Logger of the Year 2014

William Beacom Enterprises, Inc.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen and the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee are very happy to honor the work of William Beacom Enterprises, Inc. of Pickford as their joint Logger of the Year for 2014.

Starting in the fall of 1968 with some excavating equipment, Bill successfully started logging full time in the winter of 1969 and is one of the original Timbermen member companies that helped get things off the ground in the early 1970's. He and Rhoda were married the same year he started logging and are enjoying their 46th year of both!

Despite helping to run the logging business and 3 kids to raise, Rhoda continued to work as a nurse for those 46 years while handling the office side of the business in the evenings and on weekends. She gets help in the office now from their daughters Dawn and Melissa while their son Curt works full time in the logging business with Bill in addition to 5 other employees.

Producing 500-600 cords of wood per week, Bill said most their production goes to Louisiana-Pacific, Verso, or Potlach. They harvest both hardwoods and softwoods and are a cut-to-length operation. They employ all local residents from the eastern UP and have one particular employee that has been with them for nearly 40 years and several that are approaching 20 year anniversaries. That is a true testament to the top quality employer that Beacom's are.

When asked about the long term success of their business, Bill and Rhoda agreed that they "wouldn't have made it without the employees we have". The ups and downs of being a Michigan logger haven't always been a good ride to be on but Bill said that many times they kept going simply because they are "dedicated to the crew" and felt a need to weather the storm as long as possible because their employees were counting on them.

Like nearly all family owned small businesses, the team work of the family continues to provide for ongoing success and they hope to some day pass the business down to Curt for it to continue.