors in the world will be invited to compete in the Run/Roll/Drive. The Run/Roll/Drive will be points based on competitors placement in three water sports events - Log Rolling (Birling), Boom Run, and Log Drive (River Pig). The each event will be seeded with the number one seed facing the number eight seed and the number two seed facing the number seven seed and so forth. The winners from the first round advance to the semifinal; the losers from the first round will be eliminated from the competition and receive equal points. The winners from the semi-finals will advance to the final; the losers from the semi-finals will advance to the consolation final.

The points distribution will be determined on following basis: 1st Place - eight points, 2nd Place - seven points, 3rd Place - six points, 4th Place - five points, 5th thru 8th - three points each.

1. Log Roll Event - Men's and Women's

LOG SIZES AND TIME LIMITS:

LOG I = 15 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length. Time: 1 minutes for men's open, men's novice, and amateurs. Women do not use this log.

LOG II = 14 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length. Time: 3 minutes for men's open, men's novice. 3 minutes for amateurs. 1 minutes for women's open, women's novice.

LOG III = 13 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length. Time: 5 minutes for men's open, men's novice. 3 minutes for women's open, women's novice and amateurs. LOG IV = 12 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length. Time: Unlimited time for all.

Each log has a 6 inch center band, the neutral zone, which log rollers cannot step on without losing a fall. There are 6 inch warning bands on each end, and Roman numerals I, II, III, and IV on the ends. All logs must be lathe-turned to the specific diameter with a 1/2 inch plus or minus tolerance. The log must be of red or white cedar.

JUDGES: There must be at least three judges per match. One will act as referee, starting and stopping the matches with a whistle and a stop watch to keep time. Two will act as pole handlers. When a fall occurs, the referee will make his/her decision and then ask every pole handler separately for his/her decision. In the event that a match moves out of the viewing range of the judges, the referee should stop the match and reposition either the judges or the rollers.

MATCHES: 1. The referee starts each match. Competing rollers grasp pole poles after getting on the log and are pushed from the platform. The referee cautions rollers, "steady the log." When he/she is certain both rollers have equal control, she says, "Throw your poles." The match is on when the referee blows the whistle and continues until a fall occurs or until the time limit expires. If a fall occurs before the time limit is reached, or if the match is stopped by the referee, the clock resumes where it was stopped, the referee must stop the match by blowing the whistle anytime there is an obstacle within 6 feet of the log.

2. The referee may recall a quick whistle.
3. If one or both rollers fall in before the time starts, they must get back on the log immediately, without leaving the immediate vicinity of the starting dock. A contestant may lose a fall or be disqualified by the referee for purposely jumping in the water before time is started, or for delaying the start of a match.
4. A match will be decided by the best two out of three falls in regular consolation matches. In the semifinals and finals of the open division the contest is decided by the best three out of five falls.

CHOICE OF ENDS: If both contestants cannot come to an agreement on which end of the log they want to start on, then a coin toss will be used. The loser of the next fall will then have his/her choice of ends.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A FALL: A fall takes place when:

1. The first person to lose control with both feet and falls in loses the fall. This often happens in conjunction with both rollers falling in together. The judges must then decide who was the first to lose COMPLETE control of the log. Jumping up to prolong hitting the water, straddling, sitting, falling to both shins, and laying across the log are considered out of control with both feet.
2. A roller steps on the center line.
3. A roller purposely jumps in the water before time is started or delays the start of a match.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A DRAW:

A fall will be ruled a draw if the judges cannot see specific and noticeable difference in the fall. A judge must make a decision after a moment of recall. No discussion of the fall will take place between the judges except to the response as to who won the fall or if the fall was a draw. If there is the slightest doubt in the

mind of the judge, it should be ruled a draw. The decision from the judges may be split in which case the majority call rules.

2. Boom Run - Male and Female - Note that many of the rules associated with the boom run will be site specific. Thus the following is subject to change.

Starting on dock one, the Competitor runs across a chain of log rolling logs to dock two. The competitor must step off the logs and onto dock two, circle a stanchion and return to dock one. The competitor must step onto dock one and touch the starting line. The event will be timed. The competitor is allowed unlimited falls per run; in the event of the fall, the competitor is allowed to advance to the next log of the boom for which he or she has placed a spike or stepped upon. If the Competitor starts before the word "go," he or she will be assessed a penalty.

3. Log Drive (River Pig) - Male and Female - Note that many of the rules associated with the Log Drive will be site specific. Thus the following is subject to change.

On the word "Go" the Competitor will step from dock one to the log. The log must be touching dock one prior to "Go." The Competitor through the use of a pike pole must then drive the log across the water to dock two. The event will be timed; time will stop when the Competitor touches dock two. The Competitor's feet must be on the log at the time of he or she touches dock two in order for time to stop. In the event of a fall, the Competitor may not maneuver the log in any fashion, the Competitor must renounce the log. If the Competitor intentionally maneuvers the log toward dock two, while in the water, a penalty will be assessed. If the Competitor starts before "Go," he or she will be assessed a penalty.

H. Team Relay (Underhand, Standing, Single Buck & Stihl Stock Saw)

There will be eight teams of four selected from twenty four men and eight women to perform the Underhand, Standing Block, Single Buck and Stock Saw. The women must perform the Single Buck portion of the event. The teams will be selected by the show organizer and team must decide which participant will perform which event.

The event will be randomly seeded with the number one seed facing the number eight seed and the number two seed facing the number seven seed and so forth. The winners from the first round advance to the semifinal; the losers from the first round will be eliminated from the competition. The winners from the semi-finals will advance to the final; the losers from the semi-finals will advance to the consolation final.

Rules of Competition for the Team Relay Event - Note subject to alteration of order.

The event will be conducted in the following order: Stihl Stock Saw followed by Underhand followed by the Standing and concluded with the Single Buck.

The competitors in the Stihl Stock Saw portion of the event must wear chaps or safety pants and eye and ear protection while competing. Failure to wear chaps or safety pants and eye and ear protection while competing will result in the assessment of a penalty. Prior to the start, the competitors will be given 45 seconds to start and warm up their Stihl Stock saws. At the end of the warm up period the Head Judge will warn the competitors and they will have 15 seconds in which to place their hands on a line marked on top of the block. During this 15 second period all preparations regarding the Stihl Stock Saw (i.e., placing towels or other materials under the saw to prevent movement) and ongoing efforts to start the saws should be discontinued. At the end of this 15 seconds the starting cadence will begin. Any contestant not having his hands on the line marked on top of the block when the starting cadence begins will be assessed a penalty. On the word "GO" the Competitors must start their saws and make three cuts in the following sequence: Down, Up. The Contestant must make the two cuts within 4" marked from the end of the log. The Head Judge and show officials will be responsible for squaring the logs prior to the commencement of the event. The Competitor must make two complete cuts; "cut outs" will result in the assessment of a penalty. Cutting over the 4" line will result in a penalty assessment. Removing hands from the line marked on top of the block prior to "GO" will result in the assessment of a penalty. After completing the second cut, the Competitor must immediately "shut off" or "turn off" the Stihl Stock Saw; failure to immediately "shut off" or "turn off" the Stihl Stock Saw will result in the assessment of a penalty.

Once the second cut in the Stihl Stock Saw portion of the event is severed, the Competitor in the Underhand portion of the relay may begin. In the event, the Competitor in the Underhand portion of the event commences prior to the severing of the second cut in the Stihl Stock Saw event, a penalty will be assessed. Note, all the aforementioned rules related to Underhand apply.

Once the Competitor in the Underhand portion of the event has completely severed his block, the Competitor in the Standing Block portion of the relay may begin. In the event, the Competitor in the Standing Block portion of the event commences prior to the severing of the Underhand block, a penalty will be assessed. Note all the aforementioned rules related to the Standing Block apply.

Once the Competitor in the Underhand portion of the event has completely severed his block, the Competitor in the Single Buck portion of the relay may begin. In the event, the Competitor in the Single Buck portion of the event commences prior to the severing of the Standing Block, a penalty will be assessed. Note all the aforementioned rules related to the Single Buck apply.

The event will be timed. Time will stop when the Disk is severed in the Single Buck portion of the event.

Great Outdoor Channel's IRONJACK SERIES

hosted by Lumberjack Sports International/Pine Mountain Productions

Sharpen your axes for it's IRONJACK time again! A successful event for the past four years, IRONJACK is entering its fifth year on the road and on the Outdoor Life Network. Referred to as the "Olympics of the Forest," IRONJACK features the most exciting events lumberjack sports has to offer performed by premier athletes such as yourself.

As you are aware, IRONJACK is a very prestigious series, gathering the finest all-around lumberjacks in the world. To win, you must be skilled in all aspects of competitive lumberjacking; sawing, chopping, tree climbing, and log rolling. It is an event where your skills are put to the test - matching your strengths against others weaknesses - where a few will excel - but where all can achieve IRONJACK stature.

We would be honored if you would submit an application for the 2000 IRONJACK competitions. In order to make this year our most successful one yet, we have made some minor adjustments to the rules and qualifications, which will follow, for your review.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this great event and support the implementing of a new type of competition specially designed for you.

If you are not currently an IRONJACK athlete, we invite you to submit an entry. Television loves new faces so give it a go! We encourage choppers, sawyers and log rollers to come join us in a celebration of this great sport. We are trying to grow and look to you for support, so pack your gear and if you don't have it, we do!

Warm Regards,

Robert Scheer
Lumberjack Sports International/ Pine Mountain Productions
P.O. Box 23343
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: 907/225-9050 Fax: 907/247-9050 email:axe@win.bright.net

Each participant must participate in the IronJack Events in order to earn points toward the overall title. The IronJack Events are - Springboard, Underhand, Log Roll, Birling, Tree Top, Speed Climb, Axe Throw, Obstacle Pole, and Single Buck. Each competitor must compete in all nine disciplines to enter.

1999 Prize Money Schedule Note that the competitors will advance and continue to compete in the events until a winner is crowned.

Day One: 1st - \$75, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25 per event

Day Two: Top Twelve competitors will each receive \$750 and Hotel paid for by LSI/PMP

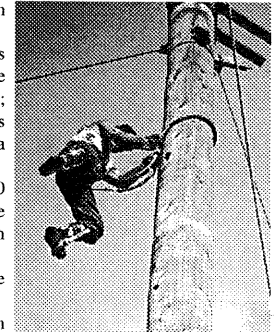
Top Eight Competitors will receive an additional \$500 plus a Vest (for a total of \$1,250)

Top Four Competitors will receive an additional \$500 (for a total of \$1,750)

Top Two Competitors will receive an additional \$500 (for a total of \$2,250)

Winner will receive an additional \$500 plus a chainsaw (for a total of \$2,750)

Prize Schedule for the Relay event - 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$225, 3rd - \$150



A picture of a perfect "Out" performed by Shawn Duffy at the LWC.



Dave Jewett shows the exceptional form that made him the USAA number one ranked male single buckler for 1999.

Rules of Competition for the IronJack Series

SCORING - THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE 100 POINTS FOR WINNING THE EVENT. EACH PARTICIPANT'S POINTS WILL BE IN COMPARISON TO THE WINNERS TIME. THE NON WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF POINTS BASED ON HIS TIME AS COMPARED TO THE WINNERS TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, WINNER WIN'S THE SPEED CLIMB IN 9.04 SECONDS. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE 100 POINTS. SECOND PLACE GETTERS TIME WAS 12.59 SECONDS - HE WILL RECEIVE 71.76 POINTS BECAUSE 12.59 WILL DIVIDE INTO 9.04 SECONDS. 71.76 TIMES. ACCORDINGLY, EACH COMPETITOR WILL RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF 100 POINTS BASED ON THE WINNERS TIME.

NO DROPPED EVENTS: Each event that is scratched will have a \$100 penalty.

AXE THROW: 5-4-3-2-1 CUT ANY PORTION OF HIGHER COLOR AND YOU ARE AWARDED THOSE POINTS - ONE PRACTICE THROW - 24" HANDLE (BASE OF AXE HEAD) - SIX INCH BLADE - STARTING LINE IS 18 FEET FROM FACE OF TARGET - CANNOT STEP PAST LINE (THROWN WILL NOT COUNT).

UNDERHAND CHOP: 12" SLAB RULE - 5 NAILS ON FACE - STEEL TOED BOOTS MUST BE WORN - CUT FOOT PEGS WILL RESULT IN 2-SECOND PENALTY PER CORNER - TIME STOPS WHEN WOOD IS CLEARLY SEVERED - IF JUDGE DISCOVERS AN UNCUT BLOCK, A 5-SECOND PENALTY WILL BE APPLIED.

SPRINGBOARD CHOP: 11" SLAB RULE - ONE BOARD - BARK REMOVAL DONE BY JUDGE - CONTESTANT MAY NOT PUT AXE TO TREE PRIOR TO EVENT** - MUST COPY IN DESIGNATED ZONE FOR POCKET (OR YOU WILL RECEIVE A 3-SECOND PENALTY) - TIME STOPS WHEN WOOD IS CLEARLY SEVERED.

SINGLE BUCK: 16" RED PINE - 12" ARC FOR SET - NO OILER - IF YOU CUT OUT ON LAST 3" OF DISK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A 5-SECOND PENALTY - IF YOU CUT OUT, YOU MUST RESTART YOUR SAW ABOVE THE CUT AND FINISH - TIME STOPS WHEN WOOD IS CLEARLY SEVERED.

OBSTACLE POLE: ROLL 5' LOG WITH CANT HOOK AND BUNK - NO TOUCHING LOG WITH FEET OR HANDS - GRAB SAW AND RUN UP 30' POLE - MUST GET ON AND OFF BELOW ORANGE LINE - START SAW AT BUNK LOG WITH SAW ANCHORED BETWEEN LEGS (IF YOU START SAW ON THE FLY YOU WILL BE GIVEN A 5-SECOND PENALTY) - SAW OFF DISK - RUN DOWN POLE - PUT SAW IN HOLDER - GRAB 5' CHOKER AND SET PROPERLY AROUND BUNKED LOG - PULL OFF BUNK - TIME STOPS WHEN LOG HITS GROUND - 3-SECOND PENALTY FOR ALL INFRACTIONS. (EXCEPTION: A HAND FOUL IN BUNKING IS A 5-SECOND PENALTY** - SAWS PROVIDED ARE STILL 044; NO TUNING, NO SHARPENING, NEW CHAINS ONLY BE HEAD JUDGE.

TREE TOPPING: 50' TREE WITH 10" SAW LOG - OPEN GAFFS - CATS PAW KNOT - ALL TOPPERS MUST TIE IN NO CLOSER THAN THEIR REACH PLUS 10-INCHES TO ENSURE ALL COMPETITORS TIE IN

AT TOP:** SAFETY LINE MUST BE HOOKED BEFORE SAWING - TIME STOPS WHEN DISK IS CLEARLY SEVERED.

SPEED CLIMBING: 50' CLIMB - WESTERN RED - AT TOP ROPE MUST HIT ABOVE RED LINE - MUST GAFF TREE IN TOP 25' AND BOTTOM 25' - ONE FOOT ON GROUND AT "GO", OPEN CLIMB - STEEL CORE ROPE. **A 2-SECOND PENALTY FOR GAFF VIOLATION - A 3-SECOND PENALTY FOR TOP LINE VIOLATION**.**

BIRLING: MUST SPIN LOG 25 TIMES IN THE FRONT STEP DIRECTION - BOTH FEET MUST BE ON ORANGE LINE ON WORD "GO" - EACH TIME THE ORANGE LINE SURFACES, IT COUNTS AS ONE ROTATION - YOU MAY REMOUNT THE LOG AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY. LOG IS 18" - 20" WESTERN RED, NO SPIKES, TANK ROLLING.

LOG ROLLING: SEATED DOUBLE ELIMINATION BACK TO FIRST - 18" FOR THE FIRST 2 MINUTES, THEN MOVE TO 15". BEST 2 OUT OF 3 EXCEPT FOR FINAL WHICH IS 3 OUT OF 5. SEE POINT ALLOCATION CURVE FOR POINTS PER PLACE - NO SPIKES, TANK ROLLING.

LOG ROLLING SCORING: THE POINT SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO REFLECT THE OVERALL ABILITY OF THE FIELD. IT PREVENTS UNDESERVED GUARANTEED POINTS. LOG ROLLING POINT CURVE WILL VARY DEPENDING ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIELD AND WILL BE DETERMINED BY HEAD JUDGE. POINTS WILL BE DISPLAYED PRIOR TO COMPETITION.

STARTING CADENCE: JUDGES READY, TIMERS READY, 1-2-GO. **A 3-SECOND PENALTY FOR JUMPING GUN****

NO SHARED EQUIPMENT: HANDLES, SAWS, CLIMBING GAFF AXES, ROPES OR SPRING BOARDS. **A 5-SECOND PENALTY TO BOTH PARTIES FOR SHARED EQUIPMENT. ONLY FIRST-TIME COMPETITORS MAY USE COMMUNITY GEAR, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED BY HEAD JUDGE**.**

ATTIRE: YOU WILL BE GIVEN 3 NATIONAL TEAM IRON JACK TANK TOPS AND SUSPENSERS WHICH MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. BLACK PANTS WITH SUSPENSERS (NO EXCEPTIONS). YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR NOT BEING IN PROPER GEAR. STEEL TOE BOOTS MUST BE WORN IN ALL EVENTS EXCEPT CLIMBING, OBSTACLE POLE ROLLING AND BIRLING.

WE WILL BE STARTING A NEW HEAT EVERY 5 MINUTES AND YOU MUST BE AT YOUR POSITION OR YOU WILL BE GIVEN A 5-SECOND PENALTY FOR THE FIRST MINUTES OF TARDINESS AND THEN DISQUALIFIED FOR A SCORE OF ZERO. YOU MUST BE PRESENT IN THE ON-DECK CIRCLE IF YOU ARE THE NEXT TO COMPETE. **A 2-SECOND PENALTY FOR NOT BEING IN ON-DECK CIRCLE**.**

ALL PROTESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING. NO PROTESTS WILL BE TAKEN VERBALLY DURING COMPETITION.

ALL DECISION OF THE HEAD JUDGE ARE FINAL. RELAY TEAMS WILL BE CHOSEN BY COUNTRY CAPTAINS. IF YOUR COUNTRY TEAMS ARE FULL, YOU WILL BE PUT ON THE UNIFIED TEAM.

2000 Tentative Schedule

June (3 rd Weekend)	Wausau, WI -
July (4 th Weekend)	Lumberjack World Championships - Quad Relay
October (2 nd Weekend)	Shawnee, PA

Results from 1999 IronJack Series**Wausau Wisconsin**

Underhand: 1.Chris Hughes (26.05) 2.Rob Waibel 3.Joel Stephanski 4.Todd Ferguson 5.Wade Stewart
 Axe Throw: 1.Rob Waibel 2.Tony Bush/Joel Stephanski/Buck Willoughby/Darren Casey
 Speed Climb: 1.Wade Stewart (9.04) 2.Tony Bush 3.Darren Casey 4.Buck Willoughby 5.Dwight Severson
 Springboard: 1.Rob Waibel (38.05) 2.Tony Bush 3.Todd Ferguson 4.Joel Stephanski 5.Dwight Severson
 Log Roll: 1.Dan McDonough 2.Wade Stewart 3.Rob Waibel 4.Tony Bush/Andy Colle
 Obstacle Pole: 1.Rob Waibel (23.70) 2.Wade Stewart 3.Tony Bush 4.Joel Stephanski 5.Chris Hughes
 Single Buck: 1.Dwight Severson (14.01) 2.Chris Hughes 3.Darren Casey 4.Rob Waibel 5.Todd Ferguson
 Tree Topping: 1.Wade Stewart (43.27) 2.Dwight Severson 3.Joel Stephanski 4.Chris Hughes 5.Rob Waibel
 Birling: 1. Wade Stewart (23.95) 2. Tony Bush 3.Buck Willoughby 4. Rob Waibel 5.Dan McDonough
 Overall: 1.Rob Waibel (769.02 pts) 2.Wade Stewart 3.Tony Bush 4.Chris Hughes 5.Darren Casey 6.Dwight Severson 7.Buck Willoughby 8.Joel Stephanski 9.Todd Ferguson 10.Dan McDonough 11.Andy Colle

Hayward, Wisconsin - the Lumberjack World Championships

Quad Relay - 60' climb followed by river pig, followed by 12" underhand, followed by 16" Single
 1. Dave Wheatherbread 2. Rob Scheer 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Tony Bush

Shawnee, Pennsylvania.

Underhand: 1.Rob Waibel (20.72) 2.Brad Turner 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Chris Hughes 5.Tony Bush

Axe Throw: 1.Tony Bush 2.Rob Waibel 3.Rob Scheer/Chris Hughes 5.Dustin Beckwith
 Speed Climb: 1.Tony Bush 2.Chris Hughes 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Rob Scheer 5.Rob Waibel
 Springboard: 1.Rob Waibel (35.85) 2.Brad Turner 3.Chris Hughes 4.Tony Bush 5.Rob Scheer
 Log Roll: 1.Rob Scheer 2.Rob Waibel 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Tony Bush 5.Chris Hughes
 Obstacle Pole: 1.Chris Hughes (24.69) 2.Rob Waibel 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Tony Bush 5.Rob Scheer
 Single Buck: 1.Brad Turner (12.58) 2.Rob Waibel 3.Chris Hughes 4.Dustin Beckwith 5.Tony Bush
 Tree Topping: 1.Chris Hughes (43.61) 2.Tony Bush 3.Rob Waibel 4.Dustin Beckwith 5.Rob Scheer
 Birling: 1.Rob Scheer (31.91) 2.Tony Bush 3. Dustin Beckwith 4.Rob Waibel 5.Chris Hughes
 Overall: 1.Rob Waibel (795.30 pts) 2.Tony Bush 3.Chris Hughes 4.Dustin Beckwith 5.Rob Scheer 6. Brad Turner

The United States Axemen's Association

President:	Mike Slingerland	704/279-9369	email	Mike.Slingerland@nmail.net	Assoc. Rep.
Vice President:	Dennis Daun	847/740-2422		dennis@maquat.com	MLA
Sec/Treasurer:	Arden Cogar Jr.	304/ 346-0211		ajcogar@charlestonwv.net	WVAA
Board Member:	Karl Hansen	870/352-7682		ridhan@seark.net	SAA
Board Member:	Dave Engasser	607/564-0352		mlengasser@nyseg.com	NYPLA
Board Member:	Jim Taylor	530/245-0922		taylorj2@c-zone.net	ALA
Board Member:	Peg Engasser	607/564-0352		mlengasser@nyseg.com	Member at Large
Board Member:	Carson Bosworth	208/267-2725		logroll@genevaonline.com	Member at Large

Affiliate Associations

ALA	American Lumberjack Association
MLA	Midwest Lumberjack Association
NYPLA	New York Professional Lumberjack Association
SAA	Southern Axemen's Association
SAWA	South Atlantic Woodsmen's Association
WVAA	West Virginia Axemen's Association

UNITED STATES AXEMEN'S ASSOCIATION PROFILE

The United States Axemen's Association was founded in 1994 to give competitors in the United States an organization that could represent them with a single, unified voice.

The Goals of the USAA are two fold. The first and foremost goal being the promotion and advancement of Timber Sports in the United States. The second goal is to help insure that the competitors themselves are given the same respect and recognition attributed to other professional athletes.

The USAA hopes to attain these goals by promoting increased exposure for the sport in both the electronic and print media, and by helping to obtain increased corporate sponsorship for the various timber sports contests, thereby increasing the monetary rewards available to the individual competitor.

UNITED STATES AXEMEN'S ASSOCIATION CHARTER

Purpose: To present a unified voice for the advancement of timber sports in the United States.

Goals: 1. To increase the national exposure of timber sports in the United States by: (a) having the results of major U.S. competitions published in national and regional newspapers and periodical; (b) assisting in the publication of feature and human interest stories about timber sports and timber sports competitors; and (c) promoting increased television exposure for our sport.

2. To obtain increased corporate sponsorship for timber sports contests thereby increasing the monetary rewards available to the individual competitor.

Membership: Membership in the US Axemen's Association is open to all members of local, state, and regional woodsmen's associations. Each individual organization must vote in favor of becoming a part of the US Axemen's Association. Once approved, all members of that organization will automatically be considered to be members of the U. S. Axemen's Association. Individual members will be considered, on a case by case basis, for those competitors who are not currently members of a regional organization.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors will consist of the president and his/her selected representative from each of the regional woodsmen's associations. In



Denise Bouchard bests the Bow Saw at Boonville.

addition, the board may (or may not) appoint up to five additional directors from the general membership. Terms of office will coincide with the terms of office of the associate organizations. Appointed directors will serve terms of three years.

Annual Meetings: To be held in Webster Springs, West Virginia, on Memorial Day weekend; Rochester, Minnesota on the third weekend of June; and/or in Boonville, New York on the third weekend of August; or at a place and time agreed upon by the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board must either attend these meetings or appoint someone to represent them in their absence.

Powers and Limitations: 1. This Association will: (a) take whatever actions are deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to attain the **Goals** outlined in this Charter; (b) be available to advise interested parties on resources to help organize and run contests; (c) be available to offer advice to, and negotiate problems with, existing contests on behalf of the membership; (d) provide a unified group which will be able to use appropriate measures to ensure the rights of the competitors; (e) facilitate communication between the various regional timber sport organizations; and (f) provide a contact point for international timber sport associations for information and questions, and assist in the selection of teams to represent the United States in international competition.

2. This Association will not: (a) sanction, legislate to, or attempt to run any contests; (b) get involved in petty disputes which can be handled on a local level; and (c) take any action unless voted on and approved by the Board of Directors.

USAA News

1. The Board of Directors of the USAA, in conjunction with the Australian Axemen's Association, orchestrated the "Olympics of Woodchopping" to be held in Sydney Australia just prior to Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee will be sending representatives to view the teams races to be held between Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada. At this time, it is unknown whether additional countries will field teams, but the "Olympics of Woodchopping" will be an event that will go down in the history of Lumberjack Sports.

2. The Board of Directors of the USAA organized sponsors and negotiated the contract with STIHL to send Team USA to the "Olympics of Woodchopping." Thanks to Stihl Team USA can go!!!!

3. The Board of Directors of the USAA selected the Team USA members - Melvin Lentz, Arden Cogar Jr., Dave Jewett, Harry Burnsworth, Mike Slingerland, Dennis Daun,

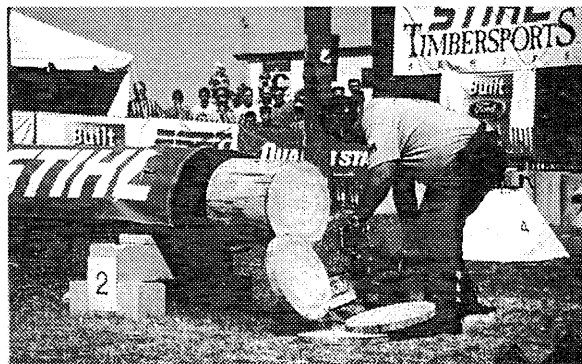
Paul Cogar, Carson Bosworth, Mike Sullivan, Matt Bush. Rob Waibel and Mike Forrester were selected as alternates and Arden Cogar Sr. was selected as the manager of Team USA.

4. The Ranking Committee of the USAA spent countless hours data mining to determine the 1999 Rankings. The rankings were based on head to head comparisons rather than a structured point system. The ranking system is more thoroughly explained below.

5. The Board of Directors incorporated the USAA as a nonprofit corporation and set up the umbrella for which the subassociations can likewise incorporate as nonprofits.

6. The Board of Directors participated in the development of the Rules of Competition for the Great Outdoor Games and invitation/selection of competitors to attend the Great Outdoor Games. Please note that the selection of the Competitors for the GO Games was a rather arduous task as the Committee assigned to look at this issue spent countless hours reviewing numerous and rather voluminous results from competitions around the world. With the assistance of Jason Wynyard the lists were narrowed and reordered and sent into motion.

7. The Board of Directors is now looking to develop a junior division for competitors under the age of 16 to foster the development of the youth of Lumberjack Sports in North America. While it is being debated as the NAAN is sent to press, the issues are the development of the youth to be competitive against the overseas axemen and sawyers at an earlier age. Possibly in the future, the USAA would like to foster the development of an under 21 team that could compete against the under 21 teams of Australia and New Zealand.



In 1999, Dennis Daun not only single bucked, but hot sawed quite well. So much so, he has promised to return in the year 2000 as a "streamlined" Daun or lighter by 40 pounds.

Y2K USAA Competitor Ranking Guidelines

Only those contests commonly entered by competitors from more than one region will be considered for the National rankings. For the 2000 season those contests will include:

Webster Springs, WV	Albany, OR	Boonville, NY	Stihl Qualifier 1
Belington, WV	Gladstone, MI	Connellsville, PA	Stihl Qualifier 2
Oconto, WI	Bemidji, MN	Elkins, WV	Stihl Qualifier 3
Rochester, MN	Hayward, WI	Orofino, Idaho	Stihl Qualifier 4
Fort Bragg, CA	Bridgewater, CN	Morton, WA	Stihl Finals

This includes: 4 contests in the western US, 5 in the central US, 3 in the northeastern US, 3 in the southeastern US and 5 floating contests. The reasons for limiting the number of contests considered for the rankings are: to place a premium on doing well at major competitions, to encourage inter-regional competition, and to simplify and standardize the task of record gathering for this project. While this method may tend to exclude some strictly regional competitors from the rankings it is felt that the gains outweigh the negatives as these competitors should properly be ranked at the regional level.

Only permanent residents of the US will be ranked.

Events to be included in the ranking must be common across multiple regions. Events specific to a particular region will not be ranked on a national level. Events to be included in the 2000 National rankings will include:

Two man sawing (15)	Underhand chopping (20)	Bow saw (5)
One man sawing (17)	Standing block chop (19)	Stock saw (11)
Jack and Jill sawing (14+)	Springboard chopping (17)	Unlimited hot saw (17)
Jill and Jill sawing (8)	Axe throwing (14)	Limited hot saw (5)
Women's single (8)	Women's underhand (5+)	

(* indicates the number of contests above which have this event)

1999 U.S. Axemen's Association Final Rankings

Two Man Sawing:

1. M. Bush & M. Slingerland
2. M. Sullivan & D. Jewett
3. J. Crago & Rick Halverson
4. C. Bosworth & D. Daun
5. M. Lentz & P. Cogar
6. R. Hatfield & M. Forrester
7. T. Keech & D. Engasser
8. H. Burnsworth & H.B. II
9. P. Pfenninger & W. Robarge
10. J. Taylor & R. Eslinenger

Jack & Jill

1. R. & P. Halverson
2. M. & B. Slingerland
3. C. Bosworth & T. Salzman
4. D. Jewett & C. Van Gee
5. W. & A. Robarge
6. D. & P. Engasser
7. M. Sullivan & D. Kistner
8. M. & J. Bush
9. A. Cogar Jr. & B. Wine
10. D. Taylor & L. Little

One Man

1. Dave Jewett
2. Rick Halverson
3. Mike Sullivan
4. Carson Bosworth
5. Dennis Daun
6. Melvin Lentz
7. Matt Bush
8. Jeff Crago
9. Mike Forrester
10. Gary Hammond

Standing Block

1. Arden Cogar JR.
2. Matt Bush
3. Dave Jewett
4. Carson Bosworth
5. Harry Burnsworth
6. Melvin Lentz
7. Mike Sullivan
8. Paul Cogar
9. Warrick Hallett
10. Rob Waibel

Underhand

1. Dave Jewett
2. Matt Bush
3. Arden Cogar Jr.
4. Mike Sullivan
5. Melvin Lentz
6. Harry Burnsworth
7. Paul Cogar
8. Mike Eash
9. Carson Bosworth
10. Rob Waibel

Springboard

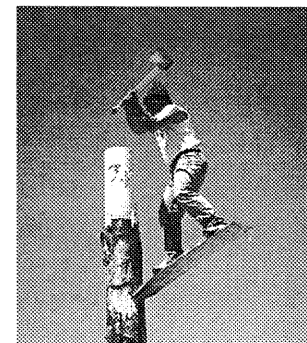
1. Harry Burnsworth
2. Matt Bush
3. Dave Jewett
4. Warrick Hallett
5. Carson Bosworth
6. Mike Sullivan
7. Melvin Lentz
8. Rob Waibel

9. Arden Cogar Jr.

10. Jerry Scutt

Unlimited Hot Saw

1. Rick Halverson
2. Melvin Lentz
3. Harry Burnsworth
4. Matt Bush
5. Mike Sullivan
6. Jim Taylor
7. Dave Stadler
8. Dennis Daun
9. Dave Jewett
10. Tom Fales



Mikey Forrester of Glide, Oregon, shows his stuff in the Springboard at the Albany Timber Carnival.

Stock Saw

1. Jim Taylor
2. Harry Burnsworth
3. Melvin Lentz
4. Dave Stadler
5. Jerry Scutt
6. Rick Halverson
7. Adrian James
8. Warrick Hallett
9. John Hughes
10. Matt Bush

Bow Saw

1. Jason Helsel
2. Cliff Hesel
3. Dave Jewett
4. Rick Halverson
5. Matt Bush
6. Gary Hammond
7. Paul Pfenninger
8. Kevin Ransom
9. Dave Engasser
10. Terry Warlick

Axe Throwing

1. Dave Jewett
2. Melvin Lentz
3. Mike Sullivan
4. Kirt Hall
5. Mike Slingerland
6. Matt Bush
7. Jim Taylor
8. John Hughes
9. Dennis Harvey
10. Shannon Strong

Women's Underhand

1. Dory Kistner
2. Penny Halverson
3. Peg Engasser
4. Shannon Strong
5. Christine Van Gee
6. Mary Ann Holcomb
7. Lori Ransom
8. Andrea Robarge
9. Mary Dooley
10. Erica Shreiner

Women's Bow Saw

1. Lori Ransom
2. Andrea Robarge
3. Mary Ann Holcomb
4. Shannon Strong
5. Penny Halverson
6. Mary Dooley
7. Peg Engasser
8. Christine Van Gee
9. Dory Kistner
10. Erica Shriener

Women's Single

1. Penny Halverson
2. Tina Salzman
3. Jill Bush
4. Peg Engasser
5. Lori Ransom
6. Denise Carlson
7. Christine Van Gee
8. Tina Scheer
9. Jeanne Bradley
10. Tammi Prete

Jill & Jill

1. P. Halverson & L. Ransom
2. A. Robarge & M. Dooley
3. D. Kistner & D. Bouchard
4. B. Slingerland & J. Bush
5. B. Wine & L. Litle
6. D. Carlson & T. Salzman
7. P. Engasser & E. Schreiner
8. T. Prete & C. Marcellus
9. C. Reichle & S. McBride
10. L. LaFonte & M. Holcomb

To be ranked in any event you must be a permanent resident of the U.S and have competed in that event in at least 5 contests in the previous 12 months. (The 5 contest minimum does not yet apply to the women's events)

Rankings are based primarily on contests whose results are published in the "North American Axemen's News" although any other contest results received by the committee will be taken into account. Rankings will be updated monthly during the season.

1999 Committee: Mike Slingerland, Dennis Daun, Dave Engasser, Peg Engasser, Arden Cogar JR

Special Thanks to Stihl for sponsoring the Team USA to the Olympics of Woodchopping

Team USAA

Melvin Lentz
Arden Cogar Jr.
Dave Jewett
Paul Cogar
Mike Slingerland
Dennis Daun
Carson Bosworth

Harry Burnsworth

Mike Sullivan
Matt Bush
Rob Waibel - alternate
Mike Forrester - alternate
Rick Halverson - alternate
Jeff Crago - alternate
Arden Cogar Sr. - Manager

Axeman Tidbits**Poetry in Motion - why I compete in Lumberjack Sports by Arden Cogar Jr.**

Each Fall I watch video tape after video tape of my performances from the previous summer. At that point, I look for ways to improve this or that. I know it sounds tedious, but it really makes a difference. For those of you who have watched me over the years, you'll note that my technique has changed dramatically. Does it work??? Who knows? To be honest, I've been very inconsistent over the past two years, but I feel that that has more to do with my "real" life (i.e., job, mortgage, wife, children, etc) - BOO HOOO (had to whine a little bit). In any event, the sport is a matter of personal preference, but what you make of it can be considered poetry in motion.

Time and time again, I watch axemen such as Matthew Gurr, Mitch Hewett, Bill Youd, Arden Cogar Sr, and David Bolstad. These axemen are fluid; their swings are even and long, while the effectiveness of their hits is unparalleled.

Therefore, I study. I study their spatial relationship to the log. I study the arc of their swings. I study the angle of their hits. I analyze the edges of their axes. Most of all, I watch the fluidity of their swing.

When I'm on, I'm fluid. However, that is not that often, at least in the past two years. Fortunately, when it does happen, it's unforgettable and signified as a "good cut." Sometimes its been good enough to break a record. At other times, it's been good enough to be a close second to, or maybe even beat, the likes of Jason Wynyard or David Bolstad.

The feeling is unmistakable and, with the advent of video cameras, "pretty" to watch. I'll never forget a video tape I have of my father's winning the standing block at the PNE. The log was a big 12" (38" circumference) white alder, and my father cut the log in a perfect "10 and 10" (ten hits in the front and ten hits in the back - two up, two down, two up, two down, two up, turn, repeat). He made absolutely no mistakes; he was using a 6 1/2" wide axe and had no room for error. The axe dragged the ground on the up hits and came from the sky on the down hits. When I mean the sky on the down hits, the axe was literally 18" to two feet above his head when it came around his body. It was simply beautiful; if you're interested, I'll show it to you sometime.

But, back to poetry in motion. Few axemen today are pretty to watch. I know the records are broken. I also know the equipment is improving. Unfortunately, there are few aesthetic axemen such as Doug Youd, Merv Youd, Bill Youd, and the like.

It's my goal to bring the aesthetics back to woodchopping. Everyone I teach will be taught to swing long, slowly and deliberately. Everyone I teach will be taught to concentrate on the hits and not on the time. To this end, I will preach that four strong hits is much better than eight shoddy hits.

Poetry in motion is difficult. Often people have chopped too long, and their habits are too hard to break. With the advent of video cameras and a whole lot of persistence, we can bring back poetry in motion.

Poetry in motion is artwork. Woodchopping can be artwork. Accordingly, part of poetry in motion is working toward making "the perfect cut". The "perfect cut" is the enigma that has eluded every axeman during his or her career. Personally, I've made some good cuts, but I've never made a perfect cut. More than likely, no axeman will say he's ever made the perfect cut.

The perfect cut is part of poetry in motion. Basically, the perfect cut varies from person to person. For example, last summer Matt Karp made an absolutely amazing cut at Pleasantsville, PA. Matt drew a decent log, but every hit was precise and methodic. Matt cut the 12" Yellow poplar underhand in 31 seconds; however, given the hardness of timber, the axe he used, and the way he hit the log, at least in my mind, it was a "perfect cut." More than likely, Matt will say, "No it wasn't. I could have taken more out of the front and saved on the drive in the back." Matt might be right; however, it was, in my mind, poetry in motion.

In any event, I'm in the process of procuring some instructional videos. Further, I believe Dwight Severson has some instructional videos for sale. On those videos, you will see poetry in motion; moreover, you might even see a perfect cut.

The following are various excerpts gathered by Jamie Stenhouse, the Secretary of the New South Wales Axemen's Association. Jamie gathered these excerpts from the Racing Axeman by James Preston and from various newspapers throughout Australia.

DOWN FOR THE SHOW

These are the men who deserve a "rap"
In the radio news and papers,
Their work is their sport and they don't indulge
In any frills and capers.
These are the axemen
Down for the Show,
Chopping like demons,
Flat out for the dough.
And "Bluey" the scratch man,
Despite his late start,
Has the bottom well open
And lines up the heart.
He turns like a flash,
Gives a staccato grunt,
And now at the finish
He's well in the hunt.
Three hits to the second,
His log flies apart,

And "Bluey's" the winner
Despite his late start.
Then back to the scattered timber camps
The big guns and the small potatoes,
Swinging their axes at work again
With the bush birds as spectators.



Phil Helsel wacks away at an 8 x 8 underhand at the Lake City Festival of Pines in Lake City, Michigan, during the summer of 1999.

The Spirit of Competition

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcomings, who knows the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt (1858 -1919)
26th US President

The Following Was Kindly Submitted By Keech Castings and relates to the promotional booklet and film make in the 1940's depicting the making of cast axes.

The Ideal Axe Keesteel tells its story

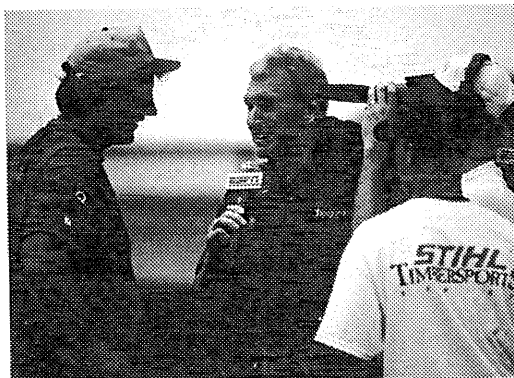
"An axe? Surely a very practical, workaday article", you think. With its beginnings in the stone age it has been the most familiar aid of man for so long that one is apt to accept it with no further thought. But the axe has its story..... Today it flashes with unerring precision in the hands of a champion axeman; it is but a short while since, in a fiery cauldron, it glowed as a shining orange light of delicate, shimmering beauty.

Among the outstanding axes in use at wood-chopping contests today, along with those used in all competitions held at Shows throughout the country, Keesteel Racing Axes are unique of their kind. Here, in brief, is their story:

The company of Keech Castings Pty.Ltd opened its factory in 1933 for the manufacture of specialty castings, but, with the coming of war, all production was switched to essential munitions, principally hand grenades and Bren Gun sprockets. The success achieved in this very important manufacture led to the question: "Could the factory produce the badly needed tools for tradesmen - in particular, the axe, of which the market was completely bare?" The Company accepted the challenge, and produced the first axes ever made on a production basis in the Southern Hemisphere; but axes with a difference! This was a new organization, setting out on a manufacture new to the country and untrammelled by the theories and beliefs that go hand in hand with the advantages of tradition. Heretofore, edged tools had always been forged, a process having its limitations and necessitating much cumbersome machinery - indeed, this method is still used by all other tool manufacturers here and abroad. A period of intensive research by Keesteel brought success in the production of a steel so improved in character that, for the first time in history, edged casting. The results were revolutionary - the Keesteel process, completely evolved and developed in Australia by Australians, made it possible to produce quality tools cheaper than ever before. Hammers, tin snips, tailors' shears (all tools of trade requiring high quality alloy steels) began to pour off the production lines. But research does not stop with the first flush of success, nor was the ideal axe evolved overnight.

Improvement suggestions from the best known champion axemen keep company with constant research in the workshops and laboratories. From the smelting and reclamation of the pure metals, to the packing and labeling of the

cases, all the work is integrated under the one roof, making possible the closest co-operation. Chemists test each batch of metal to assure perfect balance of components. Craftsmen produce the patterns from which the sand casting moulds are made, and metal workers equipped with ingeniously contrived buckets on wheels direct the streams of fiery liquid into the moulds by means of 10-foot control rods which keep them at all times at a safe and comfortable distance from the heated metal. Axe handles, produced on the premises from the finest American hickory, are designed for perfect balance and strength. The whole process carried out in large, airy premises, is so quick and efficient that its economy is a natural corollary - and the result is a demand in Australia for 3000 Keesteel axes per week; a demand greater than has ever been enjoyed by any other maker of axes.



A scene that was so prevalent several years ago rang true during the 1999 Timbersports Series: Jerry McKinnis interviewing Melvin Lentz.

This is the story of the cast axe; a story which has its culmination in the Keesteel axe being used in this wood-chopping arena today; an axe which by reason of its use, requires stronger steel than does any other known type of tool; so strong that it will cut steel and is, to all intents and purposes, unbreakable; an axe in truth to satisfy the demands of the Australian timberman whose work lies amongst the world's hardest timbers - the Keesteel Racing Axe!

The manufacturers of this axe, through the medium of this booklet, send their best of wishes to all competitors in the wood-chopping and wood-sawing contests at the Royal Easter Show, 1949.

Extract From a 1955 Newspaper (Name Unknown)

Woodchopping is a man's sport

Sydney's modern woodchopping stadium - a pocket-sized arena crammed with sweating axemen, punctual officials and blackbutt timber - is man's last strong hold at the Royal Show.

And you don't have to be a woman-hater to pray earnestly that the day will never come when women's tree-felling events will be held there. The old comedy song Father Holds the Lantern While Mother Chops the Wood might be all right in the backblocks, but not at the show.

The only time you see a woman in the actual competition area is when some winner's mother is honored by placing the blue ribbon around her son's neck. Or when a luscious model, for photographic purposes, makes the presentation and kisses the winner. No-ther never was a more virile game than woodchopping and there never was a sport more rightfully taboo to women.

Tom Kirk is 17 stone if he's an ounce and has been swinging an axe almost since he discarded his rattle. Some undersized, frustrated spectators who wouldn't miss the chopping for anything will tell you the axemen are "all brawn and no brain". Don't fall for that! I've interviewed many of them and watched them in action too often to be taken in by those remarks. See them mark their timber, cut their footholds and place their final cuts with deadly accuracy, and you'll realize there's more to it than merely brute strength. Admittedly, some are not over - elegant (that's because of natural shyness), but most of them would lose the little whispering spectator in both bank balance and happiness. There's no doubt about the popularity of the woodchopping stadium - it's packed almost every Show, day and night. So it should be, when you consider that the best in the world bite their axes into the hard North Coast timber. This year sees the return to the blocks of former world champion Manny McCarthy, who held sway for years after the mighty Leo Appo put away his axe. Manny is now in his fifties and has an 18 year old son, Jim, competing in junior events this year. With Jim now a fully - fledged contestant, there are six McCarthys in the game. Once again the best axemen from other States are represented - 15 coming from VIC, 10 from QLD and 8 from TAS. One of the Queensland contingent is Vic Summers, the world's champion tree-feller. Summers returns after a successful trip to New Zealand, where he amazed crowds with his tree-felling speed. You have to see Summers cut his holes, put in the planks, and send a tree-top hurtling to the ground in a couple of minutes, to appreciate his prowess. Three Youd brothers are over from Tasmania, including Mervyn, a former world's standing block champion. Mervyn was badly cut with a saw during the Melbourne Show, but is back in the game, and should hit top form later in the Show. His brothers are Doug and Ray (the youngest), both of whom have registered fast times in Tasmania recently.

Tom Kirk will defend his world standing block (15inch) championship, and Jack O'Toole is back to stake his under-hand 15-inch title. Oldest competitor is a 72 - year-old barber from Wallerawang, Arthur Devlyn. Arthur, who won his first woodchop in 1898, has entered two 15-inch sawing events. He is positive proof that you never get wood-chopping out of your system.

**New South Wales Axemen by Jamie Stenhouse
Secretary of the New South Wales Axemen's Association**

The numbers of Axemen in our sport in NSW seem to be fairly static at the moment. Until very recently, most clubs in NSW have done very little to recruit new member; it is a shame in many ways, because there is no reason



Karl Bischoff of Celista, British Columbia, readies himself for the Stock Power Saw. This fellow makes some great protective leggings for the advanced axemen who has fear of injury.

why woodchopping could not be a big thing in NSW or Australia in general. Some say wood is too scarce; however, the NSW Forestry Department have already said they are open to discuss agreements where by all the timber we would need could be made available. Others say sponsorship is too hard to get, but that's only because most sponsors have got little bang for the buck because of the poor promotional efforts by the people involved. Why in a sport that consistently packs arenas to capacity and is exciting and fascinating to the public is there such poor exposure?

Really, I believe it comes down to organization and marketing of the sport backed up by consistent recruitment programs to get the numbers up. One of the problems is that in NSW at least there are too few people to do all the work. Once when I first took on the job of NSW secretary/treasurer, I thought I would be able to advance the sport and get some new things happening. Well, I've done my best, but at the end of the day (quite a lot of very long days in fact), I've barely had a chance to scratch the surface due to the work involved in just keeping up the necessary & essential functions of the organization. If woodchopping is to go forward in NSW and I suggest other states in Australia, we need people involved to put their shoulders to the wheel or alternatively "send money" so that someone can afford to devote more of their working time to the sports' development.

On a brighter note, we have some very good junior axemen coming on to the scene; some are chopping very well, and it won't be long and they will be up in the championships with the best of them. Just recently there was a recruitment/training day conducted at the Sydney show woodchopping stadium; it was attended by as many as 40 axemen over the 2 days and some new comers I believe. This is music to my ears as it has been something that has not happened very much in the past because of perceived insurance risks and just the effort involved in the organization of the whole thing. Now we have discovered that any participant who attends a recognized training day and puts his name on a list (any old list as long as it is pen on paper) is covered just the same as a fully registered axeman! Too easy Campesi.

We cut a fairly diverse range of wood in NSW. Down south they mainly cut **Silver Top Ash** (same species as at Sydney) however it is generally a fair bit better (I have found) than the wood that appears at the Sydney Royal.

Up north they cut **Black Butt**, I am not familiar with this wood but have heard it can be quite hard.

In the middle we have all sorts of wood, and, depending on who supplies it, it is generally pretty good. **Snappy Gum** is one of my favorites; it is fairly soft, chips very well, but is quite hard on axes if you have them a bit too thin because of the little pips and faults in the grain. **Snow Gum** or **Candle Bark Gum** is one that is found around Oberon near Bathurst. It is very fast wood, and I have cut some that would equal the quality and speed of wood found in Tasmania.

There has been some controversy and problems about handicaps between different clubs in different areas over the years. One club will operate a different handicapping system than another and generally the species of wood will be different in each area, so, as you can imagine, there have been some heated stouches over the years.

In order to try and end all this madness, a new system was proposed recently where all clubs would agree on a system of handicapping and a wood hardness measuring device would be introduced which took the guess work and human judgement out of wood assessment. It was proposed several identical devices be made with a spring operated spike that penetrated the wood in a measurable way. This in turn would be related to a scale that would give an indication of correct handicap in relation to other timber species normally cut by the axeman. Past results, handicap, species of timber & hardness measurement would be recorded in a book that axemen took with them to chops. Sounds like a move in the right direction, hey? The idea was not supported, and further effort was abandoned.

We look forward to seeing any of you Americans or Canadians in Australia at any time, and we may get our act together one day and organize a tour to the USA & Canada to see how it is all done over there.

Regards - Jamie Stenhouse
Secretary/Treasurer
Federation of NSW Axemen Incorporated

From the sidelines by Arden Cogar Jr.

What is the impression of Lumberjack Sports from a fan point of view? What is the interest that brings people to watch Lumberjack Sports? I've asked myself these questions over the course of the past ten years, and, to be honest, even though the sport is growing, I still am at a loss as to the interest.

First, Lumberjack Sports are not an extreme sport. No one has dred-locks or wears obscene clothing while they compete. While it is true that Lumberjack Sports are extremely dangerous, the public rarely sees severe injuries.

Lumberjack Sports are not contact sports. No one wears helmets or padded gloves. While it is true Lumberjack Sports involve a lot of hitting and bucking, no one other than a block of wood serves as the recipient.

Lumberjack Sports are not dirty sports. No one makes fun of anyone or makes obscene gestures to fellow participants or members of the crowd. While it is true that some Lumberjack Sports Competitors wear white pants, obviously oil stained, no one, with few exceptions, has made a spectacle of him or herself.

So what is it? If the truth were to be told, I would say it has something to do with the great outdoors. As time passes, the amount of "great outdoors" lessens. So, as everyone hustles and bustles through life, they long for the

feeling of being surrounded by trees, the wind, and most of all - the tranquil beauty of mother nature.

Now, it's true that the sound of a chainsaw, or the thump of an axe, does little to add to the sounds of nature, but the thought of bringing the Forest to the masses is what, in my opinion, brings Lumberjack Sports into the homes of many.

Think about it. Have you ever been out in the woods, training on big fallen tree and stopped for a second to let the sweat pour from your brow? As you listened, the only things you hear were the pounding of your own heart, the wispyness of your own breath and nothing else but mother nature. The wind rustled through the leaves. The clouds scampered overhead. For a moment, time stood still. Then you closed your eyes, trying your best to maintain your balance atop the fallen tree. As you held your breath, you realized you could still hear your heart pounding; moreover, you started to sway back and forth because no one can really maintain his balance with his eyes closed let alone while standing on a fallen tree. But as you opened your eyes, and exhaled, you realized that you're part of nature and said to yourself - "Gee, this is pretty fun."

Each of us do things for different reasons. Some of us because we love it. Some of us because we don't know any better. But I feel that Lumberjack Sports attracts people because we, the Lumberjacks, are symbolic of nature. We are the embodiment of what has made the United States what it is today. We are strong. We are smart. We take risks. We work hard. But most of all, we take pride in ourselves, and we take pride in what we do.

As America moves into the twenty-first century, fewer and fewer people will remember what it was like to use a crosscut saw and an axe. It's up to us to make them remember. It's up to us to encourage people to use these tools again.

How to learn more about chopping

a compilation by Arden Cogar Jr.

Woodchopping is a science. Sure it may look like a combination of brute strength and sheer ferocity, but it takes more than the ability to move heavy things. First, you have to know what you are doing. . . i.e., Circular hit scheme, controlling the axe (controlled, loose, relaxed grip), proper swing, proper foot spacing and movement (or lack there of depending on your personal preference), learning to use your axe (by either splitting, or working with an axe regularly), etc. Then, once you learn what you're doing, you will need to learn how to "read wood" and "be alert." Arden Cogar Sr. was, and still is, considered the master at reading wood; and it wasn't until the past year or so that Arden Jr. actually began to listen to him and applying his theories on setting up logs. Arden Sr. felt it was time to share some information, so he and I sat down and talked about setting up blocks. I hope that these theories will help competitors in the future. Note that these theories are a combination of Arden Cogar Sr., Melvin Lentz, Jim Alexander, Jim Colbert, Mike Sullivan, Carson Bosworth, and everyone else I've observed setting up logs.

White Pine. A soft timber which a thin edged 14 to 15", 7.5" plus width axe, with virtually any type of grind, will cut. Larger growth rings (1/4"+) usually means a soft block in plantation pine; small growth rings (<1/4") normally means a firmer log in plantation pine. Big growth rings in native white pine present the equivalent of the anti-Christ (i.e., hard as hell - but note that native white pine is very rare and will likely not be used for competition purposes); small growth rings in native white pine are normally good as long as the chainsaw does not leave a glassy appearance on the end of the log. If the end is "fuzzed up", it's a signal of good, soft wood (note that the "fuzzed up" appearance is the normal signal of good wood in all types of timber). Normally, it's nearly impossible to get a block w/concentric growth rings, as the tree may have grown faster on one side than the other; in white pine it's better to put the larger growth rings to the top of the log and the smaller growth rings to the bottom of the log because most axemen have the propensity to hit the bottom of their logs harder. Continuing with circular logic, the larger growth rings would normally be softer than the smaller growth rings, thus leading an axeman to put the harder timber in the bottom where he/she will hit the block harder. Normally, white appearing white pine is relatively soft. A light white pine block symbolizes two things: it's dry and it's "up the tree." A dry white pine is harder to cut than a wet fresh block or a block that is "up the tree." A block that is "up the tree" is normally softer than a block that is closer to the butt of the tree. Continuing with the previous point, a block that is closer to the butt of the tree has larger growth rings than the blocks that are further "up the tree." If there's a crack in this log you've had it, because that normally signifies an extremely dry piece of timber. Hardness will vary from butt to head of tree, with the head of the tree being softer than the butt; however, in white pine it's all dependant upon moisture. Normally, red appearing white pine is harder than a bull's forehead. A red seam or a place in the block that looks red contains pitch pockets or brittle crispy red appearing growth rings on one side of the block; these red seams should be placed on the bottom of the log where an axeman can strike this mother a heck of a lot harder. When chopping the dryer white pine, it is best to use an axe that has a filed edge, as the file marks appear to suck the axe into the dryer wood. An analogy that would explain this marvel would be diving - a round edge in dry white pine is like doing a belly flop, whereas a filed edge in white pine is like doing a beautiful splashless dive. Simply put, a filed edge sucks the axe into the wood better than a chiseled or rolled edge.

Red or White Alder. A moderately soft timber which a rolled edged, 14 to 16", 7"+ width axe, with flat or short banana grinds which are well polished, will cut. First, Vancouver Island Alder is a hell of a lot different than mainland and U.S. Alder. Vancouver Island Alder is soft as mud, and everything that applies to U.S. and mainland alder

is the exact opposite of Vancouver Island Alder. Bigger growth rings mean harder timber; smaller growth rings means softer timber. But be careful of knots and note that these knots are easily noticed if your block is properly inspected; there will be swirls or bumps on the log. The "fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber. If there are "tiny little reddish-white spots" on the timber, it normally signifies a soft log. A red appearing Alder is harder. A white appearing Alder is normally soft, but if it doesn't have the "tiny little reddish-white spots" on the timber, it might not be that great. The butt of the tree is normally harder than the head of the tree. Cut away from the crack of the log; i.e., the crack in the log should be perpendicular to the ground. Put bigger growth rings at the bottom of the log and the smaller growth rings in top of the log.

Yellow Poplar. A moderately soft timber which a rolled or chiseled edged, 15 to 16°, 7"+ width axe, with banana or short chisel, freshly ground, will cut. Dave Jewett once said, "This wood is like a box of chocolates - you never know what your going to get." This timber is patchy, and knots pop up anywhere, so be careful because these knots can ruin an axe. The "fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber. Heart wood is softer than sapwood, so put the heart wood on the top of the block. If the end is "glassy," be prepared to test yourself in futility; the only chance you have is if the other competitors have knot laden blocks that are virtually un-cuttable or everything has been dry kilned. If it's dry kilned yellow poplar, be prepared to "hit and rake" as the chips will not move. However, the good thing about dry kilned yellow poplar is that it's pretty even although only a few crazies are capable of cutting it. "Glassy" ended timber is free of knots, but it's also hard as hell. A light block signifies something really bad. A heavy block is normally great, except when it has large growth rings. A light green heart is normally good, but the dark green heart is definitely good. Cut into the crack of the log; i.e., the crack of the log should be parallel to the ground. The butt of the tree could cut better than the head of the tree because of the amount of water in the log. The heavier the log, the better chance you have of having a pumpkin. Put the heart up, and if the heart is off center, put the heart toward the front of the block, while maintaining the heart toward the top of the log.

Aspen. A soft timber which a thin edged, 14 to 16°, 7.25"+ width axe, with nearly any type of grind, will cut. The "fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber. White wood is normally hard. Dark colored wood is softer, especially if the heart wood is dark or tan colored. "Glassy end" is bad. If the block is heavy, it's a godsend. If the block is light, consider it a good training log. Put the heart wood toward the top of the log.

Red Pine. A hard timber with hidden knots which a rolled edged, 15+°, <7" width axe, with a short chiseled grind, will cut. I, as well as many others, consider this timber to be total shit. I have broken many axes on this garbage. Big growth rings normally mean softer wood. Large growth rings are really bad. The bigger the growth rings, the heavier the pitch; the heavier the pitch, the harder the log. Weight is virtually irrelevant in these blocks. Normally, a heavy log cuts slower than the lighter logs. Put the heart toward the bottom of the log. Your best bet is to stay away from this timber completely, and encourage shows to avoid using it at all costs.

Ponderosa Pine. A moderately soft timber with no knots which a thin edged, 14 to 15°, 7"+ width axe, with a flat or chiseled grind, will cut. Awesome timber, this is possibly the best to cut on in North America because of the consistency of the timber. In Ponderosa Pine there is very little variability in hardness from the butt of the tree to the top of the tree. Normally, the only difference will be the amount of "cork" or dead heart; in the event you have the misfortune to draw a log with a substantial amount of cork (you can tell as the sap wood is redish, while the cork is almost white), put as much cork as you can to the bottom of the log. There is absolutely no worry of knots in this timber (particularly if Rolin Eslinger procures it!). You may need to experiment with the edges of your axes to see what works best. A rolled edge will not do much, but a filed or chisel edge normally works well. If the timber is harder, use a short chisel as the bananas and flats will have difficulty breaking the chip away.

Sweet Gum. A very hard timber which a rolled edged, 16+°, <7" width axe, with a short chiseled grind, will cut. Sweet gum can be good, and sweet gum can be very bad. I have seen many axemen use thinner axes in this timber and get away with it. I've also seen many axemen use thinner axes and pull back serrated stubs. Simply put, sweet gum can be brutal. Accordingly, you will need to be careful. Normally the fuzzed up principle applies, as does the heart toward the top of the log principle. Larger growth rings signify a good log as long as the block is heavy. Sweet Gum grows in a swamp, and the more water it has the better. Lighter sweet gum logs are the equivalent of cutting dry kiln timber; you ain't gonna, and if you do, you'll remember it.

Cotton Wood. A confusing timber which thin but slightly rolled edged, 14+°, 7" width axe, with a grind that I have no clue about other than flats and bananas, will cut. Cottonwood is as funny as the day is long. Some say it is "spongy"; others say it's junk. Probably, as long as you use a relatively thin axe that's free in the wood, you're okay. Make sure not to use an axe that does not have too much wood polish as a rolled edge could make the axe stick. Since the heart of Cottonwood block is amorphous, it's best to try to set the log up according to the amount of white wood you have. Cottonwood that is normally brown in color can cut extremely well as long as it's wet. Cottonwood that is white and light can also cut extremely well if it is not sun cracked. If a cottonwood log is sun-cracked, mark the event up to a training experience. The same principles apply in regard to fuzzed up ends.

To sum up the basic principles of reading wood: A fuzzed up appearance is the normal sign of good wood in all types of timber; normally, put your heart wood on the top of the block; big growth rings normally signify that the block is from the butt of the tree; and experiment, and try what works best for you.

Beyond setting up logs and reading wood, you must pay attention to the other axemen. You must be observant of your surroundings. Many of us find this difficult; think about it, if you heed my advice, you will not only pay attention to how you set up your own log, you will be observing how everyone else has set up their logs.

Beyond the observation of people's logs and set up, you need to pay attention to how all axemen cut their respective logs. If someone cuts well, go and look at his log; look at the angles of the hits; look at the placement of the hits. If you can try to get a look at the axe the person used, pay particular attention to the edge. If you have a similar axe in your box, you should use it; if not, use what you're accustomed to.

Further, keep your axes out of the sun. You do this for two reasons. First, if your handle gets hot you are more prone to "jerk blisters". Simply put, handles get hot and hot wood plus friction will cause problems. Second, although totally theoretical, it is believed that heat affects the way an axe cuts. Normally, after heat treatment, it takes a lot to alter the temper of an axe; however, there are a few out there who believe that excessive heat can alter the temper and the metallurgical composition of the axe; thus, this may be more fiction than fact, but keep your axes out of the hot sun. Older axemen believe in this old wives' tale.

Beyond these matters, study peoples' swing; his or her presentation of the axe to the wood (heel versus toe), and his or her foot position and spacing. Simply put, you have to study the environment within which you have chosen to make a sport. David Bolstad is possibly the best I've ever seen at studying his environment. To be honest, David Bolstad's knowledge of the sport is amazing, and I admire his intelligence and study of the sport.

Back to the point at hand, if things aren't going well, look at what's working for someone else; find merit in another persons technique, choice of axe and demeanor in the arena. Basically, you have to pay attention to your surroundings. It's not easy; it's monotonous. Given that most of us use Lumberjack Sports as an outlet to our busy lives, this advice may meet deaf ears- but, simply put, pay attention.

Edges

the reality and the philosophy

a compilation by Arden Cogar Jr.

One question I have been asked several times is "What is the best edge to cut ?" Simply put, edging an axe is difficult. Most people learn by trial and error; however, given the cost of axes, many cannot afford too much trial and error. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to assist young axemen on the proper procedures for edging.

Let me begin by describing the different types of edges. Possibly the most universal edge is a "chisel" edge. A "chisel" edge is simple - it's a chisel that begins approximately 1/16 to 1/32 from the edge of the axe. Chisel edges will vary anywhere from 16 degrees to double the angle of the axe. Normally a grind of 14 to 15 degrees will hold if it has a chisel edge at 16 to 24 degrees. If the chisel edge goes beyond 24 degrees, an axe blunts shortening the life of the axe and necessitating re-grinds. Normally, it's best to start with a lesser chisel and eventually, as the axe ages, through use and stoning, the chisel edge will steepen until it becomes blunt and impossible to edge.

Chisel edges have many benefits. First, chisel edges are easy to learn to apply as compared to other edges. Second, chisel edges work well in most timbers; basically a chisel edge works well in yellow poplar, white and ponderosa pine, some aspen, cottonwood and red alder. Third, chisel edges can last longer than other edges.

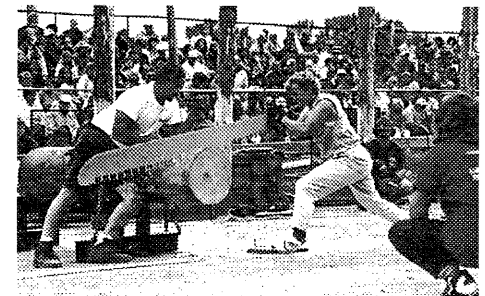
However, there are some drawbacks to chisel edges. First, it takes a lot of practice to learn how to apply a uniform chisel on the arc of the axe. Basically, you have to be careful and pay attention to what you're doing. Second, applying a chisel edge requires a variety of stones:

A. You carefully cut the initial chisel edge with a fine diamond stone - be extremely careful not to angle to steeply.

B. You will cut a thin feather edge by using a carborundum or mild cutting stone to remove the diamond stone marks and any grinder marks that may remain. Be extremely careful to hold the stone on the edge consistently with equal weight throughout the stroke.

C. Use a cutting polishing stone, such as the white side of a punjab or the red side of a norton (older oil based stone) lightly polish the chisel edge. After four or five consistent swipes (heel to toe over the entire edge of the axe), you will make one last swipe by making small circles on the edge. Continue with this procedure until the feather edge comes off the axe.

D. Next, use the finer side of the polishing stone, and continue with the smaller circles along the edge. Be consistent, and spend a considerable amount of



Shannon Strong of Connecticut gives the Single Buck her best at Boonville. Look for Shannon to open some eyes this year at the Great Outdoor Games to be held in Lake Placid, New York.

time polishing the edge equally on both sides of the axe. This type of honing "case hardens" the edge and is supposed to make it stronger. Be careful not to deviate from the chisel you established initially, as the polish may push the edge back and forth on the axe.

E. Finally, use an edging stone, such as white arkansas or a turkeybone to finish the edge by swiping heel to toe and finishing by making small circles.

The second type of edge is a rolled edge. A rolled edge is often referred to as a "wood polished" edge, as most axes that "go dull" or stop cutting soft wood do so because the edge is too round. A rolled edge is easy to do on a well used axe, as you simply keep stoning and stoning until the edge gradually rolls. However, to create a rolled edge from scratch is rather difficult. Basically, you go through the same stone selection process as you did when preparing a chisel edge, except you don't use a diamond stone; a diamond stone cuts too abruptly. Therefore, you need to take your white side of a punjab, or a red side of a norton, or use an old swatty and simply spit and stone, spit and stone; go tap the axe in the wood a few times, then spit and stone. You're spitting on the stone or the axe for lubricant, not simply spitting for the sake of spitting.

Rolled edges work well with harder and frozen timbers. Sometimes the importance of a rolled edge is amplified by the hardness of the timbers. If you're cutting sweet gum or any oak, a gradual roll from about 1/8 to 1/16" from the edge will suffice. If you're talking Yellow poplar, a gradual roll from about 1/16" to 1/32" works well.

The advantage behind rolled edges is that they normally withstand a lot of abuse, as they can take most knots and hard seams in logs. Moreover, the life of an axe can be extended by using rolled edges.

The drawback to using rolled edges is that they don't necessarily cut soft or good wood as well as the other edges. Simply put, a rolled edge will not be as "brash" in good wood as a chisel edge nor even near a filed edge.

Accordingly, the need to roll edges depends on the type of timber you're cutting. If you're going to be cutting white pine or aspen, leave the rolled axes in the box. If you're cutting yellow poplar or cottonwood, break out the rolled edged axes and compare them with your others. If one cuts well, use it.

The final type of edge is a filed edge. The filed edge to woodchopping is the "nitro" to auto racing; in certain timbers, filed edges make an axe as "brash" as you're going to find. Filed edges cut white pine unbelievably well. Moreover, a freshly filed edge cuts yellow poplar better than anything else you could imagine.

However, there are two major problems with filing edges. One, they don't last long - perhaps a half a dozen blocks if you're lucky. Once the filed edge is gone, you've got a nice edge to either chisel or round. Normally you can file an edge three or four times before the axe has to be re-ground. Therefore, the axe's life is shortened substantially. Moreover, it's nothing out of the ordinary for the axe to lose its edge mid block - really! It may bite one minute, and bounce the next.

The second downfall to filing edges is that it's really really really hard to do. There are two schools of thought on filing edges - 1) with the arc of the axe and 2) at the angle at which the axe goes into the wood. Both work well, although it appears that the arced filing allows the axe to cut drier timbers better.

The hard part is this, if you file too much, you hurt the axe. Accordingly, you may end up re-grinding the axe or rolling the devil out of the edge, because your file marks are too far back in the bevel.

Most filed edges work best if they are file marks from the initial edge up to 1/32" to 1/16" from the edge. If you go beyond 1/16" you're running a risk of totally screwing the bevel. However, note that the axes to cut radiata pine normally have bevels that are entirely filed.

Okay, now we get to the procedure on how to do a filed edge. Once you have the axe at a straight bevel, grab either a fine file or a bastard file to cut the edge. If you're cutting the edge over the arc of the axe, you have two choices - either hold the file with your palm centered on the back of the axe and move the file along the edge (like a jig), or have someone hold the axe while you file into the axe at an angle (simply lay the axe on a bench and have someone sit on it so it won't move while you're filing, or use a vice).

Now, once you've filed the initial edge, take a white arkansas or a turkeybone and make three to five swipes over the entire edge of the axe; turn the axe over and repeat. Do this a few more times and test the edge by feeling it. Test it in the wood; if it stands, ie. there are no big scratching marks in the wood, you did it right. If you've got a lot of scratching marks, keep stoning the initial edge until the marks are gone.

Well, there you have it. That's basically everything I know about edging axes. I'm sure there will be a lot of disagreement and a lot of snickering. However, these three types of edges are the basis by which every axe is edged. Accordingly, I wish the best of luck and god speed as this sport is confusing and relentless in the learning curve.

Hey, something to think about

by Arden Cogar Jr.

Sporting events are either hobbies or passions. I often say that Lumberjack Sports are my hobby, but in reality they are my passion.

Think about it. What else would you spend so much time on that, in reality, gets you very little financial reward. Granted that sometimes the ship comes in and the habit supports itself, but on the grand scale of things only a few can profit, while the rest falter.

Therefore, to me, the lumberjack is no different from the recreational soft-baller, or the professional archer, or the professional marksman. Sometimes you get paid; most often you do not. No matter what the outcome, the participants strive to get better for the next event, as no one likes to lose.

As time passes, so too does the desire or the passion. Some have the passion well into their golden years. Others lose their passion when their "real" life takes over. Some, piddle for the sake of piddling to keep from doing the yard work during the summer. Others pass the time with an activity that has no true meaning or purpose.

All in all, passion is a combination of desire, intensity and insecurity, as no one likes to lose. Personally, I'm looking to rekindle my passion for my sport. I lost it for a while, as I got bogged down in the politics associated with being at the top. In reality, there are a lot of whiners and complainers among us; and it's best that we don't get caught up in the infighting that has occurred over the past few years. So the passion persists. The love is rekindled, and I look forward to picking up my axe in the spring.

I ask myself, "Will it be the same, or will it be different? Will I falter, or will I succeed?" Truth is that only time will tell. Often I ask myself, "Do I want to be remembered as Arden Cogar JR., son of a great competitor, and a world champion in his own right." Or do I want to be remembered as "Arden Cogar Jr. or Jamie Cogar, the constant promoter of Lumberjack Sports as a sporting event."

I've thought about it quite a bit this year, and I have come to the conclusion I have little if no control over my destiny. I can enjoy the journey as it unfolds as long as I don't get caught up in the rigors of the criticisms and the insecurities of my fellow competitors. All that really matters is that we're all happy with our hobby. I'm happy with mine; I enjoy it; I enjoy the people. Most of all, I enjoy the feeling of the axe in my hands. It's the closest I reckon I've ever come to being at peace with myself and the world around me. Whether I'm in the woods, in the arena, or in my back yard, I'm at peace with my surroundings. Therefore, Lumberjack Sports is part of my passion; and it's my passion that allows me to make each breath worth taking, each day worth living, and each year worth remembering.

When it's all said and done, my sport will live on. I will ensure at least that.

"A few thoughts on filing crosscut saws"

By Jim Taylor

I remember the first saw that I made in the mid 70's; I took the teeth off a big belly Penna 7' saw, cut it down to 5' long, started in the middle of the saw and filed out that first tooth. Every night I would file out a couple of teeth, marking out each tooth as I went. In a couple of months, I had it filed. So I sent it off to Jim Marier who put the set in it and finished filing it for me.

Things have changed a lot since then. In those days, the tooth and raker was still king, but it wasn't long before Merv Jensen of New Zealand changed all of that. Merv was the first to use band saw steel, doing his own heat treat to the teeth. Merv was the father of what we are witnessing now in crosscut sawing. I don't know where all this will end, but there is more to come in saw making. It's hard to believe that we have 6 second double bucking records and 12 second single bucking in 20" white pine. As the money gets better, we are and will be seeing bigger, better and faster competitors. Some of us will have to step aside, and some will step up to meet the challenge.

I remember making that first saw, because I couldn't buy one. Now, if you have the bucks, you can have about anything you want. With the laser or the water jet and a good imagination you can have any saw design you desire. All that is needed are the skills to take it from there.

I am not going to talk about techniques and tips on saw filing as they may be obsolete by the time this gets read.

What amazes me are the saw filers out there. I am not as familiar with the filers in Australia and New Zealand, but I have seen some of their work. I am amazed at Ron Mahon's accuracy filing freehand. Freehand is something we will see less of in the future. I have started using jigs, and there is little doubt as to the consistency they add to filing saws.

Jigs are not the answer to good filing. They are only a means to the end. What makes a filer great is his ability to fit it all together. Things start getting confusing at this point. More likely than not, we will be making a tooth and raker for soft wood. (The m-tooth is still hanging in there in hardwood) Not for long though.

So, how far apart are we going to make the teeth and rakers, and how wide will we make those? Are we going to use a double bevel or a single, and are we going to polish the cutting edge or leave it filed, and what angle is that cutting edge going to be????? How many degrees different are we going if we decide to use a double bevel???? What hardness will we make the teeth, and how much of the tooth will we harden because set is a consideration? How much will the tooth flex under pressure?? How many thousandths do we use in softwood compared to hard wood? How thick the steel .095?? Or a split gauge?? What kind of stones, diamond or natural or man made carborundum? Getting confused? I am! Anyway, there is more to this than meets the eye.

Each saw filer has a different idea about what works best, and some can make a method work better than others. There are millions of combinations that can be used for certain situations, and as long as people keep trying new things the times will get faster. Think about it; we are still using band saw steel because it is convenient, and it makes a good saw. There are a lot of other steels out there, and you are seeing a lot of that in the axes, not that they would make good saws. One of the problems of finding a superior saw steel is availability in thickness and hardness, but it is out there. That ought to set the wheels turning. Are we having fun yet?

The saw filers of an earlier era, the Martin Winters' era, were as good in their way as the new age filer we are seeing today. It is my opinion Martin Winters was the greatest man to ever file a saw. There is no one today using his methods that could match him. Bu-u-u-u-t, we are not using those methods, and that is why we are so much faster today.

In the old days you were stuck with a saw that was tempered by a manufacturer like Simonds, Diston or Atkins. Usually the steel would not hold a point because it was too soft. I don't think it crossed anyone's mind to harden the teeth to suit the situation. Merv Jensen changed that. I know that I turned my worst practice saws into good contest saws just by changing the hardness.

I would like to say some things about the filers of today. To my knowledge Dick Slingerland got things rolling in handmade tooth and raker saws, and the French Canadian makers brought it up to a fine art. Everytime I watch television. I see some guy called J.P. and beavers and stuff eating up the wood. My buddy Gaston Dupree had some great cuts this year in the Stihl Series. What ever happened to that fish we used to see? The least talked about filer and probably the most deserving is Donald Lambert. The East Coast people all know how good he is, but a lot of people out West don't. He and his saw and Matt Bush hold the record in that 6 second double bucking cut I spoke about earlier. I had a chance to pull one of his saws at Dollywood in the Jack & Jill bucking. Very nice. Filed on a single bevel. Hm m m m. I wonder what the raker height was. I wish I would had had my glasses. H m m m m.

The other thing that saws need is wood to cut, and this is what makes saw filing so confusing. You have two trees standing side by side, the same species, the same size, the same softness, the same ole same ole nope not a chance, maybe. That saw that cut so great in one won't cut the other. The perfect saw hasn't been made yet. It can drive you crazy. That's why the same guy doesn't win every time. It will always be that way. But, we can make excuses. The first would be that we hit a knot, and then we have to be creative. Like "This log had a freeze crack," or "Look right here; see that old fire scar." "I peeled all the points that's why I lost," or "There was an old bullet lodged in it" (lucky it was lead). Maybe you hit a nail, (not so lucky). Or "This tree was struck by lightning," That's a good one. Or "All the growth rings were on one side, and only lefthanders can cut that." Or "Maybe my log was Red Oak, and he had White Pine. (He barely beat me)

I would like to wish everyone Luck in the new Millenium.

Note: In this editor's opinion, the following is the best article ever written about woodchopping techniques. Jim Hunt is an experienced axeman from Christchurch, New Zealand. A champion in his day, Jim has since become one of the world's foremost axe grinders and teachers of the sport. Hat's off to Jim Hunt, a top bloke and a top teacher.

COMPETITION WOOD CHOPPING TECHNIQUES

by Jim Hunt

The first part of the following information is formulated initially for the raw novice "would be axeman". The balance is advice that may also be useful for improving the technique of many established competitors.

The correct place to learn to use an ax, followed by learning to chop a log, is at home preferably under the guidance of a capable axeman as coach. It is pointless and dangerous to attempt to "chop a log", much less enter into competition, until you are reasonably competent in the basic skill of using an ax. Newcomers should not be encouraged to "have a go" until they are capable of chopping a log safely and properly.

A. Learning to use an Ax

I believe the best and safest method of learning to use an ax is chopping into a log that is laying on the ground while standing alongside on the ground. First ensure that there are no obstructions overhead and that limbs and ground foliage are cleared away. Make sure your feet are on clear even ground.

If you are left handed (hold the ax with your left hand nearest to the ax head) stand with your left foot slightly ahead of the right with feet about twelve inches apart. Chop into the log on the left side only, working your way up the log, taking slices of chip about every four inches. The angle of the scarf slope on the log should be at least 45 degrees. If right handed stand the opposite way and chop into the right side only. Avoid rough knotty wood that may damage your ax. Stand far enough back from the log to obtain maximum length of swing. As you swing the ax face directly along the line of the scarf slope. This is most important to learn to hit true and "get your eye in". Learn to place your blows in the right place. Keep your body relaxed and utilize strength without becoming tense. Endeavor to obtain maximum body coordination.

Retain the firm hold with your grip hand on the end of the handle and also with your free hand when your hands come together as you hit the log. Otherwise avoid gripping the handle too tight causing the muscles to become taut.

A pendulum on a length of string is the basis of the swing and hit. Use a full swing with your body relaxed to learn to hit true and to develop the blow of the ax. Slide your free hand about three quarters of the length of the handle toward the ax head while lifting the ax back and then to your grip hand when hitting the log. Legs and arms should be reasonably straight with the body partly bent on impact. Allow the ax to gully complete the blow, drawing it into the log before swinging back for the next blow. This is known as "follow through", and once achieved successfully, allows maximum power of blow with speed of hit when chopping a log. Avoid tapping at the log and attempting to withdraw the ax before the hit is completed.

The heel of the ax is the most effective part of the blade. Endeavor to slice the ax down into the log and avoid hitting whereby the toe of the ax goes into the wood first.

Your ax should be reasonably good and of similar weight to that used in competition. Avoid using too heavy an ax. The handle inclusive of the head should be about thirty inches long, not too thick and heavy as this causes you to lose the feel of the ax. Make sure the handle is fitted straight on the head and feels comfortable. Crooked handles tend to make the ax scoop.

General Information

Styles of chopping vary considerably and certain aspects are a personal choice. Not every axeman chops the same. Various factors are involved such as a person's build and where individual strength is greatest. It is necessary to individually select the type of style that most naturally suits you.

There are certain basics that apply regardless of methods. Once you learn basics and can apply them, you are well on the way to becoming an axeman. I will attempt to explain the correct basics in the Underhand and Standing sections.

In competition it is necessary to be mentally as well as physically prepared. You need to be able to think ahead and discipline yourself to place your blows properly, keep weight on each hit, and have just sufficient speed to do everything correctly. Avoid trying to go too fast and sacrifice basic aspects. Correct any mistake immediately as it is made since it may prevent you finishing your log properly.

Many novice axemen try to use an ax that is too heavy for them. Choose a weight that you can swing comfortably and is not too heavy, in that the ax tends to "swing you". Try an ax that has a head weight of about four and one half pounds. You need to be sufficiently relaxed in your swing and let the ax do most of the work.

The handle is equally as important as the head. It should be neither too thick or to thin, with an end grip that suits you and feels comfortable to hold. My favorite handle is approx. 7/8 inch thick and one and five-eighths inches deep with the usual flare at the end. The handle should be fitted perfectly straight on the head, in line with the blade as well as parallel with the head. If possible have it fitted by an expert.

Stands for both Underhand and Standing Chopping events should be of a good design and securely fixed to the ground or platform. Make sure the log is firmly secured to the stand by whatever method is used. Any movement while chopping reduces efficiency of the hit and increases the chance of an accident occurring.

C. Chopping Underhand (Horizontal) Block

To be attempted only after you are comfortable using an ax.

Position of the Log on the Cradle

Rig your log to take advantage of the best wood. Avoid knots and rough wood as much as possible. Preferably chop the narrow way throughout the log. If the wood texture is the same throughout the log and the circumference varies, chop through the smallest part. Place the best wood to the top and in the front scarf. If egg-shaped, place the narrow point to the top where possible, and chop into the flat surface on each side.

Footholds

Cut footholds level and deep enough to stand comfortably with your heel at least partly on the log. Just wide enough apart to be able to chop the log without cutting into them. The closer your feet are the better balance you have and the more control you have of the ax. Angle the sides of the footholds slightly so that the feet face a little towards the side of the scarf where the ax lifts the chip (left side if left handed).

Marking the Scarf

Mark the scarf to chop just beyond half way in the front. About one inch wider than the log diameter. Keep a good slope on the chip lifting side of the scarf (left side if left handed). Less slope on the side that cleans away the chip. Mark the back about two inches further over than the front (to the left if left handed). Also you can close the width in slightly.

Pattern of Hits

There are various styles but the easiest to learn is to rotate the hits in a circle, clockwise for right handed axemen and counterclockwise for left handers, except for the driving hits in the back where hits should be from top to bottom of the block. Any ineffective misplaced hit should be re-cut.

Remember the heel of the ax is the most effective. Endeavor to slice the ax in to the log and avoid hitting whereby the toe of the ax goes in to the wood first.

Opening blows may be one or two on each side of the log depending on the block size and shape, wood type, and to a degree, the style of chopping used. After that use two on each side except for bigger logs where at times it may be necessary to use three.

Cut the top of the log out as soon as possible and then work down to the bottom finishing with the driving hits vertical into the log. Leave sufficient width of scarf for the driving hits to be fully effective.

In blocks of twelve inches or more, my advice is to have three driving hits on each side of the log, primarily using the heel of the ax to achieve maximum penetration. Avoid hitting the top blow in the front too hard, causing the ax to stick just before your turn.

Body Position

Retain comfortable and solid footing with minimum foot movement. Keep your body relaxed, utilizing maximum strength as the ax hits the wood. Use body coordination and avoid becoming tense. Try to flow your body action avoiding stop-start movements. Pivot your body at the hips so as to keep a direct line of vision with the angle of the scarf with minimum head movement. When lifting the ax up for the blow bend your knees and partly straighten your body. Legs and arms to be fairly straight and body bent at the impact of the blow. Without any deliberate pause allow the ax to draw into the wood, for maximum follow through of the blow, before swinging back for the next hit.

There are variations in body action depending on the style of chopping. These variations are probably best determined by watching video tapes of various styles of chopping.

Chopping Styles

There are three basic styles of holding the ax for Underhand Chopping, with variations within each style that depend to a certain extent on the length of handle used.

1. Sliding the free hand up the handle while lifting the ax up and then sliding back bringing the hands together, at the end of the handle, when coming down for the hit. This is no doubt the most ideal method, specially for bigger logs and harder wood.
2. Gripping the handle a few inches from the end with both hands and retaining that grip throughout.
3. Gripping the handle at the end with both hands and retaining that grip though out.

D. Chopping Standing (vertical) Block

Again should be attempted only after obtaining confidence, as glancing blows particularly downward ones are dangerous.

The ground should be level and clear. Use footwear with a good grip, such as golf spikes or rubber baseball type grips. If on dry boards or chipboard use rubber grips.

Position of the Log on the Stand

Rig your log to take advantage of the best wood. Avoid knots and rough wood as much as possible. Preferably chop the narrow way through the log. If the wood texture is the same throughout the log and the circumference varies chop through the smallest part. Place the best wood in the front at the correct height. Avoid chopping too high. A few inches below waist height is considered correct for the bottom hit in the front, but there is some variation amongst axemen.

Marking the Scarf

Mark the scarf to chop just beyond half way in the front. About one inch wider than the log diameter. Keep a good slope on the bottom of the scarf. Mark the back scarf about two or three inches higher than the front. Keep a good slope on the top of the scarf.

Pattern of Hits

Rotation as previously explained is again the easiest to learn and the most common used. Clockwise for right handed axemen and counter clockwise for left handers.

Place driving hits far to near side of the block at the bottom of the front scarf and near to the far side at the top in the back.

Opening blows may be one or two bottom and top, again depending on the block size, wood type, etc. After that use two bottom and top except for bigger logs where three hits may be necessary. Drive three hits in logs twelve inches and over at the bottom in the front before turning and at the top in the back to finish. Leave sufficient width of scarf for the driving hits to be fully effective.

Body Position

Learn to swing the ax sliding the free hand up the handle. Again keep your body relaxed to utilize maximum strength as the ax hits the block. Use body coordination and avoid becoming tense.

Place your front foot parallel with the center line of the block, with the toe of your boot eighteen inches to two feet out. Placing of your back foot depends on the maximum power or speed of hit required. For maximum power the back foot would be almost in line with the front foot and center line. For maximum speed it would be out from the front scarf. Choose somewhere about half way between, wherever you feel most comfortable. Remember, however, the power of the hit is first priority, speed will come later. Spread your feet to get a good long swing of the ax.

The swing for both bottom and top hits should be of an even arc. The height of the arc, down and up for the bottom hit and over and down for the top hit, governs the slope of the scarf required and uniformity should be maintained, especially the driving side of the scarf. Drop the shoulder down to get full body power behind the up blow, and to maintain a horizontal scarf. Come up onto the side of your back foot at the point of hitting the log with your blow. Consequently your knee will be bent forward. Swing right over for the top hit holding a more moderate leg and body stance. Avoid standing too straight and flat footed as you hit the log.

The ax should be held as if it is an extension of the arms. Your grip on the handle end should be maintained the same at all points of the swing. Use maximum power of your blow as the ax hits the block. Ensure adequate "follow through".

E. Summary

Some axemen may disagree with parts of these contents. There are considerable variations in theories, resulting in different styles, with each method being successful. I have endeavored to set it out as I see it, especially when taking into account that the information is targeted for the novice axemen.

I want to acknowledge with thanks the assistance given by Les Gilsenan with some of the Standing Block advice. To the novice axeman, don't try to absorb everything at once. Take each part step by step. If you don't understand some chopping terms seek advice from accomplished axemen. Don't be disheartened if you take a while to achieve success. It can take up to ten years of practice and competition for a top axeman to reach full potential. The most

important thing is to learn properly and to continue to put that knowledge into practice. Once entering into competition ignore your vocal supporters with comments to go faster, etc. Just take heed of sensible advice, such as "cut the top out" or "make sure of the driving hits".

I hope this information can be of some assistance and wish you luck - Jim Hunt

Collegiate Season in Review

by "the other" Jeff Jones

From a Mountaineer's Perspective

I should probably begin this segment by apologizing for any bias shown toward any collegiate team in this column. However, it is difficult when the writer is a member of one of the respective teams. The first collegiate competition was held at the Crab Carnival in West Point, VA. The Crab Carnival is an annual event sponsored by the town of West Point, and St. Laurent Forest Products Corporation sponsor the lumberjack competition. Teams from North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University competed at the 1999 Crab Carnival. When the day's activities concluded West Virginia University came out on top. Throughout the day, members of all three teams gave their all and showed terrific sportsmanship in the face of competition.

The second competition on the collegiate calendar was held as part of the 17th Annual Bluegrassin', Lumberjackin' Jamboree at Twin Falls State Park near Mullens, West Virginia. Twin Falls State Park sponsors this event, while Georgia Pacific and Gilbert Lumber Company sponsor the lumberjack events. This competition is sort of unique in that it includes collegiate teams as well as teams from two local corporations. In addition to teams from Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University, teams from Georgia Pacific and Gilbert Lumber Company also competed. Through a great day of competition, West Virginia University came away with a victory. It was good to see the collegiate teams interacting with the corporate teams and to be able to compete in the arena of lumberjack sports.

The fall collegiate season concluded (at least for us) at the 17th Annual Sir Sanford Fleming Timbersports Competition. This event is held in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada on the Frost Campus of Sir Sanford Fleming College and is sanctioned by the Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association. This organization sets guidelines and rules for events held by members, insuring consistent event rules and scoring. This type of organization would be beneficial to more collegiate teams in the United States. Teams from numerous schools competed in a men's, women's, and alumni competition. There were 23 men's teams and 13 women's teams (it's important to note that a school may field multiple teams). All of the results are too numerous to mention, although McGill College's A team won the men's competition, and McGill College won the women's competition.



41st Anniversary

Lumberjack World
Championships
PO Box 666
Hayward, WI 54843

3 HOUR SHOW!

July 28, 29 & 30, 2000

- Speed Climbing
- Hot Saws
- One Man Bucking
- Log Rolling
- Jack & Jill Sawing
- Underhand Chop
- Two Man Bucking
- Boom Run

TICKETS AVAILABLE
NOW!
(715) 634-2484

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with collegiate lumberjack sports. It is also important that more professionals become involved with the collegiate ranks, as the lumberjacks of tomorrow often are in need of help and are usually willing to listen and accept any help passed in their direction. This involvement may be as simple as a few tips or hints when asked, to as much as loaning equipment when needed. I realize that equipment is expensive, but it's that way for everyone, and many collegiate teams work on very limited budgets. To close, I would like to thank those professionals who have helped the WVU Woodsmen Team over the last few years: Jim Basnett, Dave Watson, Arden Cogar, Jr., Chris Bradshaw, Matt Malone, Bob Bridwell and the many, many others who have slipped my mind. I would also like to encourage anyone involved with collegiate lumberjack sports to become more involved in the NAAN coverage of our yearly events. Maybe next year we can have a not-so biased summary from a non-Mountaineer. Until then Let's Go Mountaineers!

West Virginia Axeman's Association—Why it is Growing

A report from it's President - Arden Cogar Jr.

The West Virginia Axeman's Association is possibly the fastest growing Lumberjack Sports Association in the United States. Over the course of the past five years, the WVAA has gone from having 15 to 16 competitors at a weekend chop to having as many as 30 competitors, many of whom have traveled less than two hours to compete. One of the main reasons that the Association has grown so rapidly is because of the advent of club chopping.

Club chopping is a euphemism for "sharing equipment." Basically, Arden Cogar, Jr., takes two axe boxes to each event that he attends. At those events, Arden has a box of axes that are for his personal use and a box of axes that are for the use of those who wish to borrow axes. Arden loans the axes to the competitors with the explicit understanding that if the axe is damaged or broken that the person using it is responsible for having it repaired. Accordingly, several young competitors who have been unable to afford equipment in the past now have access to top notch gear that enables them to potentially win prize money if they put their P's and Q's together.

Beyond the club chops, the WVAA has implemented handicapped chopping in nearly every event that it holds during the course of a season. Beyond the second division in the handicapped chops that are held in conjunction with the existing shows, the WVAA hosted "covered dish woodchops," which are glorified training sessions for association and interested persons who wish to beat as many blocks as they possibly can during the course of a day. Here's a reprint of the covered dish entry form for those of you who didn't receive it:

The West Virginia Axemen's Association proudly presents the 2000 Covered Dish Woodchop Schedule. Covered Dish Woodchops are glorified training sessions for those of you who are interested in readying yourself for the upcoming season. At this time, it is doubtful that prize money will be available for the events; however, each competitor must bring five hand trimmed logs (to be explained later), a covered dish (some food), and choice beverages or spirits. While there will be no money or accolades, there will be several watchful eyes who will offer pointers and helpful suggestions.

The purpose behind the Covered Dish Woodchop is twofold. One, to ready our boys and girls for the upcoming season; and two, to act as a primers for the United States team which will be competing at the "Olympics of Woodchopping" to be held in Sydney during April of 2000. The event will be held indoors, will begin around noon, and, hopefully, heat will be available to those who are interested. The WVAA will provide the stands, tables, and sleeping arrangements for competitors (should have beds for most, but bring a sleeping bag just in case).

As it currently, stands the WVAA will host four events during the spring of 2000.

Date	Time/Place
February 5, 2000	12:00noonWebster Springs, WV
March 4, 2000	12:00noonWebster Springs, WV
March 25, 2000	12:00noonWebster Springs, WV
April 1, 2000	12:00noonWebster Springs, WV

Note: this schedule is to work around the Klondike Days (Eagle River, WI - February 22(?), 2000), the Maple Syrup Festival (Pickens, WV - March 18(?), 2000) and the Mountaineer Open (Morgantown, WV - March 19(?), 2000 - a heated handicapped event).

Here are the rules for those wishing to attend the Covered Dish Woodchops:

1. You must sign and send the third page of this entry form to Arden Cogar Jr - 911 Somerset Drive, Charleston WV 25302 by no later than January 22, 2000.
2. You must bring five hand trimmed blocks of the following species - white pine, yellow poplar or aspen. The blocks must be from the same tree. The WVAA would like you to get your blocks ready in the following manner. Simply take a twelve foot log and cut the log into five blocks of approximately 27" in length. Then number the blocks from 1 to 5 with number 5 being the top block in tree, or the smallest in circumference. Then remove the bark from the five blocks. Then measure the circumference of block number 5. For example, block number 5 measures



Elvis, a/k/a Eric Holmquist, readies himself for the skit at Squamish.

41" in circumference; what you will need to do is hand trim (via axe or chainsaw), blocks numbered 1 through 4 to the same circumference as block number 5.

3. After you have hand trimmed the four blocks to the same circumference (it doesn't matter if the blocks are oblong or oval shaped - that's the luck of the draw) as block number 5, write your name on each block and bring the five blocks with you to the event.

4. Contact Arden Cogar Jr. ((304) 346-0211 (ph) (304) 346-2510 (fax) or wilsiecogar@yahoo.com (email)) at least two days prior to the event to inform him of the circumference and species of the blocks you intend to bring to the event. Arden Cogar Jr. and Chris Bradshaw will organize the events into heats based upon the wood types and sizes.

5. Bring food and beverages of your choice. Some of the fellows with the WVAA will bring grills and the like. The handicap marks will be assessed by the handicapping committee which consists of Arden Cogar Jr., Arden Cogar Sr, Melvin Lentz, Mike Slingerland, and Chris Bradshaw. The handicap mark will be based on your ability and on your overall performances from previous years.

Entries will be limited to the first twenty-five contestants. The Olympic team members (Melvin Lentz, Arden Cogar Jr., Carson Bosworth, Paul Cogar, Dave Jewett, Mike Slingerland, Dennis Daun, and Harry Burnsworth) will have reserved spots unless they do not plan to attend the event. The event will be run with five heats of five with the winner of each heat moving on to a final. If twenty-five contestants each bring five blocks, there will be one hundred and twenty-five blocks for the contest; accordingly, it is our intention to run four open handicaps (two standings, two underhands) open handicaps. and one championship reserved for the top five axemen (BIG WOOD). Further, the WVAA will take the necessary steps to procure at least sixteen red oak blocks for the Olympic team members. Finally, the WVAA will take the necessary steps to procure ten larger blocks for two additional championship chops; note that these logs will exceed fifteen inches, but will be smaller than eighteen inches.

Because prize money is unlikely, contestants are encouraged to call one, or some, of the following association members to inquire about "places to stay:" Arden Cogar Jr. (304/346-0211), Arden Cogar Sr. (304/847-2353), Melvin Lentz (304/847-7612), Paul Cogar (304/847-7349), Bill Cogar (304/847-5125), Kirt Hall (304/847-2042), Randall Moore (304/847-2541), Doug Currence (304/343-8969), Barry Clutter (304/799-6991), Jack Mullenax (304/478-6261), Jim Basnette (304/986-1193), or Randy Coots (304/872-1003). The event is scheduled to begin at noon, and all of the above association members live within two hours of Webster Springs.

Well, there you have it. The WVAA's most logical way to have a fun and highly contested lumberjack contest. If you want to turn it into a fund raiser, go ahead, more power to you. But beyond this form, the covered dish events that were held prior to printing of this book went off quite well as several people attended and several people left with blisters.

At the first covered dish event held in February, sixteen competitors showed up bringing five blocks each giving us sixty blocks total. We had enough wood to run four open heated handicapped chops and all the finals. We even had fifteen blocks left over. This type of event works. And for those of you who travel to West Virginia to compete you will soon appreciate how well the young axemen are coming along. Before long, some of the best choppers in North America will be crawling out of the "holler" with an axe in his hands.

Cut the Log you Draw!!!!

editorial comments - anonymous author, but you'll easily figure it out

It has become readily apparent on the lumberjack circuit that competitors are whining about wood more than ever. Last Summer, I witnessed two competitors whine and moan about the wood they had drawn to a point where I considered their "bitchin'" laughable. In both instances, these competitors received new logs. They then had an opportunity to test their axes in the logs (both the one they drew and the one they were given) to see which log they wanted to cut.

This type of behavior is not tolerated on the North American Lumberjack circuit. Simply put, cut the log that you draw, if you draw a log that is un-cuttable, don't use a good axe, and simply take your lickings. I am appalled at the behavior of certain axemen for continually complaining about the wood that they draw. Simply put, grow up! This is a sport of chance; if you are not willing to take the risk of rolling the dice by drawing a number out of a hat, don't show up.

This is a matter that is of extreme importance as the quality of the tim-



Hey, check this out! Looks like some crazy beaver had its way with a Ponderosa Pine. Or maybe it was just Ryan Hatfield goofing around one summer as he trained for the Underhand event.

ber that axemen are allowed to cut is going to decrease in upcoming years. Accordingly, every competitor must hold him or herself in high regard and simply be a good sportsman and make the most of what he or she has. I don't know how long I can stand at this pulpit and voice my concern on this issue. However, I will not stand idly by and let those competitors who feel they have to blame everything except themselves for not winning an event. Simply put, take responsibility for your own actions, and don't blame anyone or anything but yourself. The wood you draw is the wood you draw; cut it, and make the most of it. If you are fortunate to draw a good log, be happy. If you are unfortunate enough to draw a bad log, be happy and hope for another day. Everyone knows that the ability to draw good wood goes in cycles—much like an axeman's ability to compete. However, whining and moaning has done nothing but degrade our sport and make it very unattractive for those who intend on going into the sport who now have the misconception that the wood is the only variable that separates a good from a bad axeman. There are no bad axemen, but there are constant complainers that should not be on the lumberjack circuit if they cannot accept the fact that they are not going to make every final or win every event because of "bad wood."

The best way to put it is that a good axeman can do well on a bad log; however, a good axeman will do great on a good log. Take your lickings, and make the most of it; chop the logs that you draw, and do not ask for a second log, that is unsportsmanlike, unfair to the other competitors, and, in my opinion, downgrades not only the competition itself, but also the other competitors.

Think about it, why should an axeman have a second chance if he draws a bad log? Simply put—he or she shouldn't. Cut the log that you draw, and move on.

The Growth of Lumberjack Sports

The year 2000 marks an important year for lumberjack sports. First, in April the Olympics of Woodchopping will be held in Sydney, Australia. This matter is being marketed as a prelude to the Olympic games, which the International Olympic Selection Committee will visit and evaluate Lumberjack Sports for possible inclusion in 2008 games. While the event is scheduled to begin almost a month prior to the opening of the Olympic Village at the old Sydney showgrounds, Olympic fever will be in the air and will garner significant importance in the evolution of Lumberjack Sports on the International arena. At this time, it is believed that at least four countries will field teams of 8 men to compete in team medley relays, which will include two underhands, two standings, a single, a double and a stock saw. This event was, in part, organized by the United States Axeman's Association in conjunction with the Australian Axeman's Association and the Rural Agricultural Society of New South Wales. The simple fact that international team races will be fought among the four major countries in lumberjack sports is a marked improvement over years past, and a feather in the cap of the growth of Lumberjack Sports on an international level.

In addition, the Great Outdoor Games will take place in Lake Placid, New York, during the third weekend in July of 2000. While, at this time, it is uncertain what the layout or the make-up of the GO Games, it is extremely important that ESPN has taken a keen interest in lumberjack sports and will spend a considerable amount of time airing lumberjack sports not only through the ESPN Stihl Timbersports series, but also through the GO Games, thus resulting in double exposure for the year 2000.

To say that the Stihl Timbersports Series airs up to two times a week is beginning to become an understatement. The Stihl Timbersports Series is being shown quite often on ESPN, sometimes up to three to four times a week during the latter portions of 1999. It is anticipated that the exposure of lumberjack sports will continue to increase with the added feature of the GO Games and the ever increasing popularity of the Stihl Timbersports Series.

While it unlikely that Stihl will increase the number of qualifiers in order to register the top 12 or top 16 competitors for the final event, it is paramount that ESPN increased the number of airings of the Stihl Timbersports Series on both ESPN and ESPN2.

Further, the Midwestern Lumberjack Association has taken great steps to preserve the future of the sport in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. It appears that even more competitions will crop up during the 2000 season. Over the past three years we have seen the following shows introduced in the Midwest - Oconto, Lakewood, Rochester, Eagle River, and Gladstone; all of which have considerable prize money and which have heightened competition.

What we are seeing in lumberjack sports is a growth that is unparalleled throughout the 60 to 70 year history of the sports in North America. In the United States, the interest of both the spectator and the competitor has increased tri-fold in the past ten years. The ratings of the Lumberjack Sports related shows have increased; the number of airings of the shows have increased. In addition, the number of competitors has increased. Given this much, the sport itself will likely grow well into the 21st Century.

It is the position of the USAA and the NAAN that the sport itself must be preserved and continue to grow for the betterment of all those associated with Lumberjack Sports. Lumberjack Sports truly embody the American Spirit, and our wholesome image must be maintained by all of those who decide to compete by wielding an axe or taking the handle of a cross-cut saw.

The History of the Hot Saw

by a "not so good" Hot Sawyer, Arden Cogar Jr. and a "good" Hot Sawyer, Jim Taylor

Through the assistance of Jim Taylor, I have compiled a thumbnail sketch of the history of the hot saw in the United States. While my knowledge is primarily limited to the East Coast, Jim Taylor has been competing on the West Coast in excess of 30 years. Accordingly, his input is paramount to a full analysis of the history of the hot saw in North America.

As many of you are aware, Andreas Stihl was the inventor of the mechanized chain saw. While I am unaware of the date when Mr. Stihl received his patent, it is common knowledge that Stihl chain saws have been around longer and provide more durable chain saws for logging and recreational needs than most saw companies.

It appears that the larger chain saws, such as the 090's were commonly used out on the West Coast during the 1950's and 60's. Eventually, the loggers began using chain saws that were made from go-cart motors. Over time, this practice eventually was transferred to the competitive arena. It appears that B-bombs and other go-cart driven power saws appeared on the West Coast as early as the 1960's. Further, the West Benz motors appeared across the West Coast in the early 1960's.

On the East Coast the pioneers of the West Benz motor were Sven and Ron Johnson. Sven and Ron are possibly the greatest father and son tandem in hot sawing history. Sven and Ron ran two West Benz motors that were known as "white heads." In the small wood competitions, both Sven and Ron battled it out for first and second place no matter what other competition was at the event.

Unfortunately, Sven and Ron Johnson's dominance did not take place on the West Coast of the United States. About the time that Sven and Ron were dominating the East Coast events, competitors such as Mervin Lentz, Martin Hedricks, and several other California competitors were moving from the go-cart motors to the motorcycle chain saws.

Eventually, Ron and Sven Johnson adapted. During the late 1970's, Sven Johnson built a 250cc can. am. engine. From the late 1970's until the mid 1980's, Sven Johnson was unbelievably dominant not only on the East Coast, but also at the Lumberjack World Championships. At the same time, a small machine specialist by the name of Harry Bodecker, began building engines in his Zanesville, Ohio, garage. Eventually, Mr. Bodecker became as proficient at building chainsaws as mechanics became at building NASCAR racing cars. Ron Johnson eventually purchased a 250cc Honda from Mr. Bodecker sometime during the early 1980's. What competition Ron's father did not win, Ron did win, at least on the East Coast.

On the West Coast, the hot saws began to get amazing. A group of men out of Oregon took an eight cylinder engine off a '57 Chevy and began running it in exhibitions and competitions throughout the Pacific Northwest. The eight cylinder engine was notorious for being able to cut a 30 inch Douglas fir in less than 2 seconds. The eight cylinder engine took three people to operate; one on each side of the motor and a third person to pull the throttle. Eventually, that machine was outlawed because of safety reasons; however, the big engine on the West Coast lived on. Such competitors as Dennis Harvey began making 500cc Maicos, and Dennis Cahoon began building 500cc Hondas.

As lumberjack sports evolved, it became apparent that big wood single cut sawing was impractical. Accordingly, competitions began to move to three cut competitions—cold start, down, up, down. Accordingly, the weight of the power saw became very important. Then, in modern times, Russ Lemke of Moisseine, Wisconsin, began building chain saws as are currently seen on the ESPN Stihl Timbersports Series - Rotax, Skidoo powersaws. Most of Russ Lemke's motors range from 175's all the way up to 325cc's, which are representative of a Skidoo block cut in half, with one cylinder put on each chainsaw frame. The Skidoo chainsaws will turn in excess of 70 horsepower and will cut three discs from a 20 inch log from a cold start, dependent upon the operator, in less than 7 seconds.

At this point in lumberjack history, Mr. Lemke's motors are the best in the business. A close second are chainsaws that have been built by Chauncey Varney, of Vermont. Mr. Varney is a IBM computer consultant who tinkers with chainsaws as a hobby. Mr. Varney built the chainsaw that Matt Bush is currently using, which has been on the circuit in excess of 15 years. To this author's knowledge, Mr. Varney has built a limited amount of motorcycle chain saws, all of which were record holders at one time or another. Those that are still in operation are still competitive on the lumberjack circuit and will likely be competitive into the next era.

At this time, the future of the hot saw is uncertain. The Rotax motors are by far the motor of choice, as more than 20 of these saws have been sold over the course of the past four years. The saws range in cost from four to five thousand dollars, and the chains for the saws may exceed \$200 as 1/2 inch chain is difficult to find on the market. The next evolution of the hot saw will likely be a lighter, faster, meaner version of the Rotax; however, this author is in no way an expert in this matter. The author feels that the brief history of how the hot saw evolved in the United States should be given some deference.

Note the following was published in the December 1998 Northern Logger and Timber Processor and written by our own "little fuzzy" - Matt Chagnon

From the Forest to the Contest The Preparation of Professional Lumberjack Contest Wood by Matt Chagnon

Have you ever watched a professional lumberjack contest; either in person or on TV? Chances are you probably have. The chances are probably also pretty good that you never gave a thought as to where all that wood used in the contest came from. After all, wood does grow on trees doesn't it? Well, the next time you watch one of these shows, think about it a little more, because providing the right wood is a big part of making these competitions happen.

Granite State Lumberjack Shows, Inc. produces professional lumberjack competitions around the country in-

cluding the Stihl Timbersports Series. At this level of competition, the top choppers turn in times that are often within hundredths of a second from each other. A bad block of wood can knock a guy right out of the competition. Since these lumberjacks are competing of some pretty good prize money, getting the right wood is very important. All of the blocks used in a competition must be well matched to make it fair for all contestants. What does it take to get good competition wood? Well the answer is quite simple; getting a batch of blocks that are matched consistently. However, finding this wood is what makes the task difficult. No two blocks of wood or trees are exactly the same. Finding blocks that are perfectly matched is a truly impossible task.

Probably the first factor to be weighed is the species of wood to use. As in any racing sport, the tools used by these lumberjacks are tuned right to the limit. The angles filed on their axes and saw teeth are quite thin and won't hold up on hard wood. That means the wood used must be soft. The wood must also be consistent in its texture. Knots are much harder than the rest of the wood in a tree and can break a chunk out of an axe in one hit. These same knots also cause some grain deviation which can make the block cut much harder.

Two species that we have here in the northeast that work real well are aspen and white pine. An advantage of the aspen is that, due to its tendency to regenerate by root suckering, trees found next to each other in a stand are often genetically identical. The big problem with aspen is that it is a shade intolerant species and self prunes its lower stem at an early age. That means by the time the tree is big enough to produce competition chopping blocks, the knots are hidden beneath a layer of clear wood. They usually show up as the block is sized, so that block never makes it into a competition, but by that time a considerable amount has been invested in a block that cannot be used. Although it is important to get well matched blocks, wood conservancy is also an issue. White pine, on the other hand, keeps its branches longer. Even when the branches are shed, you can still tell where the knots are by the branch scars left in the bark. As long as the tree had adequate growth each year, the 26 inch long chopping blocks can be bucked out between the whorls of knots. This guarantees that no knots are in the blocks, so no blocks are wasted.

Another factor that must be considered is the location from which the trees came that yield the blocks. Simply stopping by the local sawmill and going through their log pile looking for competition blocks does not work. Most mills have a fairly large working circle where they purchase logs. Trees grown on different soils under different growing conditions will chop very differently. Moisture content, ratio of early wood to late wood and growth rate all contribute to the variability between blocks. The solution to this dilemma is to get the wood all from the same logging operation. In fact, if the trees for a given event all grew in close proximity to each other in the same stand, the wood will be an even better match.

The problem here in the northeast is finding the trees that grow to meet these specifications. Our variable growing conditions and a little pest called the white pine weevil team up to make it difficult to find suitable trees. A tree might grow enough one year to get a 26 inch clear block between the whorls of branches, but the year after that it may only grow eight inches. The white pine weevil kills the terminal shoot of the tree deforming it and making parts of it useless for chopping blocks. It is a rare tree that will produce more than ten of the 26 inch long blocks, and most trees will produce fewer than five. This adds more variability into the blocks since it takes many more trees to get enough blocks for a contest.

Luckily this past summer Granite State Lumberjack Shows found the wood "Mecca". It is the Muskingum Water Conservancy District in the Carroll County area south of Youngstown, Ohio. Much of this area had been planted to pine in the 1940's, and it is now the right size to produce the competition blocks. We were fortunate to get hooked up with Harry Grimes, a logging contractor from Barnesville, Ohio. Harry and his crew do all of the logging on the Muskingum Water Conservancy District, and he has been most helpful locating the wood that we need. The white pine in this area grows tall and straight with few defects. Many of the trees had grown an average of 30 inches in height per year, so we could literally buck block after block out of a tree. Some trees were producing as many as 20 of the 26 inch long chopping blocks. This is a fantastic yield from one tree considering that we don't use any blocks from the butt log since this part of the tree contains the most variability. It only takes several of these trees growing next to each other in a stand to get enough blocks for a particular event.

After the long drive back to New Hampshire with over a hundred blocks in tow, the next step is to get the blocks all to the same size. Each block had been marked as it was bucked so they could be matched for each event. The blocks are then turned on a lathe to get them within one tenth of an inch in diameter providing consistency in size for each contestant. Since there are no commercially made block lathes out there, we had to design and fabricate our own. The blocks are turned at a slow speed on the lathe by a five horsepower gasoline engine. The turning block rides on a carriage assembly which is advanced manually into a two knife planer head that is revolving at 1800 rpm's. Adjustable stops are set on the frame to halt the carriage when the block gets to the desired diameter.

The next crucial step in the operation is the storage of the blocks from the time they come off the lathe until they are transported to the contest. If the blocks dry out at all, they will be much harder and more difficult to cut. To help retain their moisture, the blocks are packed in what we call the "pig pen". The blocks are stacked in this three sided plywood enclosure with all of the space between the blocks filled with sawdust. The "pig pen" is then wrapped with a tarp with a trickle hose inside zig zagged over the top of the blocks. They are watered several times a day until the contest date arrives. Finally, the blocks are packed into a box truck with wet hay and covered with a tarp once again

for the trip to the contest site, which can range from several hours to several days away.

At the contest, competitors draw numbers to see which blocks they get to chop. After the wood draw, they immediately head for the wood dump and begin prodding their blocks with jack knife points and nails. The farther these objects sink into the block, the better they like it. This means they have a soft block with a lot of water in it, and stand a good chance of placing well in the event.

How do we know when we have found a good batch of wood? Well, contest results are one good measure. This past year, at the Stihl Timbersports Series, two new world records were set on the wood we provided. David Bolstad chopped the 13 inch underhand block in 12.28 seconds and also set a new world record in the 11 inch spring board with a time of 36.92 seconds.

So the next time you watch your favorite lumberjack competition, pay a little more attention to the wood. See if you can tell what species it is. Find out what sizes they are using. Look at the knot and grain patterns. And think about how much care went into getting that block from the forest to the contest! Matt Chagnon is an Associate Professor of Forest Technology at the Thompson School of Applied Science at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. He is also a partner in Granite State Lumberjack Shows. The company is always on the lookout for good stands of white pine suitable for competition chopping blocks.

Lumberjack Cheat Sheet Rules to Compete and Train by

- * Peavey Log Rolling - keep your head up, go like mad and talk to each other all the way.
- * Axe Throwing - concentrate on the center of the bullseye, and follow through.
- * Double Bucking - keep the saw level, and make sure your partner is cutting wood.
- * Bow Sawing - keep your top elbow down, and cut on your back stroke.
- * Underhand - accuracy, accuracy, accuracy . . . if that doesn't work, try accuracy.
- * Standing - let the axe fall out and down on every back swing.
- * Springboard - jam the board in hard and get up on it.. testing the board hole ruins it.
- * Single Bucking - you paid for the whole saw; use all of it.
- * Tree Falling - get it down fast; if you miss at least you looked good doing it.
- * Stock sawing - listen to the saw; it will tell you when you're pushing too hard.
- * Butcher's Block - get a good partner, and let him cut the bigger half.
- * Birling - small steps on top of the log.
- * Hard hitting - again; accuracy is the key to success.
- * Training - 30 minutes a day is better than not
- * Training - do it right; doing it fast comes later

What was my time by Mary Beth Dooley

Year after year we see the culmination of "new age" technology raise the level of competition in Timber Sports. State of the art sophistication is now used to develop and craft the fastest tools money can buy. Cross training and weight training have become a necessary combination to keep a competitive edge. Parapsychology has been used to assist many who practice visualization techniques to maintain "focus" from event to event. The summarization of all the hours of training, ribbons on road left behind and lost summer weeks make the efforts well worth it if we can put it all together, perform well and, of course, grab a win.

Despite all the training and discipline involved, all competitors would agree that this is a sport of inconsistencies. The quality and variation of the wood throughout a day of competition sorts out the flexible from the inflexible and the lucky from the unlucky. Drawing a "bad block" is like getting the "old maid" card. Knotty sawing wood, tough chopping blocks and crazy weather are variables we all accept as the "nature" of the sport.

Timber Sports would be defined as a pure sport; the fastest time wins. Push the button on the stop watch at the start and finish; then record the time. Most sports require their officials to be certified or at the very least to attend a workshop, but not this sport. The quality of timers and officials at many of the shows would unnerve the most disciplined athlete.

We female competitors play a vital role in this area. We have the responsibility of breaking in these timers for the men's shows which always follow us the next day.

Women's shows are usually very rushed. Our competitors meetings usually begin with the head judge saying, "Ladies, be ready for your events. The horse pull starts here in two hours." To newcomers to this sport, this is a command to be taken seriously. The organizers of these shows do not want to keep the horses or the teamsters waiting; take heed. It is at this point of the day one needs to be observing how experienced the officials REALLY are.

If the "Timer's Meeting" takes a long time, you should be prepared to find that your timer may be having a first time experience with a stop watch. Try not to be too mesmerized by the sight of timers whispering "go" and clicking their watch on and off again and again over in the corner by themselves; maybe they just drank too much coffee. You are allowed to nod approvingly to the timers who are sporting last year's "T shirt." They are veterans; you may be lucky enough to have for one event.

You know you own your focusing techniques when you don't tighten up on the saw handles at the count down when you hear, "Which button do I push again?" "I didn't realize you were only doing one cut!" The cat is out of the bag; we all know he didn't stop the watch at the finish.

As you fly from event to event consider taking on the role of an educator. Answer a question with a question. If you walk up to a piece of wood with a single buck and your timer says, "So what event are you doing now?" You may want to reply, "What event do you think it is?" "Hands on" experience is widely used in education. Don't interrupt your officials when they are averaging your times especially when they are using their fingers to do the math.

The smell of sweaty harness and manure stained straw will be the first signs of the show nearing the end. The sounds of the jingle of double trees and the stomping of fly ridden hooves snap you into reality. You have successfully trained an official for Timber Sports. Your self control before chopping when he said, "Wow, that axe is sharp! I hope you never get angry at me!" paid off. Mission accomplished.

Timber Sports struggles to be validated as a part of the professional athletic arena. Possibly, to be recognized as an organized sport there are some areas which are weak and need to be examined. The area of officiating would be a good place to start.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have spent time learning and becoming part of our sport. We've had fun.

I sawed with a champion

by Cheryl Nestor-DeBerry

I sawed with a champion
T'aint braggin', you see
'Twas just so exciting
That Arden an' me.

I'm just the announcer
Talk pretty, they say.
But these last few years I've
Looked for ard to the day.

In early September
When Woodsmen draw near.
The crowd's always growing,
And ready to cheer.

The bright shiny axes
and sparkling saws
They flash in the sunlight
And leave us in awe

Keep thinking about that
Warm day in the fall,
When Arden came over,
And said with a drawl,

"Excuse me, Young lady,
We sawin' today?"
"Why sure, Mr. Cogar,
I will if I may."

Now Arden's been over
The world several times.
He's truly a Champion
A hero of mine.

Also, he's a good ole
West Virginia Boy.
Goin' 'bout his business,
It's what he enjoys.

I announce to the crowd
The start of the games
We'll start with the crosscut
I'll call out the names.

Now Jack and Jill Crosscut
Continues the show,
My heart is racin'
I'm ready to go.

"Can someone come talk so
That I can go saw?
Then Arden an' me will
We'll show up you all!"

Up comes Arden Junior,
Takes over for me.
The log is a' waiting,
The whole crowd to see.

And there stands my Arden
Don't have to look far
His crosscut saw's polished:
Shines like a new car.

"Now, grab on to your end,"
He says with a smile.
I say, "I've not practiced,
It's been quite awhile."

Now, lift up your end some,
We're ready to start."
I barely can hear him,
For my beating heart.

The man with the stopwatch
Yells "Go!" right on cue.
And we start to crosscut.
We know what to do.

The flash of the saw blade,
The roar of the crowd,
We sawed through that log there.
Boy, I was so proud.
It soon was all over
Third place we did win.
Though all out breath, I
Made sure to thank him.

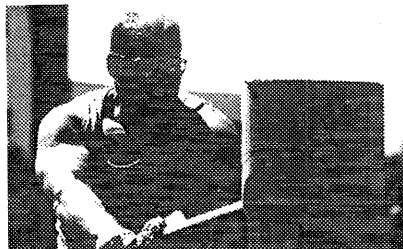
Then Arden, he told me,
"You gave quite a tug!"
I'm sorry I didn't
Give him a big hug.
I made my way over-
Back to the stand.
Went on with the contests,
Despite shaking hands.

Can't wait until next year
Please ask me again!
And maybe I'll practice
And maybe we'll win!

Hick Festival weekend:
Always a great time.
But nothing compares with
That Arden of mine.

Thanks Arden, and all the
Competitors who,
Come out to our small fair.
Woodsmen: we love you!

I sawed with a Champion.
T'ain't braggin', you see,
'Twas just so exciting,
That Arden an' me.



Arden Cogar, Jr. of Webster Springs, West Virginia/Charleston, West Virginia, sets out to redeem himself in 2000.



Arden Cogar Sr. circa 1969 at the Albany Timber Carnival.

What are you waiting for???

By Penny Halverson

To the people who seem to be in control of our sport, when are you going to get with the times? It is now the year 2000, we are now into the twenty first century, This is your wake up call!!

So please explain to us Why the disparity in prize money and events put into shows still exist? Why? New Men's events are added to the existing shows excluding the Women's events, Why? OR you raise the prize money for the Men's events and do not increase the Women's prize money. Why?

To the big companies, who sponsor the big events; Thank you for doing such a great job giving the men in our sport such wonderful opportunities. You're the leaders in the world wide exposure our sport receives. Do you realize you have excluded half the people in this sport, the Women competitors! Is this intentional or unintentional? WHY? I implore you, give the Women competitors the same opportunity!

To the other people who have or are organizing shows, why are the Women's events paid less? We train just as hard. The Women have come a long way from where we were sixteen years ago. Thank GOD for some of the shows! Why at some shows is the Jack & Jill event paid half or less in prize money as the two man, same saw, same rules, so tell us why?

I could not believe that I was told last season at two different shows that I would not be allowed to compete with the Men. There was not an equivalent Women's event at these shows that I could enter. I was still not allowed to enter. Make all the excuses you want this is clearly a case of discrimination. This is nothing new to myself or for some of the other Women. I just could not believe that it is still going on today. WHY?

I respect and admire most of the Men I compete with, so this is not intended to insult or attack on my fellow competitors; to the contrary, we the Women of this sport only want to be treated with the same respect and consideration that you are, and receive the great opportunities you've been given.

It's time some one brought this out into the light! Let's stop making excuses and start doing things fairly and equally!!

Think, how would this make you feel if it were you? I have spent many years promoting this sport, the shows, as well as all my fellow competitors. I had to speak out after the way I was treated last season or leave this sport that I love so much. Please try and put yourself in my place before you make decisions that affect the future of this sport. What about the young Women of tomorrow, some of them will be your own daughters; What kind of place in this sport are we making for them? If they grow up to be the best in the world at these events how will you explain to them they will pay the same for their equipment, train just as hard, but be paid less for their events, or be told they will not be allowed to enter because they're a Woman. WHY? I can not change this alone. All of us must change this together.

My Take on it all

by Barb Slingerland

As we enter the 21st century and move into the year 2001, I believe it is important to look into the future of the Lumberjack Sports as well as look back on its rich history. For two centuries men and women have been cutting timber in this country. As long as there have been logging camps, there have been competitions. It has only been within the last 75 years, in this country, that professional lumberjacks began competing in well organized competitions with prize money awarded for their efforts. In the last 15 years we have seen an increasing number of interested sponsors who have helped to steadily boost the amount of prize money awarded in these competitions. However, there are several interests which have kept Lumberjack Sports from being recognized as a "true sport" including the amount of prize money, inaccuracy of timing methods and the limited number of participants. Therefore, in order to become a recognized sport, it is important for all of the contestants, not just the "leaders" in this sport, to put their individual interests away and to concentrate on building the sport as a whole.

Across the United States there are approximately 500 professional Lumberjack Sports competitors. Of these, a vast minority (only about 10%) are women. Women have been participating in professional competitions since the 1980's, making them / us new arrivals on the scene. Recently we have been hearing from the "vocal minority" that lumberjack sports are "sexist". I would prefer to consider the quick ascent through the ranks that women have made. Women initially participated only in the "Jack and Jill" sawing event at the professional level. It has only been since the early 1990's that there have been women participating in chopping, ax throwing and sawing events other than "Jack and Jill". Due to individual efforts to promote women's competition, there have been an increasing number of competitions which include women's events. Competitions in New York State include as many events for women as for men in their state sponsored competitions (largely due to the fact that there are a large number of women who compete in that area). Large events held in Wisconsin and Michigan are including women's events, even though very few women in the Midwest compete in Lumberjack Sports.

There is inequity in prize money, but I do not think it is a "sexist issue". All of the competitions in the United States are run by independent organizations. Each organization divides prize money based on its budget and the promoter's greatest area of interest. Competitions run by choppers often have greater prize money in the chops than in the sawing events. The Lumberjack World Championships is run by log rollers and climbers, and therefore the

majority of their prize money is in these events. More often than not, the prize money is split between the members of a double buck team. Professional Lumberjack Sports are in their infancy; we should appreciate the effort that organizations make in promoting the sport. As competitors, we should be finding ways to promote the sport rather than promoting our own interests.

The future of Lumberjack Sports is reliant on having more participants (male and female) and being introduced to a larger audience. Current competitors need to become more involved in introducing college competitors to the professional ranks by setting up handicapped events and events for people who are "21 and under". There are many competitors who do conduct competitions and are involved in promotion of the sport at the college level. There are others, however, who have only the interest of themselves or their small group in mind. If we are to evolve into a recognized sport, the interests of the sport will need to come first and individual interests will need to be last.

In appreciation of Dick Slingerland

by Arden Cogar Jr.

For those of you who have surfed the internet, you know about the "North American Lumberjack Guide." It's the most comprehensive Lumberjack Sports web site in the World. No matter what you search "woodchopping", "Lumberjack Sports", "Racing Axes", etc., you will get the Lumberjack Guide. For those of you who don't know about it, the website is www.starinfo.com/ljguide. It's maker is Dick Slingerland, the modern father of the two peg and raker cross cut. Dick revolutionized cross cut sawing in the early 1980's, and his son Mike carries the Slingerland progeny into the twenty first century.

For those of you who know Dick, he's quiet; he's sincere, and he's possibly the most intelligent person you've ever met. Not an educated man, but learned in the ways of "hard knocks" and the ways of life, Dick Slingerland has pioneered Lumberjack Sports transition in the information age.

The Lumberjack Guide contains virtually everything you'll ever need to know about Lumberjack Sports. Whether it be about the results, the records, or the equipment, the Lumberjack Guide has it's place in Lumberjack Sports as being the most updated source of information associated with the Sport.

The NAAN salutes Dick Slingerland; he's a true hero of our sport. Next time you see him, please extend your hand and tell him thanks for all the work he's doing to preserve our sport.

Metal in Axes - how important is it?

by Arden Cogar Jr, Doug Currence,

with some input from Rudy Sanetta, Melvin Lentz, and Arden Cogar Sr.

Have you ever wondered how important metal content is to an axe? Have you ever wondered how important hardness is to an axe? Well, if you want to learn more, please read on.

During the Fall of 1999, Arden Cogar Jr., Doug Currence, and Rudy Sanetta started wondering about the metallurgical content of axes and how much the metal played into the effectiveness of an axe. Arden Cogar Jr. was of the opinion that an Axe had to be at least fifty seven Rockwell no matter what the metallurgical content; Doug Currence and Rudy Sanetta knew better. You see, both Doug and Rudy grind metal all day. Rudy is a machinist for a large tool and die company, while Doug works as a welder/jack of all trades for the central machine shop of American Electric Power. Basically, Doug and Rudy, given enough time, can fix anything and everything.

In any event, Doug had access to a machine that would test the metallurgical content of an axe as well as the hardness of the metal. Therefore, Doug, and Arden went into a blind frenzy of metal testing.

Both Arden Jr. and Arden Sr. went into the study with the following conception - "Metal content in axes is pretty consistent; however, the softness or hardness of the axe varies from axe to axe." The reason for the Ardens' perception on this matter is that when most axes are heat treated, they are either done one or two at a time. Therefore, it would be almost impossible to make every axe with uniform hardness.

Doug, a neophyte in the sport, was curious as to the metallurgical content and hardness. Doug knew which axes cut well, but he wasn't sure how much the grind played as compared to the content of the metal. Doug knew that the metal had to have some carbon in order to withstand the impact of the pounding that woodchopping forces an axe to endure but was unsure which trace metals would play the biggest role in forming the "perfect axe."

Rudy, an established standing block cutter and excellent grinder of axes, was of the opinion that harder axes are too brittle, and the guys, such as Arden Jr., who believe every axe should be 57 rockwell hardness, are full of nonsense. Rudy is of the opinion that the most important thing in the makeup of the metal of an axe is the direction of the metal fibers in relationship to the shape of the axe. Rudy's experience with metal exceeds thirty years; he has been grinding and welding in excess of twenty years. Rudy believes that cast axes or poured axes are not of as high a quality metal as say a forged axe or an axe made of rolled steel, but that's not to say that a cast or poured axe won't cut well. Forged or rolled steel axes are denser and will not have sand pits or flaws in the metal fiber. Moreover, forged or rolled steel axes allow the axemaker to manipulate the direction of the metal fibers to optimize the axes ability to flex while in the wood. To be honest, Rudy's knowledge of this side of the sport is uncanny, and we can't remember everything he said about his theories on axe metal.

Melvin, a man who needs no introduction, was of the opinion that an axe is an axe, and you don't know what you

have until you put a grinder on it. Once the grinder is on it, you can tell if an axe is soft, hard, or a piece of waste. However, you don't know what you'll have until you've put your bevel on the axe. Melvin is one of the best free hand grinders in the world as his axes have won many world championships. Melvin has purchased a machine for axe grinding. It is likely that it will take some time to master the machine before he can get an axe that is comparable to his free hand grinds. In any event, Melvin believes that an axe needs to have strong enough metal to hold an edge and hard enough metal to keep an edge.

testing: - Doug was in France skiing at the time of the writing of this article, so you'll have to forgive us if we don't have the name of the machine that tested the metallurgical content and the hardness of the metal. In any event, the following axes were tested in the following manner - the hardness and metallurgical testing was conducted by dropping the apparatus 1/2 inch from the edge of the axe. Therefore, some variability in the hardness of the axe could be noted from the 1/2" in from the edge as compared to the 1/4" from the edge - however, due to fear of damaging the axes and ourselves, we limited the testing at 1/2" in from the edge for consistency and safety's sake.

little bit about metal: - When you take iron and add a specific amount of carbon, you can harden the iron. In other words, steel is hardened carbonated iron. The degree of hardness depends on the amount of carbon added to the mix. Steel is considered carbon steel, when no minimum content of chromium, molybdenum, vanadium, nickel, tungsten or any other element added is specified or required. For example, when you add a certain amount of Chromium to the steel, the steel becomes corrosion resistant. Steel alloys to which a minimum of 11.5% Chromium has been added do not usually form red rusts and so are called "stainless". Therefore, none of the axes we tested would be considered "stainless" steel, but would be considered "carbon steel" or at least iron with some additives.

Alloying elements are added to basic steels to enhance corrosion resistance, hardness, toughness and processibility of steel.

Iron (Fe) - basic element of all metal is used in axes. Most axes consist of at least 94 percent iron. What's done with the iron is the important part (ie., forging, quenching, etc)

Carbon (C) carbon is the principle hardener in steel. The more carbon that is added (up to 1.2% for scissors and swords), the harder it gets. Higher amounts of carbons create high levels of cementite (Fe3C) and go under various names such as white iron, etc. The more Carbon that is added to a mixture, an increased risk of brittleness comes about and results in a weakened if not useless Axe.

Phosphorus and Sulfur are present in all steels, usually as impurities, but they are sometimes added in controlled amounts for easier machining. Neither of these elements were present in the axes we tested.

Molybdenum (Mo) This is one of the most important additives. Molybdenum adds toughness and increases corrosion resistance; in addition, Mo inhibits "grain growth."

Manganese (Mn) - contributes to strength and hardness; the amount of increase is dependent on the amount of carbon present. The more carbon in a steel, the higher the effect of manganese. Manganese is beneficial for the surface finish of a part, especially if the steel is high in sulfur.

Phosphorus increases strength and hardness, but at the sacrifice of ductility and impact toughness, if added in too great a quantity.

Chromium (Cr) Protects against corrosion and adds heat resistance. Decreases strength and hardness.

Vanadium (V) Adds toughness and fatigue resistance.

Titanium (Ti) - adds toughness

Nb (niobium) - not sure what this does as it was found in only one axe

Tungsten (W) - Adds toughness and fatigue resistance

HANK PETERS LUMBERJACK SHOWS Inc.

OVER 50 YEARS IN SPORTSMEN'S SHOWS

2959 ATWATER DRIVE

CINCINNATI, OHIO 45251

(512) 825-5423

With all that in mind here are the axes.

Axe C-001 a pre 1965 Hyst Racer. Owner: Arden Cogar Jr./Doug Currence
Machine tested it came categorized as: Mild Steel
Rockwell - 51.7
Cr: 99.72
V: .28
Thoughts: this axe has never cut a log, so we can't assess the metal and the ability of the axe to cut.

Axe C-002 an older model Tuatahi (pre 1993). Owner: Melvin Lentz
Machine tested it came categorized as: C61XX
Rockwell - 40.9
Cr: .47
Fe: 96.35
Mn: 1.72
V: .09
Thoughts: this axe is a harder Tuatahi and a big chip fell out of it while chopping sweet gum. Axe is somewhat brittle but holds an edge really well.

Axe C-003 newer model Tuatahi (1994, possibly 1995) Owner: Melvin Lentz
Tool L-6
Rockwell - 33.5
Cr: 1.32
Fe: 94.80
Mo: .07
W: 2.66
Thoughts: this axe won several chops at Webster Springs after Mel redid it with a short banana. Unfortunately, the axe was damaged when it cut through it's sheath necessitating a regrind.

Axe C-004 1991 Koestel

Tool A-6
Rockwell - 40.3
Co: .77
Cr: 1.35
Fe: 94.59
Mn: 1.12
Mo: .89
V: .32
Thoughts: This axe cuts silver top ash unbelievably well. It has a 3/8 chisel at approximately 17 degrees and was done up by Jim Alexander. Very strong.

Axe C-005 Nivek no year but believed to be early 1990s, since they weren't made for a long time
CRMO - P-11
Rockwell - 43.6
Cr: 1.05
Fe: 96.09
Mn: 1.08
Mo: .72
V: .24
Thoughts: This axe is a piece of scrap. Never could cut, never would cut no matter what type of grind. It has been reground nearly eight times and nothing seems to work.

Axe C-006 Proaxe with a "3 and four dots"

CRMO - P-11
Rockwell - 35.0
Cr: .89
Fe: 96.86
Mn: .93
Mo: .71
V: .28
Thoughts: decent axe, nothing flashy. Ground originally by Paddy Stevenson, but reground by Quinn Shreve.

Axe C-007 1990 Aussie Speed

CRMO - P-11
Rockwell - 41.1
Cr: .97
Fe: 96.19
Mn: 1.04
Mo: .72
V: .26
Thoughts: This axe cuts silver top ash unbelievably well. In addition, before being ground for silver top by Jim Alexander, it never cut any wood in North America at all well; prior to the regrind, Melvin Lentz ground it with a 3/4" banana. It didn't cut. Arden Cogar Sr. ground it with a 3/4 chisel. It didn't cut. Arden Cogar Jr. gave it to Jim Alexander, and Jim turned it into an axe.

Axe C-008 1997 Langdon

C41XX
Rockwell - 59.4
Cr: .67
Fe: 97.33
Mn: 1.45
Mo: .10
V: .03
Thoughts: This axe is 13 degrees and can stand hard wood. It's awesome. It's strong and cuts well. Originally ground by Don Langdon, Rudy Sanetta flattened it and turned it into something special. Has a filed edge that has lasted nearly forty blocks which is unbelievable.

Axe C-009 1992 KeeSteel

Tool A-6
Rockwell - 46.3
Cr: 1.13
Fe: 95.57
Mn: 1.26
Mo: .82
V: .28
Thoughts: Nothing special.

Axe C-010 silver Hystest

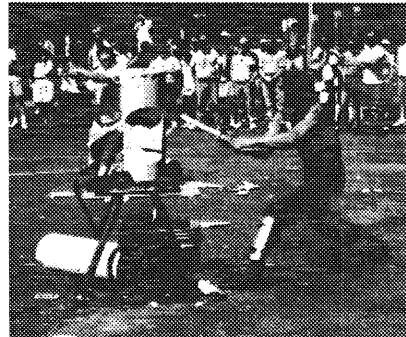
Mild Steel
Rockwell - 46.9
Fe: 99.76
V: .24
Thoughts: This is an unground head. If it's anything like its predecessor it's a piece of scrap. Given that it's almost all Iron and it's mild steel things don't look rosy.

Axe C-011 1997 Aussie Speed

Tool A-6
Rockwell - 51.7
Cr: 1.59
Fe: 95.33
Mn: 1.21
Mo: .97
Ti: .10
V: .48
Thoughts: Freshly ground. Not used in competition. Good analysis in the metal, so it should be a good axe for Down Under.

Axe C-012 Miller - made in 1974 for Clayton Stewart at the 1974 Team's races.

Mild Steel
Rockwell - 50.2
Fe: 99.83
V: .17
Thoughts: Axe has never been used to my knowledge. Traded for it. It's 7/4" long and 6 and 1/2" wide. Numbers worry us as it is almost the same as the silver hystest. However, the difference in these two axes is that the Miller is forged and the hystest is cast. We'll know the outcome of this battle later.



The "mental midget" shows his gruff and outstanding technique in the standing block. Jason DuBac of Orange, CT. Note the editor prefers the nickname "Houdini with a Handcannon" as it is more suitable to Jason's persona.

CRMO - P-11

Cr: 1.06
Fe: 96.02
Mn: 1.09
Mo: .78
V: .22
HRC: 30
Thoughts: This axe cuts silver top well. 1/4 chisel at 17 degrees with 14 degrees and 30 minutes behind. Good axe. Nothing special in North American wood.

Axe C-0014 newer Tuatahi

Mild Steel
Fe: 99.71
V: .29
HRC: 25.3
Thoughts: This is 7 3/4" wide 7 1/2" long butterfly grind Tuatahi that won't cut much of anything. It's in need of a regrind and weighs nearly seven pounds. At this stage, it's useless.

Axe C-0015 Newer Tuatahi

C61XX
Cr: .51
Fe: 97.47
Mn: 1.10
Mo: .02
V: .13
HRC: 27.1
Thoughts: This was a really good axe until Jason Dubac stuck it into a hemlock. It has since been reground and has suffered a stress fracture as a result of the aftershook of a hemlock knot. If the axe doesn't fall to pieces because of the stress fracture, it should be okay.

Axe C-0016 Older Two piece Tuatahi

C61XX
Cr: .66
Fe: 97.12
Mn: 1.35
Mo: .03
V: .09
HRC: 20.1
Thoughts: This axe is awesome. Probably 7 3/4 wide and 7 1/2 long, this axe will cut aspen, poplar and pine. However, the edge is blunt, and it is in need of a regrind. Kind of softish, but cuts well.

Axe C-0017 1996 True Blue

CRMO - P-11
Cr: .85
Fe: 96.74
Mn: .59
Mo: .39
V: .61
HRC - didn't register on Rockwell it was so soft. Rockwell Range is 20 to 68 with 62 being as hard as a file. This axe was low on hardness i.e., 255 Low which is 1/2 as hard as an axe that is 20 Rockwell or 500 Low.
Thoughts: Decent cutting axe. Soft, but cuts well. Did have a filed edge, but lost it after third block it cut. Now it's chiseled pretty steeply and it cuts pretty well.

Axe C-0018 Trojan Hystest

Mild Steel
Fe: 99.71
V: .29
HRC - didn't register on Rockwell, 462 Low.
Thoughts: This axe is actually pretty good. When we saw the results of the test we were surprised as the axe has a 3/4 banana and has been used by Arden Cogar Jr. to cut sweet gum for the past three years. All in all, it's a good axe.

Axe C-0019 Newer Tuatahi

Tool L-6
Cr: .68
Cu: .45
Fe: 97.01
Mn: .86
Mo: .05
HRC - didn't register on Rockwell - 335 Low
Thoughts: Not a bad cutting axe. Originally ground by Jim Hunt, this axe is in need of a freshening, but still cuts exceptionally well. It's very soft but cuts well in aspen.

Axe C-0020 Tuatahi A

Mild Steel
Cu: .46
Fe: 98.36
Mn: .98
HRC: 34.6
Thoughts: Piece of scrap right now. It's too heavy to use; however, it will hold an edge really well. Needs to be reground and lightened.

GILLES LEVESQUE

SPECIALIST/CONSULTANT FOR COMPETITION TOOLS

- Bow Saw Blades
- Power Saws -
Modified & Motorcycle
- Power Saw Chains
- Competition Crosscut Saws

303, 42 IEME RUE QUEST
CHARLESBOURG, QUEBEC CANADA G1H 5L4

RES.: 418-628-1903

Axe C-0021 Tuatahi A

C61XX
Cr: .76
Fe: 96.91
Mn: .82
Mo: .03
W: .60
V: .12
HRC: 37.9

Thoughts: This axe is Arden Cogar Jr.'s best yellow poplar axe. He has used it to win the standing block at the WCWF twice. This axe has held a filed edge in poplar for nearly two years. Unbelievable. This is the first axe where we noted Tungsten. The axe is strong and has taken several knots, and the edge has remained.

Axe C-0023 Keesteel Grease Axe

K11597 - CRMO - P-11
V: 23
Cr: 1.00
Mn: .79
Fe: 97.08
Mo: .59
HRC: 36.0

Thoughts: This is one strong axe. It has taken a lot of abuse, and it's still in one piece. Holds an edge well and is due for a regrind.

Axe C-0024 1976 Keesteel

T30106
V: .30
Cr: 1.02
Mn: .84
Fe: 95.96
Mo: .92
HRC: 37.9

Thoughts: Not a bad axe. Really heavy though and kind of soft. This axe has taken several regrinds and is still a decent tool.

Axe C-0025 pre 1962 black Hystet

T61206
V: .25
Fe: 98.79
Mo: .02
HRC: 43.1

Thoughts: One tough cookie. This axe will cut anything. Needs a regrind.

Axe C-0026 pre 1962 black Hystet

G10200
V: .26
Cr: .22
Fe: 99.51
HRC: 25.6

Thoughts: Decent axe. Cuts well, but was never used extensively. Was a "mate" to Arden Cogar's Bread and Butter Axe which won him numerous world titles. However, it never cut nearly as well as Bread and Butter and was always tossed aside.

Axe C-0027 Pre 1993 Langdon, no date stamped

G61500
V: .18
Cr: .62
Mn: 1.16
Fe: 97.20
Mo: .09
HRC: 30.4

Thoughts: Tough axe. Cut's really well. Arden Cogar Jr. won Albany with it during 1994. Bends easily, but takes a lot of abuse.

Axe C-0028 early 1990's Tuatahi

G10200
Mn: .96
Fe: 98.83
HRC: 187 Br

Thoughts: Decent axe at best. Doesn't hold an edge very well.

Axe C-0029 1976 Keesteel

K21590 - CRMO - P-22
V: .30
Cr: 1.43
Mn: 1.11
Fe: 94.70
Mo: .88
HRC: 87 Br

Thoughts: This axe is soft, but you can't file it. Guess that has something to do with it's high Cr. Content. Decent cutting axe has stood the test of time. However, the metal is real heavy.

Axe 0030 Hystet no distinguishing marks

Crmo: .02
Mo: .04
Cr: .16
V: .23

The rest of the axe consists of C (carbon steel). This axe registered 179 HB (Brinell Hardness HB). (Remember: a metal must register 229 HB before it can register the minimum Rockwell hardness, which starts at 20). This axe was one of Rick Halverson's that was burner in a fire a couple of years ago.

Axe 0031 Hystet

Cr: .21
Ti: .44
Nb: .16

HARDNESS: 27 Rockwell (Because of the high amount of titanium in this axe, it is the hardest of the last six axes). This is also Rick Halverson's. It was burned up a few years ago

Axe 0032 Hystet

Chromemoly: .02
Mo: .02
Cr: .08
V: .28

HARDNESS: 224 HB. No thoughts.

Axe 0033 Hystet

Cr: .59
Ti: .39
Nb: .14

HARDNESS: 208 HB This axe, given its metallurgical makeup, should be harder than it is. The heat from the fire may have affected it.

Axe 0034 Hystet

Crmo: .02
Mo: .03
V: .28

HARDNESS: 220 HB NO thoughts

Axe 0035

Cr: .75
Ti: .36
Nb: .10

HARDNESS: 21 Rockwell
Thoughts: None.

Axe 0036 - 1998 North American

T30102 Tool A-2
Fe: 94.18
C: 3.54
Mn: .83
Mo: .94
V: .18
HRC: 40.7

Thoughts: This is a head that has never been ground. One thought, the North American is a pretty good axe. Personally, I had one that was probably the best cutting axe I've ever had, unfortunately, I busted it. The Carbon content of this axe is extremely high. More so than the other axes; the other elements are consistent with additive percentages and hardness. Will this be a good axe? Who knows. I do know that if you have a good North American, they last quite a while. The metal can be hard, but it grinds easily. This should be very interesting.

Conclusion: Absolutely nothing is consistent in axes. The axes with Tungsten tend to hold edges longer. Axes with Titanium are very hard. Axes with high chrome content are impossible to file. Basically, you don't know what you're getting. Some axes cut; some don't. Does the metal mean something. We feel it does.

If an axe is too hard or has too much chrome or carbon in it, you can't get it to hold an edge without risking dulling the axe. Therefore, you need to find an axe with a lower carbon and chrome content with some tougheners such as Tungsten or Titanium. Given that the edge is very important, the ability to hold an edge is paramount especially for softer wood. All axes should be given an opportunity. Some file, some don't, but at least now maybe you have a better understanding as to why.

TWO-MAN SAWING

An outline of competitive sawing style

I. Standards for standing

The proper position for crosscut sawing is not a comfortable one for most people. Hundreds of hours of practice, trial and error, and consultation with a biomechanist has however yielded the following results as optimal for a combination of speed, power and technique:

A. Distance from near edge of block to ball of forward foot: 8" - 12" depending on saw length. In small wood the saw should be 5' to 5' 4" and the distance from the block should be 8". If a longer saw must be used, the sawyer may move back to 10 or 12 inches so that he can pull the full saw without having to pull it past his rear shoulder.

B. Distance from ball of front foot to midline of back foot 56 to 72 inches depending on the height of the sawyer. At 5' 8", spread should be 58". At 6', spread should be 61". At 6' 4"+, spread should be 63 to 72 inches. It is especially important to spread out when cutting close to the ground. One well-known competitor at 6' 5", spreads 72" between his feet.

C. Angle of Stance - Sawyer should be turned slightly toward block with rear foot (toes) almost even with line of cut and front foot (toes) about 6 inches outside of line of cut. The front foot should be placed at a 45 degree angle to the saw, while the rear foot should be perpendicular to the saw.

When set up properly, sawyer should be able to pull a full saw and still be able to place fist of rear hand against side of block. Dominant hand should be farthest from block and should grip the handle at or below the "T" with the other hand just above it.

II. Pulling your share

When pulling the cross-cut saw, it is important to pull the saw in a straight line from the block to your rear shoulder, keeping it as level as possible. You should never pull the saw to your waist or past your body.

It is important to let your partner control how much wood is cut during your pull rather than trying to cut a lot of wood by pulling the saw down. Pulling down at extreme angles only makes it difficult or impossible for your partner to pull the saw back.

III. Pushing your share too

Contrary to popular belief, the most important aspect of two-man sawing is not pulling the saw but rather pushing it. Properly pushing the saw to your partner or "tailing" the saw allows you to make the saw work at its peak potential throughout the cut.

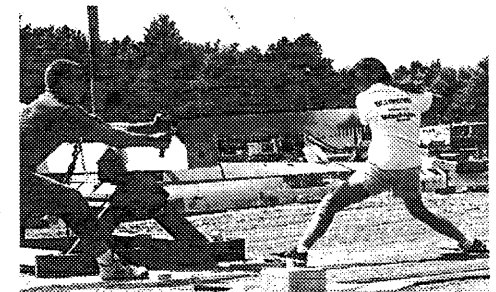
The first part of tailing the saw sounds easier than it actually is. You simply hold the saw at the same elevation as when you finished your pull. It is important that you do not begin pushing back until the saw is in front of you and your shoulders are turned toward the block. Pushing too early generally causes the saw to lift out of the wood on your side of the block.

Once the saw is in front of you, push back in a perfectly straight line. The push is primarily with your bottom hand and is at the same speed as your partner is pulling. You should apply downward pressure, during the pushing motion, at an angle of 5-15 degrees.

IV. Getting a leg up on the competition

When sawing, you want the saw to be taking out the maximum amount of wood 100% of the time. This goal can be met by keeping the saw level and thereby keeping as many of the teeth in the wood as possible. The primary way this is accomplished is by properly using your legs throughout the sawing motion.

The first thing to recognize is that, as your legs straighten, your center of gravity rises, and as they bend it lowers. To keep your center of gravity (and therefore the saw) moving forward and back, without moving up and down, your legs must work together. When the saw is all of the way into the block, your front knee is bent to almost 90 degrees while your back leg is straight (180 degrees). When the saw is all of the way back, your front leg is straight (180 degrees) while your back leg is bent to near 90 degrees. The transition between these positions must be as smooth as possible. For each



Andy and Erica Schreiner sawed unbelievably well during the 1999 season. Look out for this pair in 2000, as they are sure to turn several heads.

degree of straightening in one leg, there must be an equal bending of the other.

V. It takes two

Two-man sawing is a true team event. Sawing at a championship level requires an almost intuitive sense of what is happening to the saw and your partner throughout the cut. If you feel that your partner isn't giving you enough pressure during a cut, it often means that you are giving him too much pressure. If the saw is pulling hard coming to you, it may be going too easily toward him.

One of the most important parts of developing sawing teamwork is timing. Good timing is developed through training and practice as well as a conscious, mutual decision as to how you will make a given cut. The biggest obstacle to good timing is a hesitation in the stroke. Many otherwise good sawyers have a hesitation between the end of their push and when they begin to pull. I believe this is caused by two factors, one physiological and the other psychological. Firstly, a hesitation can be caused if the sawyer allows his arms to become completely straightened when all the way into the block. To avoid this, the arms should always be bent at least a few degrees. Secondly, it is important to think of the crosscut cycle, both push and pull, as one continuous motion rather than as two distinct movements.

Trivia Page

1. Who has won the All Around at the Lumberjack World Championships more than anyone else?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Dave Geer C. Matt Bush D. Dave Jewett E. Merv Lentz F. Ron Hartill.
2. Who has won the World Championship Standing Block at the Webster County Woodchopping Festival the most?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Arden Cogar Sr. C. Arden Cogar Jr. D. Rolin Eslinger
3. Who has won more All Around Titles at the Albany Timber Carnival?
A. Mervin Lentz B. Carson Bosworth C. Melvin Lentz D. Clayton Stewart
4. Who has been a partner to more World Championship Two Man teams than anyone else (ATC, WCWF, LWC, and FF)?
A. Matt Bush B. Jim Colbert C. Sven Johnson D. Melvin Lentz E. Mervin Lentz F. Dave Geer
5. Who has won more combined One Man Titles (ATC and LWC) than any other competitor?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Ron Hartill C. Merv Lentz D. Dave Jewett E. Little Bill Miller
6. Which United States Citizen's have won the 14" Standing Block World Title at the Lumberjack World Championships?
A. Matt Bush B. Arden Cogar Jr. C. Melvin Lentz D. Arden Cogar Sr.
7. Which of the following Axemen won the standing championships at Webster, Albany and PNE in the same year?
A. Arden Cogar Sr. B. Melvin Lentz C. Arden Cogar Jr.
8. Which of the following have won Championship Woodchops Down Under?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Rolin Eslinger C. Rob Wiabel D. Karl Bischoff
9. Who has won the Underhand at the Mountain State Forest Festival more than anyone else?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Arden Cogar Jr. C. Arden Cogar Sr. D. Dave Geer
10. Who has been a partner in more winning crosscut teams than anyone else at the Mountain State Forest Festival?
A. Dave Geer B. Arden Cogar Sr. C. Matt Bush C. Sven Johnson
11. Who has won the Axe Throwing more than anyone else at the Mountain State Forest Festival?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Dave Jewett C. Kirt Hall D. Mike Sullivan
12. Which team has won more 12" World Championship Two Man Titles at the Webster County Woodchopping Festival?
A. Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush B. Arden & Jack Cogar C. Mel Lentz & Rolin Eslinger D. John & Harry Burnsworth
13. Who has won more 13" World Championship Underhand Titles at the WCWF than anyone?
A. Melvin Lentz B. Rolin Eslinger C. Arden Cogar Sr. D. Arden Cogar Jr.
14. Which Individual has been associated with more World Championship Jack & Jill (LWC, ATC, and FF) Teams than anyone else?
A. Penny Halverson B. Dany Boulanger Duperre C. Jill Bush
D. Shirley "Sister" Bildeaux Smith E. Marian Colbert
15. Who is the only United States Citizen to make the final in the 13" Jigger board World Championship at the Royal Sydney Show?
A. Carson Bosworth B. Melvin Lentz
C. Mike Sullivan D. Mark Etcheberry
16. Which male has won more World Championship Log Rolling Titles than anyone else?
A. Phil Scott B. Dan McDonough C. Brian Duffy D. Jube Wickheim E. Ardy Wickheim

17. Which female has won more World Championship Log Rolling Titles than anyone else?

A. Cindy Cooke B. Bonnie Pendleton C. Judy Scheer-Hoeschler
D. Mary Jean Malott

18. Which competitors have won the One Man Crosscuts at the LWC, the ATC and the PNE

A. Bill Miller B. David Hocquard C. Melvin Lentz D. Dave Jewett E. Rolin Eslinger

19. Who was the first Australian to compete in an organized competition in North America?

A. Peter McLaren B. Tom Kirk C. Jim Rope D. Bill Johnston

20. Which North American Axeman has become known as the "Flying American."

A. Mark Etcheberry B. Melvin Lentz C. Quinn Shreve D. Carson Bosworth

21. Which North American Competitor is signified by "FBI"?

A. Dave Moses Jr. B. Dave Moses Sr. C. Jack Brown John D. Norm Gaudie

22. Which North American Competitor is known as the "Grape Ape?"

A. Moyal Conrad B. Tom Eno C. Rick Halverson D. "Little" Bill Miller

23. Which North American Competitor is known as the "Professor"

A. Dennis Daun B. Arden Cogar Jr. C. Dori Kistner D. Mike Slingerland

24. Which North American Competitor is known as "Crusty"?

A. Carson Bosworth B. Bill McGarry C. Wade Stewart D. Dennis Butler

25. Which North American Competitor is known as the "Grandfather of Woodchopping."

A. Dave Geer B. Arden Cogar Sr. C. Brian Herlihy D. Jim Colbert

26. Who has won the Speed Climbing World Championship at the LWC more than anyone else?

A. Dwight Carpenter B. Robert Scheer C. Wade Stewart D. Clarence Bartow

27. Who has won the Hot Saw World Championship at the LWC more than anyone else?

A. Sven Johnson B. Ron Johnson C. Rick Halverson D. Melvin Lentz

28. Which of the following competitors, in times past, became enraged when called "Junior"?

A. Dave Moses Jr. B. Harry Burnsworth Jr. C. Arden Cogar Jr. D. Bob Bosco Jr.

Training for the Sedentary or "Rhinestone Lumberjack"

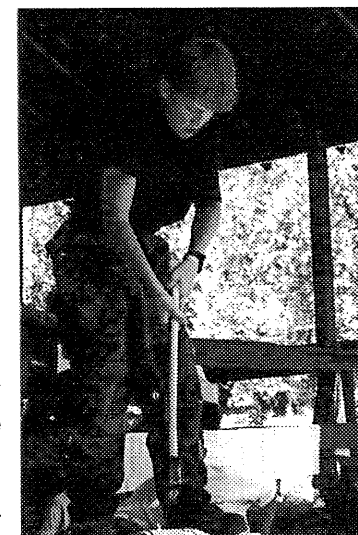
by Arden Cogar Jr. and Doug Currence

As we move into the Twenty First Century, the typical Lumberjack seems to do less and less. Not more than fifty years ago, Lumberjacks used axes and crosscut saws to fell and buck trees; now, Lumberjacks use Stihl Chainsaws and diesel powered skidders. Some Lumberjacks use TimberJacks thus no longer necessitating manual tree feeling.

As the logging industry has become more mechanized, the amount of physical labor performed by loggers has decreased. Moreover, with increased mechanization there is no need to have as many loggers. So what we've seen over the past twenty to thirty years is a gradual movement from the woods to the office, or at least an air conditioned cab. Accordingly, lumberjacks have grown a little soft as compared to their predecessors at the turn of the century or even mid century.

So, what's a lumberjack to do? We'll given that most of us have settled into a fairly sedentary lifestyle, we need some means by which to maintain our fitness. Fitness is a very elusive concept and varies from person to person. For example, while an axeman at the age of eighteen could work a sixteen hour day, drink and party for four hours, sleep for two hours and do it all over again, that doesn't necessarily mean that he or she is "fit."

Lumberjacks Sports competitions require a person to be "tough." "Tough" is not being able to bust beer cans on the your head or a matter of pain tolerance. "Tough" is about being able to withstand stress. For example, take Melvin Lentz; the man has nearly lost both of his legs, yet he still is able to work a full day and chop with the best; now that's tough. Melvin doesn't necessarily run, lift weights, or cross train; Melvin is genetically made of material that makes him as durable as leather and hard as nails.



Davey Dettmer, son of Rudy, of Youngstown, Ohio, sports some camouflage pants and some steel-toe shoes while cutting in the Underhand Boy's Chop at the Webster County Woodchopping Festival held in Webster Springs, West Virginia.

Now, for those of us that don't have the natural toughness, we have to do something to make ourselves tough. Some of us lift weights; others swim; some go to aerobics, but the simple fact is that one has to do something.

The purpose of this article is to give you an introduction to "toughness."

Toughness

To be tough, you have to be a little bit insane. You have to say to yourself, "I'm going to pick that up, and I don't care if my spine shoots pain to my whole body." You have to accept the fact that you have no limits, and you have to maintain a level of arrogance about yourself. Anyway, to be physically tough is different from being mentally tough. This article will focus on physical toughness; let your therapist or your conscience deal with your mental toughness.

To plan a training regimen is not necessary. Some people like to have everything laid out in front of them so they know where they are going. However, given the uncertainties of life, and given that the majority of the people reading this article don't compete in Lumberjack Sports for a job, it's best to think of things in terms of phases.

Phase I - foundation. Whether you're building a house or making yourself tough, you need to build a foundation. In Lumberjack Sports, you build a foundation by participating in countless hours of repetition after repetition, be it standing, underhand, single, or barbell curl. In the chopping arena, you begin building your foundation by first assessing your abilities, recognizing your technical weaknesses, and attempting to change your technical weaknesses by purposely altering the cause of the problem.

For example, Arden Cogar Jr. was having difficulty "holding" his wood on his drive side in the Underhand. When he reviewed the video tapes, he noticed that when he went to take his drive side blows, his left heel came off the block. Accordingly, Arden Cogar Jr. attempted to eliminate all foot movement while he cuts his underhands; he spent approximately twenty to thirty hours practicing not moving his feet while he cuts. It was very difficult to break the habit, but once he trained himself to do it under race conditions, everything had a way of working itself out.

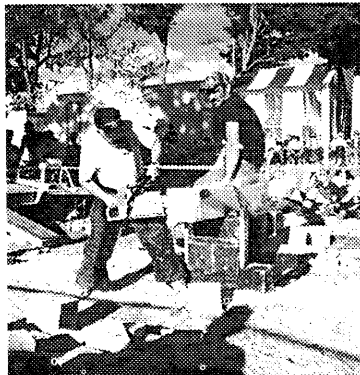
Now, back to foundation. In Lumberjack Sports you first need to develop your wind. To develop your wind, you will need to be able to develop increased exercise or great pain tolerance or increased exertion over an extended period of time. Some people benefit from jogging or sprinting. Others prefer swimming as it taxes the entire body. But here's a thought that may prove worth something; find an activity that makes you feel as winded as you did when you're actually performing the event. For example, Mike Slingerland rows on a rowing machine. Mike rows at maximum output for approximately twenty minutes per day. Although you can't tell by his overly svelte figure, Mike is extremely fit and capable of prolonged exposure to Lumberjack Sports related events. What's Mike's secret? He's developed wind by training his body to adapt to the event.

Foundation is about timing. Given that the North American season lasts from May until October, it's best that you start building your foundation in the early spring, say for example, January or February. Perform various "cardio" exercises, as no one type of physical activity is better than another. Do some weight training, but weight training is a matter of personal preference as static training will result in shortened muscle fibers and shortened arcs in swings or strokes. Therefore, stick with exercises that tax the body such as swimming, running, or wood splitting. Wood splitting should be the exercise of preference given that the Lumberjack Sports competitor needs to have an axe in his or her hands for as long as he can stand it. If you choose to lift weights, stick with basic exercises such as squats, bench presses, deadlifts, barbell rows, pull-ups, pullovers, barbell curls, and possibly, power cleans or clean and jerks.

Phase II - the conditioning

Conditioning is a matter of taking the foundation that you have built and applying it to the events for which you are training. For example some competitors like to begin chopping and sawing under race conditions at this stage of the development. Normally, this would occur around late March or early April. The idea behind conditioning is to prepare you body for improvement and let it readjust to swinging an axe or using a crosscut saw under extreme conditions. Accordingly, at this stage you will take extremely big timbers (15"+ for chopping and 20"+ for sawing) and work on slow methodical hits and strokes. It's a matter of quantity versus quality at this stage.

The main thrust behind this stage of development is to try to gain the mechanics of a proper swing or stroke. In doing so, your body will become well acclimated to using a saw or axe. While the training may seem methodical, it is meant to condition your body to repeated blows that are of the same consistency and same nature. Thus, you are training your body to do the same thing over and over again. This is why so many of the top axemen and sawyers look so fluid when they chop or saw; they've trained their bodies to do the same thing over and over again.



Lorney Ebare shows what a big 088 Stihl can do to a 10 x 10 Aspen.

At this stage of development you will incorporate increased intensity in your cardio exercises but shorten the duration substantially. All told, the time you are taking away from your foundation exercises will be caught up by your actual event training.

Phase III - putting it together

The next stage of development involves putting your toughness with your fitness. Take smaller logs and race them as though you we're racing in a competition. Video tape the endeavor; that way you can see how you're doing. Better yet, "match race" a competitor who is similar in skill.

"Match racing" is the concept behind the GO Games. You take the best axemen; you break them off into twos give them mate logs, and have them race against each other until you have a winner who's either beaten everyone or who remains undefeated in the races. Basically, take two mate blocks (five foot section of tree cut in half) and give your opponent the mate block. Set up the blocks in stands that are approximately fifteen feet apart. Have someone give you a cadence and race. The winner is the winner. If you have to, bet a beer or a dinner or even a "5 spot" to make it interesting.

If you're not fortunate enough to have a competitor of comparable skill to "match race", simply handicap the event to make it interesting. If you're a better skilled axeman, handicap the devil out of yourself and go like gangbuster: to beat your opponent.

Phase IV - in season

Don't race as many logs as you did in Phase III. If you have a show on Saturday, train on Monday and Wednesday night. Cut about four to five blocks at 85 percent speed. On Thursday night, hard hit an underhand or standing block with a good axe; perhaps, do a stroke test comparing your single buck saws. Axe throw if you want to; everyone loves training for that event! However, try to avoid full speed racing; save it for Saturday.

If you see yourself going off, or you're not competing as well as up should be, try video taping your training. At this time, train at full tilt. That way you can see what you're doing wrong and try to alter your technique. Things happen during the course of summer. Sometimes you're on sometimes you're not. The simple fact is that you have to deal with it and try to peak for the big shows.

Answers to the Trivia Questions

1. A. Melvin Lentz of Diana, West Virginia has won the Tony Wise All-Around at the LWC nine times, two more than second place man Ron Hartill - seven times. Both Dave Geer and Mervin Lentz, Melvin's father, have won the coveted title four times. Matt Bush has garnered the Tony Wise All around three times, with Dave Jewett rounding out the field with two victories.
2. B. Arden Cogar Sr. Arden Cogar Sr. won this event an amazing eighteen times from 1964 until 1985. Melvin Lentz was second on the all time list with nine victories. The next one on the list is Arden Cogar Jr. as he has won the title three times in the last four years. Rolin Eslinger and Dave Geer are the only two remaining competitors to win the event more than once.
3. C. Melvin Lentz. Melvin Lentz won this event an amazing sixteen consecutive times from 1981 until 1996. Carson Bosworth is the current champion and won the event in 1998. Both Ron Hartill and Mervin Lentz won the all around at the ATC eight times. Hap Johnson won the all around four times, and Clayton Stewart won the all around twice.
4. E. Dave Geer by a landslide. Dave Geer won the Forest Festival five times, the Webster County Woodchopping festival eight times, the Albany Timber Carnival twice, and the Lumberjack World Championships four times for a total of nineteen world championships. Jim Colbert was second with twelve victories (FF - 3, WCWF - 3, ATC - 1, LWC - 5) and was the only person other than Dave Geer to win championships at all four places. Sven Johnson and Arden Cogar Sr. were next with eleven victories (Arden: FF - 4, WCWF - 5, LWC - 2; Sven: FF-2, WCWF - 3, LWC - 6). Next on the list with ten victories was Matt Bush and Mel Lentz (Matt: FF-4, WCWF - 3, LWC - 3; Mel: WCWF - 4, ATC - 5, LWC - 1) the next person on the list is Mike Slingerland (FF-4, WCWF - 3, LWC - 2)
5. A. Melvin Lentz. Melvin Lentz has won the singles at the ATC and the LWC a combined fourteen times (nine at the ATC and five at the LWC). A close second is Ron Hartill is thirteen times (ATC - six, LWC - seven). Merv Lentz was third (ATC - seven, LWC - five), Rolin Eslinger was fourth with five wins (ATC - once, LWC - four). Little Bill Miller is fifth with four wins (ATC - three, LWC - once). Dave Jewett is sixth with three (ATC - twice, LWC - once). Other than David Hocquard and Merv Jensen, these are the only fellows ever to win singles at both the ATC and LWC.



J.R. Salzman gives Gunther Stolze a taste of the water at the Log Rolling World Championships held in Gladstone, Wisconsin.

6. Neither Arden Cogar Jr. nor Matt Bush have won the 14" Standing Block at the LWC. The only two Americans to win the event in the 37 years of the LWC are Arden Cogar Sr. and Melvin Lentz. Melvin has won the event six times and Arden Cogar Sr. won the event five times.
7. All three axemen have done it! Melvin Lentz did it 1988, 1991, and 1993. Arden Cogar Sr. did it 1970 and 1974. Arden Cogar Jr. did it in 1994.
8. All of these Axemen have won championship Woodchops Down Under. To the editor's knowledge, as of March 2, 2000 these four individuals are the only North Americans to win championship chops in Australia/New Zealand. Melvin Lentz has won various titles including the 15" World Championship Underhand at Sydney. Rolin Eslinger won two championships in Australia, one in Tasmania in 1980 and another in Victoria in 1985 (both Standing Blocks). Rob Waibel won a championship Underhand in NSW and Karl Bischoff is the only North American ever to win a three board jigger board championship; to top it off, Karl's victory was at one of New Zealand's biggest events - the "Golden Axe" in Tokoroa, New Zealand. The event is called the Golden Axe because the winner of the "aggregate", the equivalent of the North American all-around, receives a solid gold axe (valued at up to \$5,000).
9. C. Arden Cogar Sr. Arden Cogar Sr. won this event an amazing sixteen times from 1958 until 1986. Melvin Lentz has managed five wins while Dave Geer walked away with nine wins between 1953 until 1976. Arden Cogar Jr. has managed only one win but he, Melvin Lentz and Arden Cogar Sr. are the only people ever to cut a 10x10 yellow poplar faster than fourteen seconds. Jim Colbert won the event twice (1979 and 1988).
10. A. Dave Geer. Dave Geer has been part of seven winning teams at the Forest Festival. Although not listed as a choice, a close second is Harry Burnsworth with six wins. Rounding out the list with five Arden Cogar Sr, Bill Cogar, Paul Cogar, Delmar Taylor and Jack Cogar. With four wins, Jim Colbert, Mike Slingerland, Matt Bush, Gib Engel, and Rudy Dettmer. Note that the editor did not have information on this event that preceded 1960, per the word of Arden Cogar Sr., Dalton Currence won the event at least ten times during his career teamed with either Jack Taylor or Junior Currence.
11. D. Mike Sullivan. The axe throwing has only been around fifteen years at the Forest Festival and Mike Sullivan has won the event three times. Dave Jewett, Kirt Hall, Jim Colbert, Jerry Scutt, and Melvin Lentz have each won the event twice. Note Kirt Hall has placed second six times and third twice (talk about consistency).
12. B. Arden & Jack Cogar. Believe it or not, but Arden & Jack Cogar won the WCWF five times prior to 1976. Dave Geer teamed with more people to win the event, but could only manage three wins with Rudy Dettmer, two wins with Jack Buhler, two wins with Gib Engil, and one win with Sven Johnson. Melvin and Rolin Eslinger won the event four times and still hold the record of 8.14. John & Harry Burnsworth, Mike Slingerland & Matt Bush each won the event three times and Mike Sullivan and Jim Colbert won the event twice (note Jim won the event in 1987 with Rolin Eslinger)
13. C. Arden Cogar Sr. Not by much, but Arden Cogar Sr. won the Underhand championship at the WCWF eleven times. A close second is Melvin Lentz with ten, with his most current victory being 1999. Tied for third, and a major drop off of two are Arden Cogar Jr., Rolin Eslinger and Dave Geer. No other competitor has had multiple wins in the championship underhand at the WCWF.
14. This one will blow everyone's mind. Joan & Junior Currence won the Jack & Jill Crosscut sawing sixteen times between 1954 and 1978. Joan & Junior never competed outside of West Virginia, but the Forest Festival has the longest running man-woman crosscut sawing event in North America. Of the remaining Lumberjills, "Sister" Smith is tops with six victories (ATC-five and LWC-one). Marian Colbert, Dany Duperre and Penny Halverson each have five victories (Penny LWC - Five times most by anyone in history of LWC, Marian LWC-three, FF-twice, and Dany LWC- one, FF-four).
15. D. Everyone's beloved Mark Etcheberry is the only North American to make the final in the 13" Jigger at the Sydney show. Neither Mike nor Melvin, to the editor's knowledge, have even entered the event, and Carson Bosworth entered the event in 1997 and nearly made the final (beaten out by two blows).
16. D. Jube Wickheim. Between 1956 and 1969, Jube Wickheim won the title ten times. One more than two legends of the game - Dan McDonough and Phil Scott. The next in line for number of titles is Jim Running with seven who won his last title in 1953. Wilbur N. Marx won the title six times prior to 1933. Brian Duffy is next on the career list of wins with Five, followed by Fred Scheer and Ardy Wickheim (Jube's brother), who each won the title four times.
17. B and C. Both Bonnie Pendleton and Judy Scheer-Hoeschler have won the world championship seven



The ladies of the New York Professional Lumberjacks' Association stand proud and stand tall as the largest organization associated with lumberjack sports in North America.

- times. A close second, although not listed as a choice is current champion Tina Salzman with six world championships. Rounding out the list, both Mary Jean Malott and Bette Ellis Toothaker have five world titles to their credit; while Cindy Cook has four, Jenny Janke, Virginia Hansen, and Julie Janke each have four.
18. Believe it or not, all five competitors have won singles at these prestigious events. As a matter of fact, these individuals, if you add Mervin Lentz are the only men to have the distinction to win all three of these events during their lumberjack careers.
19. D. Bill Johnston. Peter McLaren would argue this from the grave, but under the modern era (since WWII), Bill Johnston visited the United States in 1961. Bill came by himself and won nearly all the chopping events he attended. Bill set a record in 10x10 white pine that stood for nearly ten years - 14.2 seconds. The following year, Jim Rope came with Bill; Jim was a much younger axeman and bested all comers. The following year, Tom Kirk visited the United States. Tom was nearing fifty, but his axemanship was unparalleled winning the underhand and standing at the ATC in records that stood for nearly five years. For those of you who don't know it, the editor has video tape of all these axeman competing at the ATC and the LWC courtesy of Dave Geer.
20. D. Carson Bosworth has this distinction. Everyone knows that Carson is the only axeman who regularly jumps off his second board after he completes a cut in the Springboard. Well, one time in New Zealand, Carson did the same thing he always does; unfortunately, he had forgotten he was in New Zealand. Carson's nine foot drop turned out to be a twelve foot drop as he was three boards high. Despite the added height, like a cat, Carson landed on his feet.
21. D. Norm Gaudie. Norm is nearly two and half feet across the shoulders; he stands about six foot three and probably weighs about two eighty. He's not fat; he's big. Moreover, he's a native. Therefore, we can't say what "FBI" stands for, but you can figure it out. He and Jack Brown John are cousins of a sort, but I believe that's tribal. Norm is a very competent axeman whom very few North Americans know about. He has won numerous Underhands, Standings, and Springboards throughout British Columbia but has never traveled "back east." Norm is a pleasant fellow who will literally knock the wind out of you with a simple pat on the back; he is likely the only axeman on the lumberjack circuit throughout the entire world who's stronger than Jason Wynyard.
22. D. "Little Bill" Miller. A mountain of a man who's built more like a defensive tackle than a typical lumberjack, he stands six foot four and weighs three hundred pounds, Little Bill is known as the Grape Ape. Bill sports matching purple socks, shirts, and hats when he competes in Lumberjack Competitions and is truly one of America's top sawyers when he has the right equipment.
23. D. Mike Slingerland. Mike can't say "I don't know." Educated at Columbia University and a qualifier for Mensa, Mike is as knowledgeable and almost as intelligent as his father, Dick Slingerland. Dori Kistner runs a close second, but doesn't pontificate her knowledge of everything under the sun as Mike does. For those of you who don't know it, Dory should have finished her doctorate in Oceanography, or is it Marine Biology? I can never remember. Dennis and Arden Jr. are just closet hacks who wish they were as smart as Mike.
24. C. Wade Stewart. While we can't state why or how Wade got this nickname, we are sure all the other fellows on the list could get the same nickname if the truth were told.
25. B. Arden Cogar Sr. Arden Sr. says it's because he's "the oldest that still beats the youngens." Truth be told, Arden Sr. has brought more people into Lumberjack Sports than probably any other man associated with the sport. Arden has spent countless hours training and assisting younger competitors in their development as well as sharing techniques for the grinding and stoning of axes. A true philanthropist of Lumberjack Sports, Arden has devoted countless hours and dollars to the development of the Lumberjack Circuit. Without Arden, the WVAA would not have it's twenty wood chop schedule nor would it have the stands, lathe, or participants. Hat's off to Arden Sr., my father. Son's proud of ya pops, even though you'll probably never read this.
26. A. Dwight Carpenter. Dwight Carpenter is the champion of the speed climb winning this coveted World Title seven times during his career. The next highest win total goes to Marvin Trudeau and Dennis Butler, two fellows not on the list, who both garnered four titles. Several competitors have won the event three times - Clarence Bartow, Robert Scheer and Wade Stewart. Sean Duffy, Guy German, Ed Johnson, and Armand Didler each won the event twice.
27. A. Sven Johnson. Sven Johnson is the modern father of the Hot Saw as he won the LWC 10 times prior to 1987. His son, Ron, is a close second, winning the world title eight times. After that, the number of championships drops off substantially with Dave Geer at four. Both Rick Halverson and Gaston Duperre won the title three times with Mel Lentz being a two time winner. From 1967 until 1990, a span of twenty three years, Sven and Ron Johnson won the world championship eighteen times; often more than not, when father won, son was second; when son won, father was second. It was truly amazing to watch the Johnson run of the 1970's and 1980's.
28. C. Odds are Little Harry would get a bit annoyed too, as he is now known as "Deuce" instead of Junior. Dave Moses Jr. is easy going and proud to carry on the legacy. However, Junior in Appalachia has negative connotations commensurate with the, literally, "closely knit" communities. Hence, at least initially, Junior got a little peeved when the name was used. Not anymore, as years of therapy have helped him deal with his anger. *Editor's note, that's bull**** but entertaining.*

Report from The Australian Axemen's Association

I would like to congratulate NAAN on their annual publication. The information contained proves to be valuable reading and certainly enables supporters of logging sports world wide to keep abreast of happenings on a wide spectrum.

As President of the Australian Axemens Association, I would also like to commend the United States Axemen's Association on the progress that is being made by that organisation. The benefits of unification far outweigh the perceived disadvantages. I am sure that the USAA experiences similar problems to our AAA due to the vast areas we have to serve. The advent of the Internet and E/Mail capabilities has improved communication capabilities and so administrative problems are reduced immeasurably.

The excellent maintenance of the Lumberjack site is greatly appreciated by supporters in this country. We as an organization hope to have our own site up and running in the near future.

The sport of Woodchopping in Australia continues to maintain a high profile within the major Royal Shows conducted in each state capital throughout the year.

I am delighted to see that a team of competitors from the U.S and Canada will be attending the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of an annual event.

I am certain that the team will provide a valuable boost to the International Teams Race which is held on an annual basis at the Show.

Last year for the first time, Australia and New Zealand "locked horns" on the main arena at night under lights in front of more than 40 000 spectators. The atmosphere was electric and the closeness of the event provided a memorable spectacle.

The U.S team can look forward to a similar experience in 2000.

Included with this note is information relating to the two single most exciting wood chopping events ever conducted in this country. They were the World Series of Woodchopping carnivals conducted in the State of Tasmania in 1970 and 1974 respectively.

Teams from Canada and the USA competed in this event and left everlasting fond memories for Tasmanians in particular.

Perhaps this information will refresh the memories of competitors who toured here during that series.

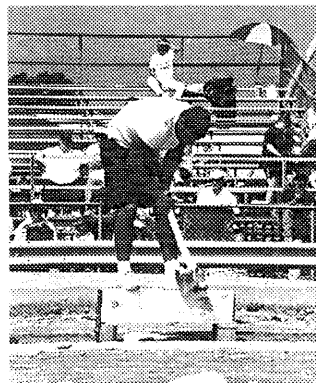
Once again congratulations to NAAN on a great publication, and I look forward to seeing the US team in Sydney in a few short weeks.

Regards - Denzil Munday
President, Australian Axemens Association.

LUMBERJACK SPORTS LOSES A FRIEND - JIM MARIER 1921-1999

by Ryan Hatfield

Jim Marier, a long-time timber sports competitor, passed away this spring. To most current competitors, Jim would better be known as Mike Forrester's Grandpa. Jim was born in New Mexico. They moved to Wyoming when he was young, and this is where he began his life-long career of working in the woods, at the age of thirteen. In 1941, he married Bonnie Kennaday, his lifelong partner. Jim competed in timbersports for nearly thirty years and was an accomplished axe thrower and hot sawyer. Jim won the open axe throw at Albany three times and was one of the very best in the 70's. One of Jim's biggest highlights as a competitor was in the late 60's when he and his partner, Doc Parrot, entered the novice double buck at Albany and their time beat even the open professionals. Jim didn't always have all the luck, however. At the Northwest Timber Championships one year, he was the unfortunate victim of a hot saw blowup that severed the main artery in his wrist, forcing him to have emergency surgery. Jim also had the reputation of being an excellent saw filer, both for green timber and for racing. He filed many of the saws used on the California and Oregon circuit when they still used the old pegs. But above all, Jim was known as a good, hardworking family man. He and Mike were very close from Mike's childhood clear up until the time of Jim's death. They spent an incredible amount of time hunting, fishing, and even working together. He was still running cat and falling timber at age 75 for Honey Creek Logging and Excavation, the business he founded. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as digging for gems with his wife. Jim was one of the most respected competitors on the west coast, and this was



Mark Schaub of upstate New York is the North American Axeman's News' Most Improved Axeman for 1999. Mark competed quite well during the 1999 season, winning the Handicap Underhand Chop in Webster Springs and placing quite highly in several New York State competitions. Hats off to Mark for his training and hopes for an even more improved 2000 season.

shown by the turnout of current and former competitors at his funeral this April. Logging sports will miss him. *NOTE THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT TO THE NAAN ANONYMOUSLY. WE DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT, BUT WHOEVER WROTE THIS HAS AN APPRECIATION FOR LUMBERJACK SPORTS THAT IS PARALLELED WITH THE EDITOR. HAT'S OFF TO THIS MYSTERY AUTHOR. Editor's note, at first I thought maybe Melvin Lentz wrote this article as it was post marked "Webster Springs;" however, the handwriting on the envelope wasn't Melvin's. The post mark may be reflective of my mother sending it to me. What I found interesting was that it was made out to Jamie Cogar with a return address of Arden Cogar. The addresses were the same on both mailing and return. The envelope original post mark is illegible. Whoever this mystery author is, please come forward. My hat goes off to you. I feel you should be acknowledge for a very insightful work. Only people who have cut at Sydney will notice one inaccuracy with this article - the rest is pure art.*

The clock on the microwave in Stephen Switchman's small kitchen read 1:45 a.m. and he was doing what he often did when his dream awoke him in the middle of the night. Staring at the empty package of cookies and then into his nearly empty milk glass, he was thinking about this dream. The same dream (with slight variations) he has had now for over five years. Was it a curse or his destiny? He didn't really know. He tried to answer by telling himself it had made him who he was today. But that supplied little clarity. Was the man sitting in this small kitchen and in an even smaller cabin better off than he was a half decade ago? He often longed for his old life but only a momentary flash of his dream would remind him of his purpose. As he gulped down the last of his Chips Ahoy laden milk he thought about the day ahead and other than a small list of errands, his day was all his own. As he creaked back to his bed he took some comfort in knowing that tomorrow very little would sidetrack him from continuing toward his dream. Stephen did not consider himself a big man, but years of training and stuffing as many calories down his throat as he could had put him over two hundred pounds. His blonde hair was cut as it had been for as long as anyone could remember and keeping it in a short crew cut meant frequent trips to the barbershop. For most people going to the barber is an inconvenience, but for Stephen it was an opportunity to add to his much-envied collection of sharpening stones.

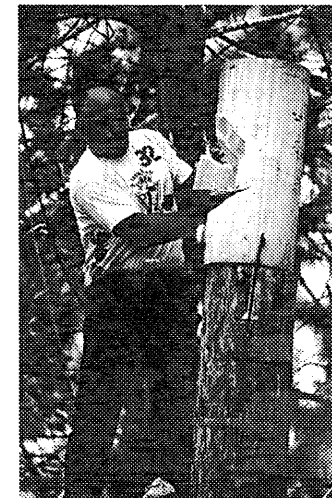
The morning was a typical September in Northwestern Montana, chilly at 6:00 a.m. but Stephen remembered the radio weatherman's warning of hot winds from the south and temperatures soaring into the 90s. Stephen had the radio on most of the day, it was his only companion and even though he despised country music it was better than the Christian station which was the only other station he could pick up. He had a nice collection of music on CDs but when he put one on they felt so impersonal, at least with the radio there was a real life person involved even if the communication was only one way.

To help beat the heat Stephen laced on his running shoes without eating any breakfast. He ran his usual loop about three miles down his gravel driveway to the highway, up the road a mile to a logging road that goes back to the cliff just above his cabin. It wasn't a long run, but he always struggled to keep his pace, even after living here for two years he still wasn't used to the altitude.

Stephen had moved to Cherry Montana about a year after his divorce from Samantha. Stephen and Sam had a very amicable relationship; arguing most of the times about the lack of quality time Stephen spent with his six-year-old daughter, Audrey. When Audrey was born Stephen had felt more love toward her that he thought was humanly possible. But eventually his dream had come between him and Audrey, just as it had separated Stephen from everything in his former life.

Cherry was a tiny town of about 1,500 people. Even though it was isolated and pretty much undiscovered by the rest of the world, the incredible fishing and sheer beauty of the area made tourism Cherry's most important industry. After his divorce he spent most of the next year on the road spending his free time at other competitors homes or at his parents place. He chose Cherry as his next home with some thought, but he basically closed his eyes and stuck his finger on the map. He knew he wanted to get far away from his family. He wanted to be towards the middle of the country so his drives to completions on either coast would not be so long and finally he needed to be in a wooded area so he'd have plenty of access to an abundant supply of training wood.

After his run Stephen had his usual breakfast, two raw egg whites, two whole raw eggs, some protein powder, some frozen fruit (this morning it was blueberries and a banana) and some organic soy milk. He blended all the ingredients into a shake and gulped it down without a thought



Gus Carlson, a building contractor from Tall Moon, Minnesota, nearing an age where he is eligible for receiving social security, shows you're never too old to beat the "young bucks" in the Spring Board.

to its taste. He looked at his "to do" list, he had a few phone calls to make and needed to make a trip into town. He decided to call Samantha first, she had called a couple of days ago, He never intended to avoid Sam and Audrey but he still felt as though he had let them down and he knew if he put off calling them back any longer it would probably never happen. Although the guilt he felt was not overwhelming, he could not help but be uncomfortably apologetic when speaking to Samantha.

Samantha picked up before the first ring could finish.

"Hello?"

"Hi, it's me."

"Well hello me, you just missed your daughter."

"Why, where did she go?"

"She just got on the bus."

There was a pause as Stephen realized that Audrey had started Kindergarten, he had missed his daughters first day of school.

"Oh Sam, I wish I could have been there."

"I wish you WOULD have been here too. Why don't you call back tonight."

There was another pause. Samantha knew this was her cue to ask about Stephens's weekend.

"What show was last weekend? Sam said with friendly interest.

"Booneville."

"And how did it go?"

"It could've been better."

"What does that mean?"

"Oh I don't know, I just could have done a little better."

"Did you get any firsts?"

"Yeah, I won the springboard and single-buck."

"Is that guy still here?"

"Which guy?"

"The one from Australia, the big one."

"You mean Richard?"

"Yeah, was he there?"

"Yeah."

"And you beat him in the single-buck, that's great. Did you place in anything else?"

"Yeah, I was second in the other two chops and was fifth in the hot saw."

"That sounds pretty good to me, did you win the all around?"

"No, Matt Bush won it by a mile."

"Did Richard win the underhand and the standing?"

"Yeah, he's pretty unbelievable."

"When is he leaving?"

Not until after the Stihl finals in August."

"Doesn't he have a new baby?"

"Yeah."

"Well how can he stay away for that long?"

"He says he's not coming back next year."

"That must make you happy."

"Oh I don't know."

"Well why not?"

"I can't beat him if he's not here."

"Aren't you planning on going to Australia again this winter?"

"Yeah."

"Well there you go. You'll have plenty of chances to beat him there."

"It will be harder in his own wood."

"I'm sure you'll find a way."

The conversation continued until Sam had to leave for work.

Richard Lyle was arguably the best axeman in the world. He rarely lost in Australia and since he started coming to America five years ago he had only lost a couple of times in the underhand and standing, but Stephen had started beating Richard in the single-buck this year. At 30, Richard was in the prime of his career. He was a huge man, standing about six-foot-four-inches and weighing over 300lbs. His father was also a champion axeman and Richard had won his first chop at the age of twelve by out cutting other boys five years older than him.

Richard was one of the main characters in Stephen's reoccurring dream. And likewise he is the main reason why Stephen started having these same dreams five years ago. The dream wasn't ever exactly the same, but the theme was always constant. It was at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. All the best choppers and sawyers were there. The

announcer would read off the men competing in the championship (The championship would vary sometimes it was the underhand, sometimes the standing, sometimes the single.) And of course the dream would culminate with Stephen, arms raised, dancing around the arena after winning the event.

When the dreams began Stephen thought he could use them to his advantage, help keep him motivated during the gray and unending winter. And to this end they worked. He entered the next season more prepared and in better condition than he had ever been. By most standard that summer went great. Stephen placed higher, won more all arounds, and made more money than he ever had. But he never seemed happy with his accomplishments and even worse; things began to worsen at home. Audrey had been born the winter before (just before his dreams had begun.) And for a while everything seemed to be working smoothly. Stephen loved the baby, but with Samantha home full time, Stephen had more time on his hands. He was able to commit himself to getting stronger and that seemed fine with Sam. But when summer rolled around it was time for Samantha to go back to work, which was very bad timing for Stephen to be gone every weekend. Sometimes he would get back from a contest just in time to repack and leave again. For Samantha it was too much. Toward the end of the summer Samantha began to make more demands on Stephen's time. Stephen generally compromised and would stay home more, but he did it bitterly and for the first time in their relationship Samantha and Stephen began to fight. Their sex life withered and the only communication they now had was jockeying their schedules.

"Stephen, I need you to watch the baby this Thursday, I have a very important meeting."

"Sam you know I have to leave Thursday morning to be in Wisconsin by Friday night."

"Well, what am I supposed to do with Audrey?"

"I guess that's your problem."

"Stephen that's the problem--it shouldn't always be my responsibility."

And so it would go, every week, nearly every day, both of them fighting for time and Samantha was getting tired of being the loser. Their relationship was on the verge of collapse when the unthinkable happened. Upon returning home from a particularly successful trip to British Columbia Samantha noticed something unusual about her husband.

"Stephen, What's that on your neck?"

Stephen instantly knew he was caught. As he searched for a lie he saw Samantha beginning to tremble and before he could open his mouth Samantha screamed.

"You've got a goddamn hickey on your neck! You fucking piece of shit," she yelled.

Stephen stumbled back, nearly falling as his legs buckled. In all the years he'd known her he'd never heard her speak like this.

"How could you do this?" The tears swelling at the corners of her eyes.

Stephen knew it was too late to make up a story now. The look on his face had certainly given him away. He opened his mouth but nothing would come out.

"I'm...I'm..." he stammered.

"You're what?" Holding back the tears. She felt a new surge of anger sweep through her body like electricity.

"You're a lying, cheating bastard." She said with her hands on her hips and her head bobbing from side to side like she was Aretha Franklin and all she wanted was a little R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

"I'm sorry," Stephen squeaked.

"No, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I ever met you. I'm sorry I married you."

Walking toward Stephen with her finger pointed at him like a fencing dueler about ready to run him through.

"I'm sorry I'm the mother of your child, you...you...you fucking piece of shit."

Stephen thought maybe these were the only curse words she knew. But they were no less effective the second time around. Looking completely composed she turned from him, crossed her arms and said calmly at the floor,

"I think you should get your things and leave now."

"But Sam..." With a wave of the back of her hand she cut him off.

"Please...just leave."

Stephen stood for a minute; his palms outstretched like a slave willing to be sacrificed. Then he put his arms by his sides looked at the duffel bag that, just minutes ago, he had walked into the door with. He picked it up and walked up stairs, where amazingly enough his daughter was still sleeping in her crib. He grabbed a few clean clothes, shoved them in with his dirty ones already in the bag, walked downstairs, where Samantha was no where to be seen, got in his truck and drove away.

After Stephen's phone conversation with Samantha, he went outside to do some training. One of Stephen's secrets was that he often used a training metradome when chopping or sawing. The swing of the musical metradome helped him keep a constant pace through the wood. He also set up a camcorder and he'd study his technique over and over. When he was at home, Stephen had a regular routine of training for two hours in the morning, then working on his equipment during the day before practicing for two or more hours just before dark. Stephen's goal was to train harder and more intelligently than anyone else in the sport and his commitment was paying off.

When chopping wood, Stephen usually had the same amount of blows as Richard Lyle. But Richard had incredible

axe speed and would therefore be a second or two ahead of Stephen. Stephen knew it was now time to work on his speed and he had been speeding up the methadone gradually over the last couple of weeks. Today he moved it one more notch. He timed each swing of the methadone with a stopwatch. In ten seconds the pendulum had traveled each way 12 times. If he could learn to chop at this pace he would be hitting the block more than once per second. It wasn't easy but in a couple of weeks Stephen thought he was there. On video his form looked good and he hadn't lost any power.

Stephen left Cherry for the next show feeling confident that he was ready for Richard. During the long drive to Canada, Stephen thought about his dream. He saw himself dancing around the Sydney showgrounds like Cinderella at the King's ball. He knew this weekend he would make a statement: "Stephen Switchman had arrived."

At the contest were several good competitors but everyone's attention was focused on Richard. The wood was poplar; soft and small. About 12 inches in the underhand, 11 inches in the standing, 10 in the springboard and 21-inch White Pine in the single and double-buck. Stephen drew decent blocks in the standing and springboard, but his underhand looked to be the hardest of the bunch. He decided in the underhand he would just chop his best, but in the standing he would go for it. He cut the underhand first and later he knew his time wasn't good enough to win but it would at least get him in the money. He cut the standing in the third and final heat. Richard was also in his heat. Stephen figured he could cut this block with six hits in front and eight hits in the back, if he were quick he would have it off in less than 14 seconds. But would that be good enough to beat Richard? Probably not.

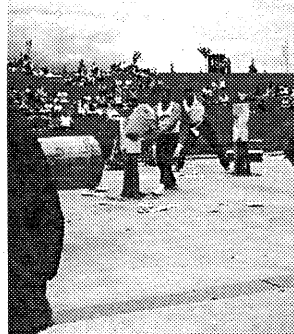
He had intended to open with a round of two and two followed by two drivers (two hits upwards into the block, followed by two hits downward, then two final hits upwards again). The front went as planned upon turning to the back he was confident that he was halfway through. He started the back with another round of two and two (two up and two down), on his fourth hit the block wiggled, he knew it was ready to go. He reached back with everything he had and struck the same slot from which the axe had just came. The block wiggled again--just one more, but as he drew his axe from the wood he immediately recognized something was wrong. He glanced toward his axe but it wasn't there, just the splintered end of a handle. He looked to Richard and as the top half of Richard's block careened through the air their eyes met. Richard's eyes grew wide thinking he'd been beaten, but just as quickly a smile spread across his face. As Richard walked past he smacked Stephen on the back. "Tough luck kid." Stephen turned, wanting to explain to Richard that he would have won, instead he looked down one more time to where his axe should have been. It wasn't Stephens best competition but he still walked away with over \$1,000.

Stephen was able to cut against Richard only a few more times before the season was over. Although he beat Richard again in the single-buck, he was never able to beat the champion in the standing or the underhand chop. Now Stephen had five months before he would see Richard again. This time it would be on his turf at the Royal Sydney Show. He had his work cut out for him if he had any chance of answering the dream that had driven him for so many years.

The last couple of years Stephen had spent the first weeks after the season at Sam's and then his parents. He looked forward to spending some quality time with Audrey and fixing things around the house. But this year Stephen felt he didn't have a few weeks to spare, he was going to need everyday between now and Easter to beat the best axeman in the world. Samantha did not take the news well, for she still enjoyed spending time with Stephen and it was definitely good for Audrey. She felt she had lost the last piece of Stephen she had. Lumberjack Sports had completely consumed him. There was no room in his life for them or anything else for that matter. But the thing that upset her most was that he looked tired and miserable, like he was carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. "I hope he finds what he's looking for," thought Samantha.

Stephen spent the winter getting stronger, faster and better. He left for Australia five weeks before the Sydney show. It was his sixth trip down Under every year he got better and every year the trip became less enjoyable, until now it was just a business trip. It was 60 degrees warmer in Australia than it had been in Montana, and after the first woodchop Stephen's hands were covered in blisters. (Well as every axemen knows, there is only one way to toughen up your hands.) So every morning Stephen would pee on his hands first thing and in a week they were rock hard again. At the first woodchop they put Stephen on his handicaps he had last year. Stephen figured he'd have no chance of winning with those marks, but he wasn't going to complain. This particular show was very small only drawing axemen from around the area.

The events consisted of two underhand handicaps, two standing handicaps and an underhand championship. Stephen easily won his heats and to his surprise won both finals. This made the local axemen a little upset and



Carson Bosworth of Bonner's Ferry, Idaho/Geneva, Wisconsin, bests Melvin Lentz in the Standing Block Competition at the Albany Timber Carnival in Albany, Oregon, and also repeated as the All-Around Champion.

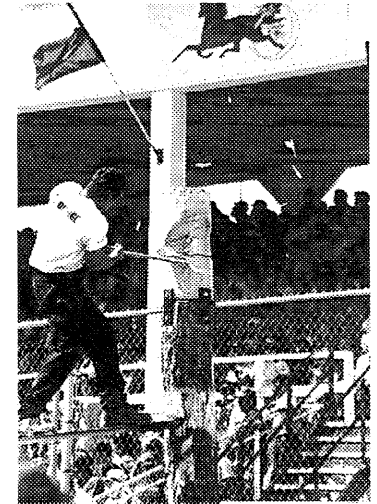
they started to grumble about Stephen's marks, but the handicapper would only raise the marks the appropriate amount for winning these two morning events. After tea was the 13-inch underhand championship. Stephen hadn't planned to enter the championship, but as the back marker, he was obligated to participate. Stephen won again. Now the other axemen really started giving Stephen the evil eye. "I guess all that training has paid off," Stephen thought to himself. After a long span of muffled cursing and sideways glances, Stephen looked down at his bleeding hands and withdrew from the afternoon chops.

Over the next four weeks Stephen stayed at different axemen's homes where he was able to toughen up his hands and his muscles on some rock hard practice blocks. To Stephen amazement, he continued to win every championship and several handicaps during the weeks before Sydney. The axemen were not only getting used to Stephen winning but by the last chop before leading to Sydney a growing group of woodchoppers were crowding around to see him perform. After finishing his block people would shake his hand and old timers would say things like: "I haven't seen anybody swing like that since Jack O'toole." Or "You sure do cut a pretty block for a Yank." Stephen was definitely pleased with himself, but he also had to continually remind himself that these were small woodchops and the Royal Easter Show was a whole different Cricket match.

The trip to Sydney was farther than Stephen remembered, long enough for Stephen to nearly work himself into frenzy. What if he drew bad wood? What if his axes weren't cutting? Did he really have a chance against Richard? Stephen pulled in old Ford Falcon, he picked up for \$3,500 at the Brisbane Auto Auction, to the side of the road. He grabbed his practice axe and headed into the bush. About 100 yards from the highway he found a nice clean Gum tree about 17 inches at the base. He began to clear the brush from around the tree. He was feeling better now. Whenever his anxieties got the best of him all he needed was a little exercise. Stephen readied himself, axe against the tree, rocking back and forth on his feet like Greg Norman ready to drive a golf ball as far and as straight as possible. Just as he was ready to reach back with all his power and place the first hit into the tree, he heard a noise above his head. He stepped away from his anticipated task and searched the canopy of this sub-tropical jungle. Directly above his head only a few dozen feet away was a Koala munching and cautiously studying the intruder below. When the bear, actually a marsupial, turned Stephen noticed that it wasn't just the two of them sharing this moment, the Koala had a cub on its back. Smiling, Stephen spoke out loud, "I guess this tree is more important to you than it is to me." Stephen sat down on a fallen log and looked up. He contemplated the tree in front of him and the small family in its branches. He thought about what this tree meant to him: it was simply a large piece of wood and he wanted to make it into smaller pieces of wood. But what did it mean to the Koalas? It was their food source; it was their sanctuary from the dangers below. It was their home. Stephen thought of Audrey, then his mind jumped to the familiar scene of him dancing around the Sydney woodchopping arena, arms outstretched in victory. Huge droplets of rain quickly brought him back. He stood, threw his axe over his shoulder and said, "She's all yours." With his anxieties vanished, he turned and walked back to his car.

It was still raining when Stephen packed his axes and clothes into the woodchopper's dressing room. It was late afternoon on the first day of competition and most of the other axemen had already arrived. As he walked toward his locker he saw a few familiar faces and they exchanged acknowledging nods. A large group was gathered around one particular bench, Stephen recognized Richard Lyle's booming voice coming from the center of the circle. As Stephen walked passed an anemic old competitor clad in white pants and a white singlet, the man shouted, "There's that bloody Yank who's gonna teach us how to woodchop." The entire group turned toward Stephen and there was an uncomfortable silence that could only be broken by either Stephen or Richard. "Welcome to my world Stephen," boomed Richard. They all laughed as everyone turned back toward Richard who continued his story as if nothing had happened.

After two-an-a-half-days of chopping and sawing in handicaps from impossible marks and smashing nearly every axe he had it was finally time for the first of three championships. Stephen had entered (and dreamed about winning for five years), the 500mm single-buck. Richard had won this exact event eight times over the last ten years, and he was certainly the man to beat this year. Stephen knew this event was his best chance of beating Richard but his saws



One-half of two great teams, Wally Robarge shows his lack of acrophobia as he ascends the Springboard Pole and gives it his best. Note that not only does Wally do quite well in all of the chopping and sawing events, but he is also an avid tree climber. As it turns out, when he's not "tabulating" as a high school teacher, he works as a tree surgeon during the summer.

were not cutting as well as the other top contenders. He decided he was going to have to start asking around and see if he could borrow something better. After spending half of the day searching and about an hour before the event the best saw maker in Australia approached Stephen with an offer, "I've seen you cut, and I think you could win this if you had the right saw. I'll let you use the best one I've got. I would've talked to you sooner but I wasn't sure I wanted to help you. If you do win now, I could get the shits from me mates, but I've thought about it some and I'd like to see you have a fair go."

"I'm not sure what to say." Balked Stephen.

"Does that mean you don't want the saw?"

"Hell no, I just don't know how to thank you."

"Just give the big fella a good race and I'll be happy."

"At least let me pay you something?"

"Na."

The two of them talked as the saw maker dug through his pile of equipment looking for the one he wanted. Stephen put his favorite handle on the selected saw, as the other axemen milled around giving both Stephen and his benefactor sideways glances.

"Have you got someone to second for you?" asked the saw maker.

"Not really."

"Well I've gone this far, might as well get right in the shit."

The two walked out to station number five. Richard of course, was on number one. Stephen turned to look at Richard and their eyes met. Richard, confidence oozing out of every pore gave Stephen a wink and a smile.

They stood ready for the start, Stephen with a saw in his hands that he'd never used, and the old saw maker barking last minute instructions. "Don't be afraid to put some weight on it, but keep your pace, cut your far wood but give'er some heal at the end."

The starter began, "Sawyers stand to your logs..... One, two, three, GO!" They were off. On the first pull the saw chattered across the block, Stephen lifted the handle just a bit and applied more pressure towards the end and that fixed it, but that was probably enough right there to cost him the race thought Stephen. He tried to pick up the pace and gave it everything he had. The old saw maker simultaneously applied oil to the saw, tapped the wedge into the cut, shouted encouragement and looked at the progress of the other sawyers. Just past halfway through the old saw



"Janko" Willouby congratulates the winner of the Iron Jack Series, Rob Waibel of Portland, Oregon. Rob is a second generation competitor, whose son, Xander, is coming up quite fastly.

maker yelled, "You've gottem' son!" Stephen poured it on. At the finish Stephen looked back toward Richard's station and watched him finish, then looked to the others and watched their disks fall one by one, he looked at the old saw maker standing next to him and his face lit up like Las Vegas, "I'll be buggered, you've beaten the lot of 'em."

Stephen stood there in shock for a moment and then he instantly thought of the dream. "This is it, I've done it," he thought to himself. But he didn't jump up and down, he didn't dance a jig, he didn't run around the arena like a lunatic. He just stood there, the old saw maker was patting him on the back and others started to go up to shake his hand. But his eyes barely left the ground as he accepted their congratulations with limp handshakes and muffled replies.

Later that day, after things had quieted down and Stephen was alone he pondered his response to the greatest victory of his life. Why didn't he react the way his dream had said he would? The answer he decided upon satisfied Stephen for the most part. In Stephen's mind he considered the single sawing event equal to the standing and the underhand chop, in his dream, the two chops were almost always the featured event, with the single-buck popping up only occasionally. The question that still remained, was this a fulfillment of his dream? He won at Sydney, but it wasn't just winning he needed, he needed the release of a victory lap around the arena. No, that wasn't it. He was going to have to win again. Did he have a chance at one of the chops this year? Stephen was skeptical. He hadn't chopped well in the handicaps and his axes weren't where he needed them to be. He had a couple of

days before the 15-inch underhand championship, and he intended to use the time getting at least one axe cutting the hard, hard wood.

After putting his foot holes and slabbing nails into his 15-inch block, Stephen was confident that not only did he have a good log but also finally he had an axe working in the Mountain Ash. Stephen was on stand two, next to Richard on one. As the announcer read off the names of the other axemen, Stephen realized what incredible company he was in. They were all world champions with the notable exception of the axeman from America, Stephen Switchman. Stephen dug his feet into his footholes like Mark McGuire waiting for a fast ball, he ran his white chalk covered hands up and down the axe handle, he bent over his block and waited for the inevitable start.

The announcer barked, "Axemen, stand to your logs...." Then Stephen's mind went blank. Just like a car accident, when the victim can only remember the screeching tires, then waking up at the hospital when the world brightens back up. After, "Axemen stand to your logs..." Stephen regained consciousness just in time to mumble more than you's as axemen shook his hand and congratulated him on another incredible victory.

Stephen was now the world champion in the single-buck and the 15-inch underhand, but still the prophecy of his dream was unfulfilled. Stephen was snapped back into reality when Richard's huge hand grabbed his. "What's gotten' in to you today 'Switchy' (Richard had a multitude of nicknames for everyone he knew.) "I think I'll be wanting a urine sample a little later." Stephen thought about the Chinese long distance runners who had taken minutes off world record times until their hotel rooms were searched and enough steroids were found to double Wisconsin's milk supply. But Stephen knew the reason why he had won, he had dedicated the last four years of his life to this moment. Then as he stared into Richard's dark eyes a question struck him like one of Richards' hard-hits: WHAT NOW? Where does my life go from here? The question was suddenly gone when Richard whapped him up side the head, "Hey ya bloody Yank, have ya heard a word I've said?" Stephen shook his head no, shook out the cobwebs and apologized to his now conquered nemesis. "I reckon you'll be shoutin' the beer tonight," boomed Richard. If you get me pissed enough maybe I'll let you win the standing tomorrow too."

That night as Stephen laid in bed his head swam. Maybe it was in part due to the huge quantities of Toohy's Old he drank, but mostly it was the question that kept coming back. "What now?" He could see the words spelled out on his hotel ceiling, when he would close his eyes to escape them they would leap to the inside of his eye lids - "What now?" Stephen had reached the end of his rainbow, he had surpassed it even, and all he wanted was the pot-of-gold that was due him. He had worked hard for this, he had earned it, and he had sacrificed everything for this. A cascade of emotions motored through him, like someone who has lost a loved one. Shock...then anger...then depression and finally acceptance. normally the process takes weeks, months or even years to transpire, in Stephen it took seconds. He lay in bed exhausted and drenched with perspiration. Remaining motionless, some answers began to effortlessly

NORTH IDAHO TIMBER SPORTS

Timber Sports

Equipment

Saws and Axes

Timber Sports Exhibitions

Equipment Repair

Weird Eric Bunyan Lumberjack

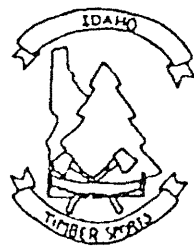
Songs, Tapes

Spring Board Shoes

Axe Handles

File Jigs

Whet Stones



Carson Bosworth

6629 Vau Bureau Street

P.O. Box 963

Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

Ph: (208) 267-2725

Fax: (208) 267-5428

P.O. Box 312

Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Ph: (262) 767-1090

Fax: (262) 767-9106

Logroll@genevaonline.com

crystallize from the letters of "What now?" Of course he didn't get his victory dance around the Sydney arena. Would he have expected to find a shimmering urn of Kugerans if he started chasing rainbows. Then across the hotel ceiling a John Lennon quote illuminated and shimmered, "Life is what happens while your making other plans." Stephen's plan was to win at the Royal Easter Show, but what had he done with his life for the last four years? Was any dream worth all the sacrifices that Stephen had endured? Maybe Martin Luther King Jr's dream was, but Stephen's seemed pathetic in comparison. Was winning really worth tearing apart his family?

In the morning Stephen showered, did the same morning exercises he had done 1,000 other morning and headed off to his destiny with Richard and the hollowed grounds of his new kingdom, the axemen's arena at the Royal Easter Show.

In typical Australian—US relations the crowd and the announcer exalted Richard, and barely acknowledged Stephen and his recent brilliance. Stephen wasn't surprised or upset by this disparity of appreciation. Like most other people on earth Australians were sick of Americans; American TV, movies, music, politics, tourists, and American athletes. So when Aussies were pitted against US adversaries they saw it as a David vs. Goliath struggle. Even in an event like woodchopping, where Australians have completely dominated. Who could really blame them? Stephen wasn't about to.

Upon the announcer's command Stephen was into his block like magic, his muscles leapt into action while his face remained as calm as an archer's. Stephen, Richard and a Kiwi Axemen turned simultaneously, Stephen reached back with his hungry blade for his first up hit and stopped dead. His chest heaved a few times as his heart slowed as he stood, legs spread, axe idling but no longer hungry, waiting for further instructions from its master. Stephen calmly walked away from his half-finished block as other axemen completed their tasks.

It's not uncommon for a chopper to stop in the middle of a particularly hard block when a knot presents itself. But it was obvious to most of the other axemen that there was nothing wrong with Stephen's block. Stephen's sudden stoppage was overshadowed by the continuing action in the arena. Richard raised his massive arms to show everyone he was once again the King and his subjects responded with cheers of relief and gratitude. During the after-math of Richard's siege, Stephen pushed his way through the crowd. Still wearing the chopping "whites" and singlet, he glistened with sweat from the 15-seconds of effort placed into the front of his standing block. Some of the audience momentarily suspended their ovation to glance quizzically at the American as he happily slipped passed.

Stephen stopped at the pay phone across from the chopping arena and next to the swine pens. He punched in his phone card number and then Samantha's, midway through the fourth ring the machine picked up, "Hi you've reached Sam and Audrey's (since Stephen moved away Samantha always left a "Sam and Audrey" message so strangers would think there was a man in the house) we're not home...."

"Hello?" came a sleepy voice.

"Hi, it's me, I'm sorry to wake you."

"That's OK, where are you?"

"At the show in Sydney."

"Shouldn't you be chopping or something?"

"Yeah, that's why I called. Sam, some things have happened to me the last couple of days, big things. Things I've worked hard for. But they didn't seem very important when they happened. All I could do was think about you and Audrey."

"What are you talking about Stephen?" said Samantha coming to life.

"What I'm trying to say is that I love you and Audrey and I want to come home."

"Hey slow down."

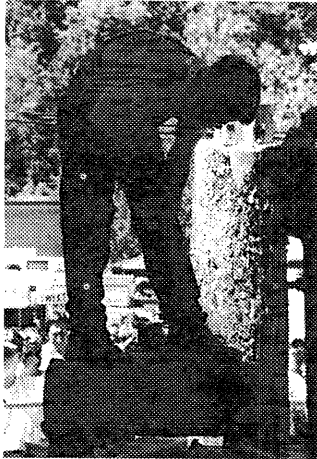
"I know this is a little sudden."

"It's more than a little," said Samantha now fully awake and sitting up.

"It's just that when I die I don't want my chopping titles on my tombstone. I want it to say, "loving husband and father."

"Stephen you are a loving father and what's all this about dying?"

"Sam, you're not listening. What I'm trying to say is that I want to be with you while we're making other plans."



Dean Hallett, son of Warrick, shows exquisite form in cutting his underhand at the Boy's Chop held at the Webster County Woodchopping Festival in Webster Springs, West Virginia.

Two days and a \$500 dollar airline change fee later, Stephen was back on Sam's front porch. He spent the first few nights on the couch. He spent his mornings filling out admission forms to finish his forestry degree, and looking for a job. He spent afternoons getting reacquainted with his daughter. At night, after Audrey was asleep, Samantha and Stephen would talk, sometimes until 2 a.m. Samantha was obviously skeptical. Stephen generally had to carry the conversation, something he wasn't very good at. He was having to sell himself and sometimes he felt like a used car salesman. If Stephen couldn't make his point sometime Sam would have him write it down the next day. Samantha would come home from work with contracts for Stephen to sign. Statements like, "I Stephen Switchman, do hereby promise to be happy and to not make others miserable."

After a few weeks, Stephen had gotten a job at a nursery. The pay wasn't great but he really loved it and between the sale of his place in Cherry, (it sold in less than 24 hours) and all the prize money he had stashed away over the last four years Stephen would be fine.

With springtime, came better weather and things were busy at the nursery, and lumberjack season was just around the corner. Sam and Stephen had talked a little about what his plans were for this summer, but they had both skirted the issue. Stephen didn't know what he should do or what he even wanted to do. By now life was nearly back to "normal." Same had let her guard down and Stephen had managed to win her back. Stephen had moved from the couch to Sam's bed sometime ago, and Stephen did his best not to let Sam regret her decision. He was attentive to her every whim and had found places of titillation Sam didn't even know she had. They both argued that their sex life was better than it had ever been before. For the first time in his life Stephen was putting the needs of others before his own, and he found it immensely liberating.

"Samantha?"

"Yes dear?"

"I'd like to take a year off."

"A year off what?"

"A year away from making littler pieces of wood out of bigger pieces of wood."

"Are you sure?"

"Yeah, I'm sure."

"You're not going to be miserable are you? Remember, you signed an oath. In fact I saved it for just such an occasion."

"NO, I have no intentions of sitting around feeling sorry for myself. I'm not just doing this for you and Audrey, I'm doing it as much for me too."

"So what are you going to do with yourself?" asked Sam sincerely.

"That's up to you. Listen Sam, I've been a selfish bastard for a long time. I did exactly what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it. I thought I was doing the right thing, chasing my dreams. But I caught my dream and it was empty. Do you remember when Michael Jordan quit playing basketball?"

"You aren't going to compare yourself with Michael Jordan, are you?"

"No, no just listen. I think Michael Jordan quit because he got to the top and got bored. So he decided it was his responsibility to conquer baseball too. But not only was he a mediocre baseball player, but his father was murdered.

I think he realized that it wasn't his purpose in life to dominate every major American sport or to sink a 20-foot putt on a \$10,000 bet. But that there were people out there that loved him and it was his job to love them back."

"You mean his fans?"

"Sure his fans, but more importantly his family. He went back to basketball, gave his fans what they wanted and now he's spending time with his kids and giving away money right and left. You see I finally realized I couldn't live my life just for me, that I had more to give than I could absorb on my own. I didn't have fans, but I did have a family. I need you and Audrey. I need to give you my love or it just stays in me and turns into something else."

"It turns into something else? Like what?" said Sam playfully.

"I don't know. It turns into frustration or into a hundred push-ups. Why are you smiling like that?"

"I was just wondering if you could run down to the kitchen and turn a little bit of that love into a bowl of ice cream?"



"Ever Steady Freddie" (Fred Scheer) shows that age plus caulk shoes are a deadly combination.