

THE LANDING

WINTER 2022



GUEST EDITORIAL

MACHINE CONNECTIVITY WITH LESS HASSLE AND AT NO CHARGE

James Leibold, Product Manager, Connectivity

John Deere forestry machines arrive with powerful built-in technological capabilities and tools. JDLink™ connectivity lets you track machine location, proper operation, fuel consumption, and idle time. Using JDLink, alerts can be sent to your computer or mobile device — or with your consent to your dealer — to inform you of immediate machine issues. If downtime occurs, exclusive remote diagnostics and programming enable your dealer to minimize the time and cost associated with sending out a technician. You can also receive reminders of periodic scheduled maintenance on your computer or mobile device, or from your dealer with your consent.

John Deere is now offering customers JDLink connectivity service for free, making it easy for you to connect your machines. Subscriptions or renewals are no longer required, so you can simply activate the service and leave it on. Once enabled, JDLink will provide wireless service, so you can easily monitor your machines on the web or using a mobile app. A satellite option is available for customers working in remote locations with poor cellular coverage.

You can also choose to automatically activate all future JDLink-compatible machines, making it

easier than ever to manage your fleet. Because of the extra steps required for previous activations, some customers let their subscriptions lapse or they passed on the opportunity to connect their machines. As a result, these customers have been missing out on the value of Precision Forestry and John Deere Connected Support™.

Enabled through JDLink, John Deere Connected Support creates a partnership between your dealer and teams at the factory to improve the uptime and profitability of your equipment. It employs a suite of dealer and factory tools that help increase productivity and uptime while lowering daily operating costs. It's one of the most powerful reasons to run John Deere.

Connectivity is a must for today's logging operations, and John Deere makes it easy to implement. So you can focus on your work instead of worrying about connecting several different machines or managing multiple subscriptions.

For more information about JDLink, visit the John Deere website or a local Deere dealer.

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²Offer valid on qualifying purchases made between 1 November 2021 to 28 February 2022. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial, for commercial use only. Down payment may be required. Average down payment is 10%. Taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges could increase monthly payment. Minimum amount of new parts and service work to finance is \$100,000 per machine. Repairs must be made to John Deere equipment using John Deere OEM parts, John Deere OEM undercarriage, all John Deere Reman parts, all Value Parts products, and all ITR America Parts products. Additional terms may be available. Available at participating U.S. dealers. Prices may vary by dealer.

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We're saying thank you to forestry customers from all over the United States who help keep the world running every day.

Cover image:

An 853MH with a 623C Waratah Harvester Head tackles big hardwood in Michigan.

FULL-TREE TRAINING SIMULATORS

OPERATORS GET SEAT TIME BEFORE HEADING INTO THE FOREST

Operators can explore interactive, virtual logging sites as if they were in the cab of an actual John Deere machine.



Realistic true-to-life controls can be swapped out to quickly convert the simulator to a different John Deere forestry machine type in a matter of minutes.

Finding experienced, skilled operators has been a challenge in the forestry industry for many years. The average age of operators continues to climb as those who are more experienced retire. Training new operators is imperative, but in-the-woods practice in actual machines can be hard on the equipment and presents safety issues. For years, the John Deere Forestry Factory in Joensuu, Finland, has developed cut-to-length simulators for the European market. Recently John Deere worked with the Mississippi Loggers Association (MLA),

the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), and Stribling Equipment to bring a full-tree version to the classroom.

“The shortage of skilled operators is a growing concern in our industry,” says Justin McDermott, John Deere forestry sales and tactical marketing manager, U.S. and Canada. “Simulators can help bridge the gap. Training a new operator on the jobsite can be dangerous and costly when you consider potential machine damage and lost production. Using a simulator,

operators can gain a basic understanding of machine controls and operation in a low-risk environment that avoids wear and tear on expensive equipment.”

The MLA and the MFC worked closely with Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi, to develop a Logging Equipment Operator Academy. The program will feature several full-tree simulators capable of training operators on wheeled feller bunchers, tracked feller bunchers, and skidders.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

MILESTONE DOWN UNDER

RDO® EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIA DELIVERS
TOOTH FORESTRY MACHINE



*Simon Shackleton, Drew Reiser, and Brian Daubney
Celebrating the 100th machine milestone.*



In September, RDO Equipment delivered its 100th forestry machine in Australia. This is a significant milestone for a dealer network that began establishing itself in the market only two years ago. The machine, a John Deere 959MH Tracked Harvester, was delivered to Blackbutt Logging based near Brisbane in Queensland. The company added the 959MH to its large fleet of 14 Deere construction and forestry machines.

Blackbutt Logging is owned and operated by brothers Drew and Todd Reiser. The company has been purchasing John Deere equipment since it was started by their father in the 1980s. "We've never had any issues with Deere equipment, and it's been great working with the RDO Equipment team these past few years," says Drew. "They provide us with good, quality machines that are backed with the support we need to keep our entire fleet running."

The first machine the company purchased was a 450C Dozer in the '80s, and after some refurbishments, it is still running today. "That just shows that these products are built to last," says Drew. "It's no surprise RDO has sold 100 forestry machines in such a short space of time."

Simon Shackleton, General Manager, Sales & Marketing, John Deere Forestry (Asia-Pacific & Africa), congratulated both RDO Equipment and Blackbutt Logging. "We've had nothing but positive feedback from customers about RDO Equipment. They have done well to establish themselves in the Australian market, and I commend them on this great achievement. And it's great to see RDO's 100th forestry machine sold to a long-standing family business that has been working with John Deere machines since the beginning."

RDO Equipment provides customers increased parts availability and expanded coverage across the east coast of Australia, plus a team of expert service and parts technicians. RDO Equipment launched in Australia in 2019, after being named the official dealer partner for John Deere construction and forestry equipment in all states, excluding Western Australia. RDO Australia Group employs over 800 staff and operates out of 29 dealership locations in metro and regional areas in Australia, providing parts and service support for the agricultural, construction, and forestry markets.



Todd Reiser from Blackbutt Logging with the refurbished John Deere 450C Dozer his father purchased in the 1980s.



STORY: KEVIN ORFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID LEE MJOLSNESS

MANY HANDS

(AND MACHINES)

MAKE LITE WORK

Starting out with only a skid steer, Ryan Day and his father have grown Lite on the Land into a full-fledged logging operation

As Ryan Day, owner of Lite on the Land, surveys a logging site in the Sierra National Forest, he reflects on how far his company has come. His father Steve got into forestry while working with Cal Fire, the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection responsible for protecting the people, property, and resources of the Golden State. Up until 2006, there wasn't much opportunity for logging near their hometown of Auberry in Central California. "Then brush mastication to eliminate fuel and create fire breaks became a big thing," says Day. "My father said, 'Let's give it a go.'"

His father wanted to leave as little disturbance as possible, so Lite on the Land was born. The two started out with a skid steer with multiple attachments, doing fire-clearance and hazard-reduction projects for private landowners. Initially Day had to take other jobs to stay busy, but around 2013, Lite on the Land began to grow into a fully mechanized logging operation. Southern California Edison (SCE) approached the company to help it deal with what California loggers dub "the mortality," the bark beetle infestation that decimated much of the ponderosa pine and sugar pine in the state. Lite on the Land was hired to remove the dead trees from SCE's land while it was still merchantable.

Today the company employs 30 people and runs three crews. "I never thought we'd get this big back in 2006. We were in the right place at the right time and worked hard. I don't think we ever had a Saturday off, and we worked a few Sundays, too. It's been an incredible journey."

FAMILY TREE

Day's interest in logging has its roots in his mother's family tree — her brothers and father logged up in Northern California. "We'd visit them, and my uncles would tell me all these stories," Day recalls. "It would get me really excited and I knew I wanted to get into logging."

His mother had other ideas. "She told me, 'I don't care what you do, just don't be a logger,'" says Day. "Her father moved a lot and she went to 15 or 20 high schools in four years. But when your mother tells you not to do something, it kind of makes you want to do it even more (laughs)."

Day admits that what ultimately drew him to his calling was the woods. Lite on the Land often logs around Shaver Lake, a picturesque and popular vacation destination near Fresno. "I'm very lucky I get to come out here in the mountains in this beautiful forest. I love watching the big equipment and the big trees hitting the ground."

His mother was right about the travel, though. After Day graduated from high school, he went to work in the woods in Northern California and Oregon. "I loved it. I started at the bottom taking all the jobs nobody wanted to do and worked my way up. I'm glad I did that because now when I ask someone to do something, I've done it. I can tell them, 'I know it's not easy, and I know it's hot out here.'"

"The forest is healthier from us being there. We didn't overcut. We made room for new trees to grow."

RYAN DAY, owner, Lite on the Land



GOOD STEWARD

Today much of Lite on the Land's work is on the approximately 20,000 acres owned by SCE surrounding Shaver Lake. "SCE does a great job managing the forest," says Day. "If I call the head forester with an issue, he'll come out that afternoon or the next morning." Over the years Lite on the Land has logged some areas three times. "The forest is healthier from us being there. We didn't overcut. We made room for new trees to grow."

Day champions good forest management and stewardship. "Many forests around here just have too many trees per acre. Then you get bug infestations and the trees can't fight off the bugs. If that doesn't get cleaned up, the forest is ripe for wildfire."

In December 2020, the area around Shaver Lake was ravaged by the Creek Fire, one of the largest fires in California history that consumed almost 380,000 acres. "Fueled by 40-mile-an-hour winds, the fires raced up the valley. It just blew up. I knew it was going to be bad."

Day remembers helping residents clean up their properties after the fire. "You'd see your neighbor's house burnt down and that's when it really hit home how awful it was."

Lite on the Land worked for the state for three weeks building fire lines. The company then went to work for SCE, clearing roads so it was safe for crews to go in and rebuild infrastructure. "We worked 12-hour days for 72 days straight. Everybody was pretty taxed after that. It was tiring."

After the Creek Fire, most of Lite on the Land's work has been cleaning up burned trees for SCE. "When we started, bunches were still catching fire," Day recalls. "I have this old Cal Fire engine we were using to put out the embers. Those logs were worth something to me and I didn't want them burning up."

Within a year, the dead timber won't be merchantable. Still Day remains optimistic. "There will be other opportunities because the timber industry solves a lot of problems. But as a society overall, we need to stand up and say, 'We need to manage our forests.'" A major challenge in California, according to Day, is that the state lacks adequate budget for cleaning up public forestlands and opposition groups stifle logging initiatives.

"You'd see your neighbor's house burnt down and that's when it really hit home how awful it was."

RYAN DAY, owner, Lite on the Land





“You just sharpen the chain, grease it, and change the oil, and it just goes and goes.”

RYAN DAY, owner, Lite on the Land

DOUBLING DOWN

The mechanized crew working near Shaver Lake runs a John Deere 859M Tracked Feller Buncher and Deere skidders to cut and collect trees in the forest. Trees are processed at the landing using a 2654G Processor with a Waratah head and loaded onto trucks using a 2656G Log Loader. “The hydraulics on the processor are really smooth,” says Day. “I love the spacious cab, and maintenance is easy. The Waratah head is just phenomenal. I’ve run other manufacturers’ processors, and you are always fiddling with and fixing the harvesting head. Not the Waratah. It’s bulletproof.”

The 2654G Processor has over 3,000 hours on it. “You just sharpen the chain, grease

it, and change the oil, and it just goes and goes,” says Day. “All of the Deere machines have been extremely reliable. We’ve had only minor issues.”

Lite on the Land also runs a crew for handling utility work for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), which helps keep the company busy during slower winter months. A third hand-felling crew handles big wood with the help of a John Deere utility wheel loader and 848L Skidder.

Lite on the Land’s John Deere dealer, Papé Machinery, helps keep its fleet up and running. “There’s not a lot of logging in Central California,” explains Day. “One of the nice things about Papé is that even though we are not in Oregon or Washington, we can

call a branch in Eugene or Kelso and talk with an expert in a region where there are maybe 15 or 20 processors working. Down here there are only two that I know of. And they don’t mind. They are just a wealth of information.”

Day also appreciates the support John Deere gives to the logging industry. “Some manufacturers are trying to get out of the industry and Deere is doubling down. They are investing big time and continue to deliver great products and technology.”

Lite on the Land, Inc. is serviced by Papé Machinery Construction & Forestry, Fowler, California.

 To see more of the story, visit [JohnDeere.com/TheLanding](https://www.johndeere.com/TheLanding)



OUTRUN LONG DAYS



New updates to 800M- and 800MH-Series Tracked Feller Bunchers, Harvesters, and Shovel Loggers help smooth out rough going

Over a 10- or 12-hour shift, it's important for operators to stay comfortable and in control. Updates to our 800M- and 800MH-Series machines improve Smooth Boom Control (SBC) to provide operators with more feel and mastery, especially during fine metering. An SBC software update offers a wider tuning range for boom and swing functions, depending on an operator's preference and skill level. Other refinements include an improved seat, optional heated-ventilated seat, and an updated premium Bluetooth® radio option.

To learn more, visit JohnDeere.com/Forestry.



Smooth Boom Control (SBC) allows machine movements to be controlled more effectively, delivering a smoother experience for the operator and less wear and tear on the machine over time.



Optional premium Bluetooth radio with XM Satellite Radio is ready from the factory.



Updated seat features a dual-density seat pan for more support and comfort. Seat-cushion contour, armrest support, and adjustable suspension improve the overall comfort of operators of all sizes. Optional heated-ventilated seat maximizes comfort in all conditions.



POWER “TREE-OH”

Yoder Forest Products gets it done with three machines,
a hybrid logging system, and John Deere Precision Forestry

STORY: KEVIN ORFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL J. NEWELL

Time is of the essence for Corey Yoder, owner of Yoder Forest Products, Mio, Michigan. “My father told me everything in life is compromise,” says Yoder. “When I was 22, he told me that given the choice between more money and more time off, he’d take more time off. At the time I thought he was crazy because at that age I wanted to make money. But at 53 with a wife, kids, and grandkids, I now know time is way more valuable than money.”

Not that Yoder works a light schedule. He and his crew are at the logging site every day by 5 a.m., and he’s well aware loggers can’t work bankers’ hours from nine to five. But he has discovered efficiencies that allow him and his crew to have more life balance. He has more time for family, and his harvester operator finds time to run a taxidermy business.

Yoder keeps things simple: “Just three guys and three machines.” He runs a John Deere 853M Tracked Feller Buncher, operator Ted Stagg runs the 853MH Tracked Harvester, and his nephew Kodie Yoder runs the 1510G Forwarder. Kodie has been with the company for 15 years. “He’s my right-hand man. He’s very important to the company. Ted Stagg has been with the company 10 years. He is truly one of the best harvester operators I have ever seen. These two guys make my life easier.”



PUTTING ITSELF ON THE MAP

Yoder Forest Products was started by Corey Yoder's father in 1963. Yoder started working for his dad after graduating from high school in 1987. "I'm proud of the good name my dad has earned in the logging business. We've always done quality work, and at the end of the day, that really makes a difference."

Michigan's 20 million acres of forestland include some of the best hard maple and red oak timber in the world. The company runs 90-percent hardwood, mostly maple and oak used for everything from high-grade veneer, furniture, and flooring to pulpwood, pallet logs, and firewood.

Yoder Forest Products works mainly in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula. "There's just a natural abundance of wood here," says Yoder. "I'm surprised at how many logging trucks I see, day after day. Back in the day, my father didn't think there was a future here in logging, but here I am 35 years later. You're never going to be a rich man doing this, but you can make a fair living."





**“Just three
guys and three
machines.”**

Cory Yoder, owner,
Yoder Forest Products

BRUTE FORCE

Yoder Forest Products has adopted a hybrid system that has become more and more prevalent for logging the rugged terrain in Michigan. Yoder's operation incorporates the tracked feller buncher, commonly used in tree-length logging, into a cut-to-length operation that employs the harvester and forwarder. The feller buncher lays down the wood in front of the harvester. "It's much more efficient," says Yoder. "On most logging sites, it really boosts production."

The feller buncher makes it much easier to work through the saplings and shrubs surrounding the trees. "The cutter doesn't care about the understory, but you might break a chain using a harvester in these conditions, and that's a lot of downtime."

The tracked feller buncher is powerful and stable, giving the operation the ability to work on hills, cradle knolls, and wet ground. "It does everything I need it to do," says Yoder. "When we ran a wheeled feller buncher, we only used it for felling approximately 65 percent of the wood. We were spinning our wheels, so to speak. It didn't make sense. But with the tracked feller buncher, I can put down 100 percent of the wood. I haven't started a chain saw in years."

Instead of battling with understory, the 853MH Tracked Harvester follows behind the feller buncher,

cutting the piles of wood to length. Yoder appreciates the powerful 853MH coupled with the tough 623C Waratah Harvester Head. "It's just a brute," he says. "It's the perfect combination for what we do. Big trees and hardwood. We don't do a whole lot of plantation pine."

In the past few decades, tree-length logging has become mostly a thing of the past in Michigan. The company started running a cut-to-length system in 2000. "Cut-to-length allows us to sort wood so much more quickly," says Yoder. "There are jobs where we'll have 14 to 18 sorts, and a forwarder can do that very efficiently."

The 1510G Forwarder features the optional rotating and leveling cab, which turns 290 degrees, providing a 360-degree view of the machine's surroundings and boom movements. "That's the machine's best feature," says Yoder. "It just follows the boom so you're not constantly turning and straining your neck. Kodie really enjoys running that machine."

PRECISION FINESSE

With fuel prices doubling in the past year, Yoder strives to run as efficiently as possible. John Deere Precision Forestry tools including TimberMatic™ Maps and TimberManager™ help him plan and monitor his operation as well as minimize costs.

Using the map-based production-planning and -tracking system, Yoder and his operators can share real-time production and location information, eliminating guesswork. "On this 35-acre block we're cutting right now, I can see the area already harvested and that we have approximately 12 acres left," says Yoder. "Knowing the current logging situation helps me plan what we're doing and determine the shortest skidding routes when we build the next landing."

Operators can view all machine locations and the current logging situation in real time using the TimberMatic Maps display in the cab. "We start

"Knowing the current logging situation helps me plan what we're doing and determine the shortest skidding routes when we build the next landing."

Cory Yoder, owner,
Yoder Forest Products





“I can put down 100 percent of the wood. I haven’t started a chain saw in years.”

Cory Yoder, owner,
Yoder Forest Products

early at 5 a.m. and nothing ever looks the same in the dark,” says Yoder. “I can look at a screen and see where we finished the day before and drive directly to that location. And we get a lot of snow in Michigan. In two feet of snow, we can easily lose piles of wood, but the mapping system shows us exactly where they are.”

Using the Areas of Interest and Points of Interest functions, Yoder and his operators can mark hazards, obstacles, soft ground, and challenging terrain, and share them in real time. “It really helps improve jobsite awareness and productivity.”

A key feature is the ability to create cut boundaries to avoid incurring heavy penalties for crossing the line. “As a feller buncher operator, I’m constantly looking for the boundary line,” explains Yoder. “On a lot of state sales, the red mark on the tree may have faded, and it can be dark and rainy. I would spend a lot of time getting out of the machine and physically looking for the line. But the mapping system is very accurate and saves a lot of time.”

Using JDLink™, Yoder can keep tabs on machine health. “I get emails if anything is wrong — low coolant, high

temperature, things like that. One day we broke a serpentine belt. We went to the dealership to pick one up, and the service manager said, ‘I see you broke a serpentine belt.’ He knew it before I even got there.”

That kind of service and support is one of the biggest reasons Yoder and his father have always run John Deere machines. “I can count on one hand the number of times I’ve ordered a part and it wasn’t there the next day. That’s over a period of 35 years. Deere is just very, very dependable when it comes to parts.”

A few of the technicians at Yoder’s local John Deere dealership, AIS Construction Equipment Corp., are highly knowledgeable about cut-to-length operations. “They put in a lot of time training these guys. They are really good. That’s why I have stayed with Deere all these years. The support is always there.”

Yoder Forest Products, LLC is serviced by AIS Construction Equipment Corp., Williamsburg, Michigan.



To see more of the story, visit
[JohnDeere.com/TheLanding](https://www.johndeere.com/TheLanding)

Over the past year, we've told many interesting stories in *The Landing* about loggers from all over North America. Each operation faces its own unique set of challenges. But a common thread runs through all these stories: **Loggers always come through.**

Some of these loggers have overcome considerable adversity. One helped save towns caught in the largest single fire in California history. Two others are surviving and thriving after Hurricane Michael devastated the logging industry around Panama City, Florida.

In other stories, we learned how loggers are pushing the boundaries of technology. One customer introduced the first winch-assist tethering system east of the Mississippi River to harvest logs in the mountains of West Virginia. Other customers who we profiled are using our new shovel-logging machines and bogie skidders and innovative technology such as TimberMatic™ Maps and TimberManager™ to help maximize productivity in steep and muddy terrain.

These and all of our forestry customers help the world keep running, producing the timber and pulp for building materials, furniture, paper, and wood pellets for green energy.

And to this, we say, "Thank you."

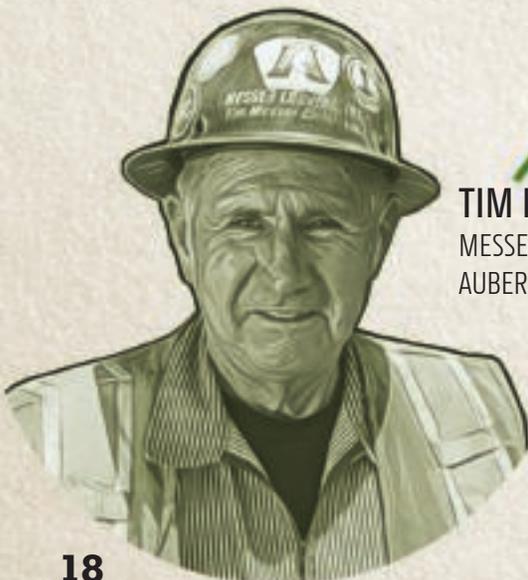
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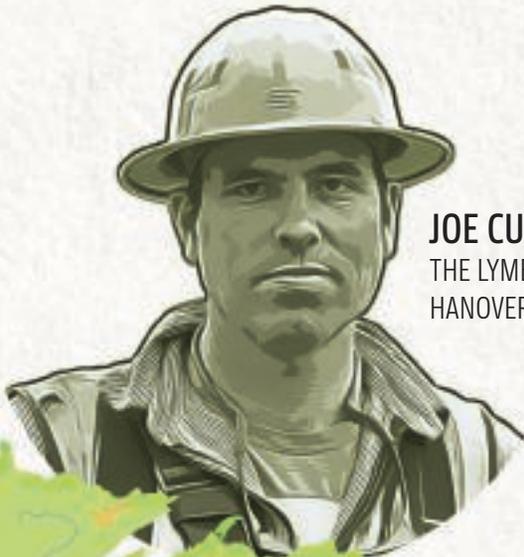


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