



Logging has always been part of Bob Dunbar's entire life, from his youth when his family was involved in dairy farming and logging to now. In 1977, Bob and his brother Jeff started their own company. Though Bob was not certain that logging was going to be his lifelong career, 33 years, a wife, and three grown daughters later, it is still his passion. Bob and Jeff still work together on occasion, but they now each have their own company.

Throughout this lifelong career, two changes in the industry have really stood out for Bob. First is mechanization, which has completely changed the way logging is done in Wisconsin. Bob himself has been part of the evolution of the industry, starting with a chainsaw, going to a feller buncher, and finally ending up with the processor he has today. The second change has been the significant decrease of young people in the logging profession. When Bob graduated high school, logging was a popular choice for many graduates. Today, very few young people can be found in the woods. Having seen all of these significant changes, Bob said that he has no advice to his peers on how to adapt to the future; if they are still in business after the last couple of years, they have already adapted.

Bob was involved in the establishment and the running of the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association (WPLA), which included the establishment

## Master Logger GLTPA Member Feature

by Don Peterson

# Robert Dunbar Logging Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin

of the Master Logger Certification program. Robert Dunbar Logging was part of the first group of applicants to go through the Wisconsin Master Logger Certification process in 2003 because he wanted to be recognized for the kind of work he already did. He also hoped it would help him obtain more private stumpage, which he believes it has. A majority of his work comes from a consulting forester who only uses Master Loggers on his timber sales. In addition, Bob feels that being a Master Logger has helped him in his dealings with agency foresters and mills.

Another benefit of being a Master Logger that Bob has realized is being an auditor for Master Logger applicants. He has found the interaction with the applicants and the forester verifiers to be very educational for him. He believes the opportunity to discuss forest management and logging in a one on one situation on an actual logging site provides a valuable opportunity to see different aspects of the issues that face loggers and foresters every day. Currently, most of the forester verifiers are retired agency foresters and Bob would like to see some process where foresters (agency, consulting, and industry) and loggers had more one on one interaction to get a better understanding of each other's jobs.

Bob also enjoys the interaction with other Master Loggers and feels he has made friends he would not have without the program. He would like to see more Master Loggers get involved with the program and he also encourages other companies to become Master Logger certified as he feels many loggers would be recognized for what they already do without having to make drastic changes. He feels that there is definitely strength in numbers and the more Master Loggers there are the more impact/benefits the program will have.

Proactive in the industry, Bob is a member and current Chairman of the Wisconsin Master Logger Certification Logger Committee. This Committee provides the oversight and direction for the Wisconsin MLC program. He was also a Board Member for the Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative in Northeast Wisconsin. †

For a complete listing of Wisconsin Certified Master Loggers, go to: [www.wimlc.com](http://www.wimlc.com) OR [www.timberpa.com](http://www.timberpa.com)>masterlogger