



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

Beware IRA members, time to break in a new president. Having served for a few years on the board as Secretary I am honored to be selected to serve as your IRA President. I will warn you that the apple didn't fall very far from the tree, so for those of you who knew my father, Norm Tyser...well you have some idea of what to expect. And don't worry Norm is currently coping with the cold and windy Wyoming winter under the watchful eye of my mom in Tuscon, AZ. Our "southern headquarters".

I would like to take the time to thank Bill Baker for his years of service and say that in addition to being an excellent president he is a quality individual that many of us are also glad to now call a friend. I can't mention any member without also mentioning the backbone of the IRA, Karen Kovatch. Without Karen's administration and organization I shudder to think where we would be....at the risk of making her blush her contributions are simply amazing and she too is a friend to us all.

It is on friendship that I would like to focus for this first message. My First IRA meeting I saw the friendship, camaraderie and family like atmosphere. A room filled with likeminded individuals, with amazing work ethic, vision, and a common desire to produce value for their customers and for the resources on which they depend and manage.

The IRA has seen large meetings and small, close and quaint meeting places and new and fancier venues, but one thing is always the same, the "association" of good people. Never have I walked away from a meeting where I haven't been renewed by simply rubbing elbows with the good people in the IRA. From this year's gracious

sponsors and our cornerstone vendors to our lineup of speakers the IRA is people, and fine ones at that.

While our business may be posts and poles, chemicals, hardware, or service everyone in the room understands that each customer, each sale, is all about people. I have never sold a post to a piece of ground and I assume you haven't either. There is a person behind very transaction and is this day and age of "too big to fail" companies, IRA members understand that without individuals coming together we all fail.

I commend those members who arrive year after year, maybe for the same reasons I have mentioned, who show up to come together and gain strength from each other before the start of another busy season. I commend those members who host a fall meeting or open up their business and ideas to others.

So for all members and those soon to become or renew membership know that The IRA board is in your corner and that we appreciate the people and are honored to serve those great folks that make up the Intermountain roundwood association.

—Steve Tyser, President shown below on right presenting Bill Baker with an appreciation plaque.



IRA Annual Meeting

Missoula, MT, March 15th 2013

9:00 am Meeting opened by President Bill Baker with intro and attendee introductions.



9:30 Kelly Norris, Assistant District Forester with the State of Wyoming out of Buffalo, Wyoming presented Lodgepole Pine Management issues from the Big Horn Mountains.

10:15 Ben Wudtke, Forest Programs Manager for Black Hills Forest Association presented policies from the Black Hills and on the national scene that affect forest health and management.

Roundwood key chains given away at meeting.

11:00 Bill Wall, President of

Sustainability Inc. talked on the viability of biomass projects for various types of energy production.

1:00 Ken Gibson, Forest Entomologist with the Montana DNRC presented the pine beetle issues in the intermountain west. Ken also shared the science behind the beetle's spread and how they specifically kill the host tree.

1:30 Officers Election: New officers Rock Reman from Hills Products in Whitewood, SD and Mike Croxton of Thunderbolt Wood Treating were accepted to the board.

1:45 Annual Meeting Adjourned

–Steve Tyser, Secretary

IRA Directors Meeting

Missoula, MT, March 15, 2013, Post Annual Meeting

Meeting opened by Executive Administrator, Karen Kovatch by handing out a Directors Meeting Agenda.

2:30PM

Attendees: Steve Tyser, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, Ronda Taggart, Dave Archer, Executive Administrator Karen Kovatch, newly elected board members Rock Reman and Mike Croxton.

Meeting started as an open forum as we had to elect Board Members to Office Positions. After a round of Not Me's, listening to excuses, or reasoning of why not's, Steve Tyser stepped up to the plate and took the President position with a unanimous group of ayes from fellow board members.

Steve nominated Jody Parker for Vice President and another round of unanimous ayes was heard.

Dave Archer volunteered for the Secretary position. With no objections we were on to the Treasurer position. Kal Kovatch stepped up to the plate and will continue to carry the task as our treasurer.

President: Steve Tyser

Vice President: Jody Parker

Secretary: Dave Archer

Treasurer: Kal Kovatch

Board Members: Ronda Taggart, Rock Reman, Mike Croxton

Executive Administrator: Karen Kovatch

Minutes:

Motion made to approve minutes from previous meeting by Jody Parker and seconded was Kal Kovatch.

Continued on next page...

...Minutes continued

Treasurer's Report:

First Interstate Checking: \$7300.18
Vanguard Savings: \$4380.59
Total: \$11680.77

Motion to approve was made by Ronda Taggart, and seconded by Jody Parker.

Before moving on to the procedure of Old Business, we reflected back onto the Annual Meeting that just got over. General Consensus of Annual Meeting: Board Members heard feedback on the speakers that they were all very good subjects. Steve Tyser expressed concerns that having a Theme for the Annual meeting and having speakers deliver a canned presentation that fits the theme we may be limiting ourselves on speakers. Steve Tyser will get Craig Rawlings contact information for a future speaker and check out the dates next year so we don't get a date that interferes with the Smallwood Conference.

No Host Social concerns: No Buffet, need a more mingling atmosphere. 8:30 was last call for the bar.

Karen will check into the Hotels boycott on not having Soda as a refreshment option. No one was complaining, but we don't want to pay for something that we did not get.

Sponsors and Vendors: Were discussed as we all think it went very well. Great door prizes, helped share the IRA'S expense of the Annual Meeting. Mike Croxton suggested looking at different pay values for the different areas we ask for sponsors. He alluded to the fact he has paid more at past venues. He felt the slide show was a great bang for the buck as an added value.

Steve Tyser will send out Speaker Thank You notes.

Steve Tyser also reassured us he will do the minutes for the Annual Meeting.

Old Business:

Steve Tyser brought up some old business that our past president Bill Baker planted the seed of making a scholarship program for our paid members. Basic ground rules for the scholarship: Paid member or family member with an acceptable GPA. \$500.00 Value given out at the annual meeting, after a review committee picks a winner. Ronda Taggart, Jody Parker, Dave Archer will send e-mail to all board members with attachments of example applications for scholarships, and ways to grade them.

Motion was made by Jody Parker to approve the old business and move forward with the planted seed by Past President Bill Baker of exploring the scholarship program. Kal Kovatch seconded it.

New Business:

Survey results fell through the cracks.

Tackle Mailing list: Karen will send out the mailing list to all board members for review. Objective is to scratch the deceased, out of business, or doing business under a different name.

June Conference call date: June 5th 9:00 am
We need to get account info from Bill Baker on passwords to the teleconference company to set up the meeting.

Karen Kovatch reminded the board of a 2 week deadline to get the newsletter out. She needs President Message from Steve Tyser. Minutes from the new left handed Secretary Dave Archer. New Directors Notes from Mike Croxton and Rock Reman.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jody Parker and seconded by Kal Kovatch.
3:30 PM

—Dave Archer, Secretary

New Director Note

Editor's Note: Watch for Mike Croxton's biography in the Summer 2013 issue of the IRA Newsletter.

Rock Reman

Thanks to the membership for allowing me to serve on your board of directors. Hopefully you realized what you were getting into when you allowed me to do this.

My current employment with Hills Products in Whitewood commenced about 18 years ago. Employment here also goes back to the middle of the 1980s for a few years. My duties here have varied from running the treating plant back in the 80s to my current duties of designing and fabrication of equipment, alot of maintenance and trying to keep up with our production needs.

My wife's name is Beaner and we have one son and three grand kids. They live about four blocks from us so we spend a lot of quality time together. We are all very into skiing and snowboarding and camping. Motorcycles are also very high on our priority list.

Over the last few years of being an innocent bystander at the IRA meetings, many of you have given me very beneficial ideas and contacts to help with my challenges here in Whitewood. Hopefully my contributions to the organization will also be beneficial to some of you!

–Thanks, Rock



2013 IRA Board of Directors from left to right: Jody Parker, Rock Reman, Calvin Kovatch, Mike Croxton, Steve Tyser, Dave Archer and Ronda Taggart.

Photo by Karen Kovatch

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Membership Information

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting in March. 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 follow the Annual meeting on **June 5th 2013** via teleconference call at 9:00am MST. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact President, Steve Tyser for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:
Contact Karen Kovatch (406) 677-2932 or
info@roundwoodassociation.org

IRA Websites

Log on at:
www.intermountainroundwood.org
www.facebook.com/RoundwoodAssociation
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

Steve Tyser, President	(307) 742-6992	lodgepole@wyoming.com
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Dave Archer, Secreary	(307) 684-1402	dave@hansonlogproducts.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Ronda Taggart	(406) 363-1456	ronda@porterbiltlog.com
Mike Croxton	(916) 296-2525	mike@thunderboltwt.com
Rock Reman	(605) 269-2233	rockr@hillspg.com

Newsletter, Advertisements & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2932	info@roundwoodassociation.org
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2013 IRA Membership Application Form

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

1 Name of Business or Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

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

Additional contact and services information for receiving newsletter and for your personal IRA web page.

Like our Business or Organization on the IRA Facebook page.

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!** ☺

2 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

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Allweather Wood, LLC	Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.	Small Diameter Logs
Baker Timber Products, Inc.	Missoula Saws, Inc.	Stephen T. Smith Consulting
BJ Timber Consulting	Multifab, Inc.	Sullivan & Mann Lumber Co., Inc.
Bouma Post Yards	Osmose, Inc.	Thunderbolt Wood Treating
Eagle Stud Mill, Inc.	Panhandle Forest Products	Tricon Timber, LLC
Forest Business Network, LLC	Parma Post & Pole, Inc.	USFS, Seeley Lake Ranger District
Forest Concepts, LLC	Pfendler Post & Pole, Inc.	Viance, LLC
Forest Products Distributers, Inc.	Pickaroon Timber Products, Inc.	Western Wood Preservers
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NEWSLETTER

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Arches National Park looking Southeast towards the La Sal Mountains.