



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

The 23rd Annual Intermountain Roundwood Association meeting in Missoula was a huge success this year. We truly appreciate the members who were able to make the time to attend the meeting. The conference room was at full capacity the entire day. The presenters did an excellent job and they all came loaded with information the membership found interesting as demonstrated by all of the questions from the audience.

We had a great time "catching up" with friends during the social, during breaks and during lunch. We were able to reward several members with door prizes, some were bought by the association

and some were provided by Missoula Saws and Hamilton Hinge. Thanks to the vendors for their participation in our annual event.

I would like to extend a special thanks to our past board members, Mike Sterling, Rich Lane and Craig Rawlings for their service on the board and extend a welcome to new board members Kelly Gebhardt and Steve Tyser.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their work on putting together the agenda, and lining up presenters. I think we also need to thank Karen Kovatch for her efforts in organizing the social and meeting.



The IRA Board of Directors following the 23rd Annual Meeting in Missoula, MT. From left to right: Kelly Gebhardt, Jody Parker, Calvin Kovatch, Steve Tyser, Darrell Miller, Bill Baker. Not pictured, Scott Corwin.

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IRA 23rd Annual Meeting

Missoula, Montana March 18, 2011

Open of meeting by President Bill Baker followed by introductions and mention of anti-trust policy compliance for IRA members.

List of Events

- Kal Kovatch-Composting Hog Fuel
- Introduction of Board Nominees
- John Murdock-Utilization of Wood By-Products
- Greg Jones-Biochar Research Project
- Christine Johnson-Finding and Writing Grants
- Election of new board members
 - Kelly Gebhardt
 - Steve Tyser

IRA Directors Meeting

Following annual meeting.

Attendees

Directors Bill Baker, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, Darrell Miller, Kelly Gebhardt, Steve Tyser. Administrator, Karen Kovatch.

Open Meeting

President Bill Baker called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Previous Minutes from Dec. 2nd conference call, motions made and minutes approved.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Kal Kovatch reported the following balances:

First Interstate checking:	\$4,638.15
Vanguard Savings:	<u>\$7,076.93</u>
	\$11,715.08

Election of Officers

The following list of IRA officers was voted on and accepted for this years' assignments: President-Bill Baker, Vice President- Jody Parker, Treasurer-

Kal Kovatch and Secretary- Steve Tyser.

Old Business

The Board had a general discussion over the new IRA brochures. All present members were very happy with finished product.

Karen Kovatch reported that the form for future speakers has been revamped and is much easier to use.

The board also reviewed the topics for the annual meeting and the overall meeting. The board is already thinking for the 24th meeting and the slate of events.

New Business

The board discussed altering the billing for the business directory in 2012. The change will require those in the directory to pay before the cycle, however, the board wants to give all of our directory businesses in good standing plenty of notice on this change. A motion was made by Darrell Miller to change the billing and was seconded by Kal Kovatch.

Karen Kovatch brought up possibly accepting dues on Pay Pal so members could have the ease of using a credit card...we will keep you posted.

Leo Pfindler and Mindy Tyser conducted a financial audit for the IRA.

In an effort to contain costs as much as possible, the board discussed electronic newsletters for those not interested in receiving the paper newsletter.

The board is also looking at location options for the 24th annual IRA meeting.

Next meeting Teleconference June 7th.

Adjourned Motion carried to adjourn meeting at 4:30 PM

-Steve Tyser, Secretary

New Director Note

Steve Tyser is the president and co-owner of Lodgepole Products Inc. in Laramie, Wyoming. He is the second generation at the helm. His father Norm, former IRA director and president started the business in 1975.

Steve was graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in business administration in 1998 and began managing the production plant. Since then he has gradually taken more responsibility and ownership in the company. Steve's wife Mindy does all of the company's books.

Steve and Mindy have three kids. They enjoy watching them at their sporting events, walleye fishing as a family and living the lifestyle that owning a business provides....good and bad.

IRA Member Webpage

Have you visited the website lately? Besides the list on the back fo the newsletter the Member page on the website will give you contact information for all current IRA members.



And the winner is...

Annual meeting attendees registered for some great door prizes. The winners drawn for the IRA sponsored gift cards were:

- ☒ The \$200 Cabela's Gift Card went to Rock at Hills Products.
- ☒ The \$200 Lowe's Gift Card was won by Gary Marks of Marks-Miller Post and Pole.
- ☒ Paul Toussaint of Eagle Post and Pole will enjoy dinner with his \$100 Outback Steakhouse Gift Card!

Missoula Saws, Inc. once again rewarded meeting attendees with a slew of gift certificates.

- \$75 to Ken Carns of Plum Creek
- \$75 Darrell Miller, Marks-Miller Post & Pole
- \$75 Harold Bouma of Montana Manufacturers



- \$75 Dave Archer at Hanson Log Products
- \$100 Rock from Hills Products Group
- \$100 Jan Guelff, Roundwood West Corporation
- \$200 Dave Guelff, Roundwood West Corporation (Jan returned her \$100 certificate to give someone else a chance...then the fellows from Missoula Saws drew Kal Kovatch...Roundwood West!)

Loyd Beaver of **Hamilton Hinge** donated two sets of hinges. Ken Carns won one set and Steve Tyser took the other set back to Wyoming.

Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you for attending the IRA Annual meeting. When you do business with our vendors, please thank them for supporting our association!



MT Landowner Conference

The IRA was well represented at the 2011 Montana Forest Landowner Conference in Helena, MT on April 18th. Director Kal Kovatch presented during the “Current Status of Montana’s Wood Products Industry” session on the roundwood industry.

His first order of business was to introduce the IRA, explaining the longevity of the producing members and why it’s not just post and poles products that make up our *roundwood* industry.

Kal then gave an overview of the industry and the economic forces that drive it. This information was collected from the Board of Directors so the overview covered more than just Montana markets.

Finally, he addressed what landowners and loggers could expect for raw material specifications, ie what roundwood producers wish to purchase.

Director Darrell Miller and former Director Gary Marks were in attendance. Former IRA Director Craig Rawlings was also a speaker in the same session and discussed other non-traditional markets for small diameter wood. IRA member Tricon Timber was represented by Gordon Johnson.

The conference was put on by the Forest Stewardship Foundation and Northwest Management, Inc.

Fire Wise

Last November, Kal Kovatch was headed out to see a logger about some whips. He ducked into the electrical room to grab his lunch box.

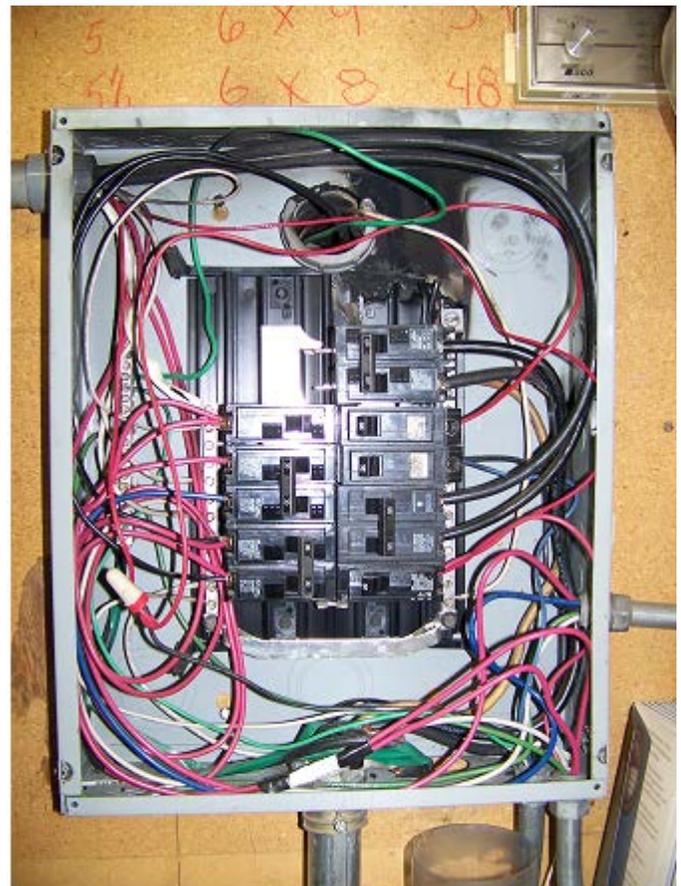
Much to his surprise the room was filled with smoke and there was arcing in the 110 box. He threw the main breaker which of course turned off the lights.

He put the fire out by blasting compressed air through a screw hole. After calling in an electrician, there was not an identifiable cause other than the lugs *may* have become loose.

This incident was disconcerting and was a reminder that even with conscious efforts to keep the mill area clean, we are all at risk for fires.

A thorough house cleaning and lug check ensued and we even found that over time, papers and other flammables were setting on the top of panels. Don’t wait for your wake up call, we were extremely lucky.

-Karen Kovatch



Damage in panel on top right.

Business Directory

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(Osmose)



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New IRA Members

- ❖ Plum Creek Timber
- ❖ Forest Business Network, LLC
- ❖ MDH Consulting, LLC

Visit www.intermountainroundwood.org to check out our newest IRA members.

Membership Information

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting in March 2012. The board conducts four meetings, usually two teleconference meetings and two physical meetings each year. Members are welcome to raise concerns and contact directors with specific issues and any questions.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 7th 2011** via teleconference call. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact IRA President, Bill Baker for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:

Contact Gary Marks (406) 933-5981 or gary@marks-miller.com

IRA Website

Log on at:

www.intermountainroundwood.org

Email: info@roundwoodassociation.org



New Members

Thank you for inquiring about the Intermountain Roundwood Association.

Our organization is a nonprofit corporation representing the economic, educational, and social interests of roundwood producers. Anyone engaged in or interested in the harvesting, manufacturing, or marketing of small roundwood and associated products is eligible for membership in our organization.

Our association has been working for a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; presenting a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations on those issues facing our association; working with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives; working to find State and Federal loan opportunities for small businesses; locating new out of region markets for members products; providing information on State and Federal Regulations; distributing a quarterly newsletter with pertinent information; providing advice to members in their dealings with governmental regulatory and land management agencies; and educating the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires.

IRA Board of Directors

Bill Baker, President	(605) 348-8338	btpsawdust@gmail.com
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Steve Tyser, Secretary	(307) 742-6992	lodgepole@wyoming.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Darrell Miller	(406) 933-5981	darrell@marks-miller.com
Scott Corwin	(307) 367-6267	pickarootimber@centurytel.net
Kelly Gebhardt	(406) 323-2679	kellyngebhardt@gmail.com

Newsletter, Classified Ads & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2932	info@roundwoodassociation.org
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2011 IRA Membership Application Form

Business or Organization: _____ Contact person: _____

✓ This is how your membership will be listed on the back of the newsletter and on the IRA website.

Please return this form and \$100 payment to: (Sorry, we do not take credit cards.)

Intermountain Roundwood Association

Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer P.O. Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Additional contact and services information for receiving newsletter, your personal IRA web page and the Membership phone and address lists:

New member: Complete remainder of this form. **Current Member:** Make changes as noted.

Current Member: No changes this year. *Stop here, as tempting as it might be; do not check any more boxes!* ☺

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Fax:** _____ **Toll Free: [Optional]** (____) _____

Email: _____ **Website:** _____

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY for your page on the IRA website.

Email to info@roundwoodassociation.org or attach separate page. Limited to 150 words. Remember to include one photo or logo image to accompany your business or organization description. You may email photo or logo also.

PRODUCT & MEMBER LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please check boxes below for all products you sell and processes which apply to your operation. This information will be used in the **Product/Member Locator** feature on the website. Call (406) 677-2300 or log on to our website www.intermountainroundwood.org/printableProducts.jsp for product description definitions:

Architectural & Structures

- Architectural Products
- Engineered Structures
- Gazebos & Kiosks
- Hand or Deck Railings
- Pole Barns
- Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs

Biomass

- Biomass
- Hogfuel
- Livestock Bedding

Fencing

- Corral Rails or Panels
- Doweled Rail Fencing
- Fence Posts
- Fence Rails
- Fencing Material
- Jack Leg Fencing

Gates

- Archways
- Gates

Government & Educational

- Educational
- Government
- Research

Hardware & Equipment

- Handling Equipment
- Hardware
- Manufacturing Equipment
- Shipping & Packaging Materials

Highway Products

- Barn Poles
- Guardrail Posts

Jump Rails

- Horse Jump Rails

Landscape Products

- Landscape Products

Log Furniture & Log Home Components

- Log Components
- Log Furniture

Poles & Stakes

- Building Poles
- Tree Stakes & Crop Poles
- Utility Poles

Professional Services

- Consulting
- Forestry
- Professional Services

Treating & Milling Services

- Custom Sawing & Machining
- Treating Facility

Wood Protection

- Barrier Wrap
- Wood Preservatives

Wood, Lumber & Barkies

- Doweled Products
- Doweled Wood
- Hand-peeled Wood
- Lumber
- Machine-peeled Wood
- Treated Wood
- Unpeeled Wood
- White Wood

www.intermountainroundwood.org

Official Use Only: Web List

INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION

2011 Members

Allweather Wood, Inc.
Arch Wood Protection
Baker Timber Products, Inc.
BJ Timber Consulting
Bouma Post Yards
CST, Creative Solutions for Trees
Doubletree Logging
Eagle Post & Pole
Forest Business Network, LLC
Forest Products Distributors
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Hamilton Hinge Company
Hanson Log Products
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Hunt's Timbers, Inc.
John Jump Trucking, Inc.

Lodgepole Products ,Inc.
Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.
MDH Consulting, LLC
Missoula Saws, Inc.
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Panhandle Forest Products
Pfundler Post & Pole, Inc.
Pickaroon Timber Products, Inc.
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Poles, Inc.
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