

btb

BETWEEN
THE
BRANCHES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.

Latest
developments
in steep slope
logging.



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TIGERCAT POWERED 234B LOADER

Tigercat has recently released the 234B and T234B series knuckleboom loaders with notable improvements, including the addition of a Tigercat FPT Tier 4f power plant and a totally redesigned cabin.

The new 234B and T234B loaders are now equipped with the Tigercat FPT N45 engine, delivering 125 kW (168 hp). The four-cylinder engine was chosen because it is very well matched to the duty cycle of the 234 series loaders, enhancing fuel efficiency, reducing DEF consumption and improving the performance of the aftertreatment components. Lifting force and boom speed are unaffected by the engine change and operators are reporting the same high performance characteristics that they have come to expect from the 234.

“Running a Tier 4 final engine requires the use of Selective Catalyst Reduction (SCR) with DEF injection in the exhaust system,” explains Lodovico Sinchetto, Tigercat diesel engine systems specialist. “The SCR needs a minimum average operating temperature. Running a 4,5 litre four-cylinder engine will result in a higher duty cycle ensuring that the exhaust gas temperature is always optimal for the SCR, while delivering the same or better productivity. An exhaust flap positioned just after the turbocharger provides active control of the exhaust temperatures even at low idle, allowing a total continuous idle time up to nine hours.”

The totally redesigned operator’s station has a significantly improved climate control system along with a number of additional features to improve

the operator experience. The new heavy duty suspension seat is physically wider and standard equipped with heating and cooling. The seat also has improved adjustability and many of the frequently

used rocker switches have been repositioned – integrated into the armrest mounted joystick pod for enhanced ergonomics. The climate control system is further augmented by the addition of window blinds for the front windshield and skylight. Acoustical engineering along with the quiet N45 engine contribute to extremely low in-cab sound levels, while the new sound system with Bluetooth® audio allows for hands-free calling.

The 234B platform is versatile for a variety of applications. The T234B is equipped with a full forest duty Tigercat-built undercarriage providing exceptional stability, flotation and track power. The 234B is available with the Tigercat AC16

articulating carrier, an excellent choice for mill yard applications. ■



NEW 25-TONNE TIGERCAT FORWARDER

In 2015, Tigercat released the 1085B severe duty forwarder. The 1085B stands alone as the only 25-tonne capacity forwarder offered worldwide by a major industry player.

The 1085B excels in severe duty applications such as long distance forwarding and is especially well matched to steep slopes. The 1085B is equipped with Tigercat bogies that are well proven in severe duty six-wheel drive skidder applications. Tigercat's unique WideRange™ transmission allows travel at speeds up to 7 km/hr (4.6 mph) with tractive effort sufficient to carry 20 tonne (22 ton) loads up 60% slopes.

The 1085B's innovative low-wide bunk system combined with the hooked crane improves reliability and decreases loading and unloading times. By angling the load down toward the front and reducing the gate height, the low-wide bunk reduces the chance of contact with the crane and provides maximum load capacity without the need for a vertical slider. The working envelope of the crane is expanded to improve productivity.



Operator visibility and ergonomics are enhanced. The operator enjoys a clear sightline to the top of the load, increasing log placement accuracy and decreasing cycle times. In addition, the grapple stays within the operator's view through the entire loading and unloading cycle for reduced operator strain.

The low-wide bunk system expands up to 7,5 m² (81 ft²). The 1085B comes standard with Tigercat's unique hooked F195T85 crane and the Tigercat FG43 grapple, with a larger FG53 grapple as an option. The new crane and grapples have increased production in some applications more than 30% over competitive machines.

The 1085B centre section is based on the legendary Tigercat skidder design, which ensures long life through the use of pre-loaded, tapered roller bearings in the articulation and oscillation joints.

As with all Tigercat products, components are laid out for easy access to service points, making for quick and painless daily maintenance routines. The operator station is large and comfortable with optimized sightlines and ergonomics. Sound levels are under 66 dB at full 2,200 rpm engine speed. Lighting, operator controls and interface, and the climate control system are carefully engineered, contributing to high productivity and reduced operator fatigue during long shifts. ■

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MY TIGERCAT CIRCUS

C.K. Greene has made his mark in the Virginia logging industry and stays humble through all his recent growth and success.

– Samantha Paul, marketing



“I feel so blessed to have all of this. I feel on top of the world,” claims C.K.

It all started in late fall of 2006 when C.K. drove past a gleaming Tigercat loader on the side of the road at an intersection near his hometown of Elizabethtown, North Carolina with a ‘For Sale’ sign taped in the cab window. “There it was, the dream machine of loaders I thought... a Tigercat 240B. I could never afford it,” C.K. claims. “It only had 2,000 hours on it and was in immaculate condition.” Three months later C.K. saw the same Tigercat 240B dream machine in the classified ads in Southern Loggin’ Times. He knew he had to buy it, so that’s what he did. That was C.K.’s first Tigercat machine and it was a beauty.

From the beginning

C.K. has been in the wood business for 21 years in southern Virginia and has been in business with his own company for eight of those years, “I started my own company January 1, 2007 as timber buyer/owner with just one cutter, skidder and a loader and hustled and stayed steady at it and grew from that to this little circus I have here.”

Growing up in a logging community in Elizabethtown meant log trucks were easy to spot. Any time a log truck went by, it interested C.K.; dirty, shiny, new or old. He just thought the log trucks were cool. When he

was fifteen there was a procurement forester that lived near him and he would go visit from time to time. There he would see these magazines on the coffee table that were Southern Loggin’ Times and Timber Harvesting and that’s where the seed of logging was planted.

After graduating in the spring of 1993 with a two-year Forestry degree from Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, NC and a four-year degree in Forest Resource Management from North Carolina



Herding the workhorses out of the barn.



C.K. Greene and the godfather of Tigercat equipment (sales specialist), Tommy Parks. C.K. has known Tommy for 21 years.

State University, C.K. was hired by Virginia Carolina Timber, Inc. in Lawrenceville, Virginia where he moved and began his career as a procurement forester buying timber and looking after contract logging crews.

After a fourteen-year career there, C.K. started feeling the growing ambition to go into business for himself. He felt anxious and nervous as if he was about to break up with his girlfriend. “It was just an inside the gut feeling that I couldn’t seem to stop or keep ignoring. The owners of Virginia Carolina Timber had been like family to me but I could just feel the change of things coming,” claimed C.K. In January of 2007 he was finally able to purchase that first Tigercat 240B dream machine. Unfortunately, just three years later his dream went up in flames when his loader was destroyed in an arson incident.

About 10:00 pm that night after leaving the woods with the local fire department, C.K. started calling around to find another loader to get him back up and running the next morning. He called the local Pioneer dealership rep stating, “My loader burnt up tonight, do you have a spare loader? ‘No I sure don’t,’ was the response.” C.K. called the local

Barko dealer, “Look, my loader burnt up tonight, do you have a spare one to get me going in the morning? ‘We sold ours last week,’ was the response.” Then C.K. called sales specialist Tommy Parks from Tigercat dealer Bullock Brothers at 10:45 pm that night, “Tommy, my loader burnt up tonight.”

Tommy immediately responded with, “C.K., come down to the shop first thing in the morning, I got a brand new one for you to use until you get things figured out.”

“Tommy put me right back to work that next morning and I won’t ever forget that,” says C.K.

C.K.’s circus

Since then C.K. has grown from his one loader, feller buncher, skidder operation to a bigger outfit. During

his expansion he ran different brand skidders along with Tigercat feller bunchers and Tigercat loaders but was never really satisfied with the diverse equipment line-up. One day in October of 2014 it just hit C.K.

and he decided to get rid of his two 535C models and replace them with two new 620E Tigercat skidders. C.K. picked up the phone and called, “the godfather

“We just get more wood out with Tigercat.”
– C.K. Greene

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C.K. owns six of his own trucks and trailers. The log trucks won’t get stuck on this well constructed mat road.

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of Tigercat equipment, Mr. Tommy Parks.” After sitting down and crunching the numbers C.K. purchased two brand new 620E skidders. “I wished I had done it sooner. My men love the Turnaround® seat and the fuel economy is great on the Tier 4 engine. We don’t need to worry about it. It’s just another day for us. More tractor pulling more wood with the same gallons of fuel as we been bringing to the woods for years. We just get more wood out with Tigercat,” C.K. says.

With four Tigercat 718E drive-to-tree feller bunchers, three Tigercat skidders (two 620Es and one 630D) and two 234 loaders, C.K. has a true Tigercat circus on his hands. Three of the four 718E feller bunchers run in the woods all day with the fourth used as needed. “We jam, jam, jam most days with our machines. My men love these Tigercats. With Tigercat all you have to do is hit the key, adjust the A/C, adjust the radio and jam all day with very little breakdowns. I feel blessed to own all these machines,” says C.K. “I’m thankful, thankful, thankful every day. It’s pleasing to see all the same brand on my job. It cuts out a lot of confusion for parts, filters, different dealers and different service folks. Having one brand out here in the woods gives me peace of mind to some extent in the crazy fast pace world I live in. Don’t get me wrong, there’s not a whole lot of breakdowns out here but things are just simpler for me this way. I go at things with my own pace and my own style and having all Tigercat iron is part of that.”

C.K. does not experience bottlenecks on his job site. Running three feller bunchers all day eliminates that problem. He also has the ability to put his mechanic in the fourth 718E feller buncher if he needs to. “It helps that those 620E skidders are just non-stop workhorses – that really keeps things moving too. With those nineteen square foot grapples, we bring more wood to the loaders with fewer pulls every day. That saves



One of four Tigercat 718E drive-to-tree feller bunchers.

me money in the long run and that’s the bottom line!” says C.K. “Out here is all about hustle, hustle, dollar, dollar! That’s the name of the game for me.”

Many operators seem to get irritated over the use of diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) with the Tier 4 engines. However, C.K. and his crew have the right attitude. “DEF is just a part of doing business these days and we don’t mind it at all. As long as you handle it right, it doesn’t cause any problems.”

C.K. and his crew of thirteen (including truck drivers) just finished clearcutting 139 acres (56 hectares) of mixed hardwood and pine in mid-June and have 200 acres (81 hectares) lined up for second thinning only six miles from his house in Dolphin, Virginia. “My men are veterans of the woods and they mean everything to me. I pay them well and they have nice equipment, so they stay.” C.K. typically hauls 18 to 22 loads a day to sawmills and chip mills throughout the area including Dominion Virginia Power, KapStone paper mill, Georgia Pacific, Enviva Pellets, International Paper, and a West Fraser sawmill.

C.K.’s inspiration

Way back in 1977, C.K. seemed to notice that every logging article in those magazines he loved

were written by a fellow named DK Knight. C.K. filled out a subscription form to get the magazine for free, fuelling his interest in the logging world. “I thought that DK Knight guy had the luckiest job in the world whoever he was, driving around to different logging sites, talking to loggers and seeing different equipment,” said C.K. “I didn’t get into the business because of my father or my grandfather or it was something I inherited from my family. It was the dirty old logging trucks and a fellow named DK Knight and that’s how this little Tigercat circus of mine got started and I’m pretty proud of it.” ■



The crew members of Virginia Custom Thinning & Chipping LLC.

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HOW STEEP IS STEEP IN NEW ZEALAND?

– Gary Olsen, factory sales representative, international



Contrary to popular belief the New Zealanders did not invent bungee jumping. Simon Keeling and David Kirke from the Oxford University Dangerous Sports Club made the first ever jump using an elastic bungee cord off the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, England on April 1, 1979. However the New Zealanders have certainly taken the pursuit to new heights by popularizing the activity despite all the potential risks involved. Bungee jumping, jet boating, mountain climbing, abseiling, skydiving and extreme snowmobiling are classified as ‘extreme’ sports and might involve waiving the life insurance policy of the participant.

Tethered or winch assist logging, now a growing trend in New Zealand, Chile and the Pacific Northwest, is a serious attempt to get the boots off the ground and

improve the level of safety, especially on the steep and broken terrain characteristic of these countries. Despite valid concerns by nearly all logging machine manufacturers, most end users are of the opinion that the operator of a purpose-built, leveling track feller buncher or harvester, inside a proper forestry ISO ROPS, FOPS and OPS certified cab that is responsibly secured with one or two wire ropes and anchored at the top of the slope, is much safer than a chainsaw operator or a choker setter in the same terrain.

With this in mind, contractors and forestry companies have chosen to implement such systems by purchasing a used bulldozer or excavator weighing around 30 tonnes, then rigging it with either a single 29 mm (1¹/₈ in) wire rope or twin 22 mm (7⁷/₈ in) cables to a winch system. The other end connects to a hitch

point on say, a Tigercat LS855C carrier fitted with a Tigercat 5195 directional felling saw. The hitch point has a load cell or tension monitor that links to a digital display in the cab so that the operator controlling the whole system by remote control is always aware of the tension on the cable. To avoid tension spikes, the cable must remain under load at all times.



All logging contractors going down this avenue are critically mindful of the risks involved and are approaching with care. The New Zealand forestry industry, through the auspices of the Forest Industry Engineering Association (FIEA), raised awareness of this logging method as well as other technologies by organizing the HarvestTECH 2015 Steep Slope Conference in Rotorua this past June.

Tigercat, in trying to fully understand the application and how its track carriers, felling heads and six-wheel skidders are being used on steep terrain, sent a strong

group of thirteen delegates including engineers, factory field representatives and Ken MacDonald, Tigercat's CEO and owner. The group not only attended and participated at the Steep Slope Conference but also visited numerous Tigercat customer sites not limited to tethered applications. The value

and importance of seeing machines in the field and listening to operator feedback remains a top priority with Tigercat's engineering staff and this two week trip proved invaluable in this regard. Customers were almost overwhelmed by the strong interest that Tigercat has in ensuring it continues to produce machines that meet evolving contractor requirements.

Amongst all the disagreement relating to these emerging methods, one point is quite clear. It is the background, training and ability of the operator to assess and mitigate risk on a constant basis that most affects safety in any forest, despite all the cutting edge technology. ■

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HOW TO MOVE TIMBER IN FRANCE

Using the 610 platform, Tigercat and Clohse Group help a diverse group of French loggers fulfill a wide variety of skidding requirements, while providing excellent after sale support.

– Paul Iarocci



Tigercat 610C skidder fitted with a swing boom designed and manufactured by Belgium based Charlier Engineering.

Tigercat dealer, Clohse Group Lux based in Troisvierges, Luxemburg sells and services Tigercat machinery in northwestern Europe. The owners, Dieter, José and Heinz Clohse started in the industry as loggers, working alongside their father, and still operate Clohse Forestry Company with harvesting crews in Belgium. However, Clohse Group's main focus to date has been the varied regions of central and southern France, where the team has placed nine Tigercat 610 series skidders in the past few years. To achieve the required levels of service, parts support and responsiveness, Clohse Group utilizes three well-equipped and capable service contractors. Feedback from the customer base has been extremely positive.



Bernard Fouilland, owner and operator of the 610C swing boom skidder operating in the Charolais region.

French harvesting contractors have some special constraints and requirements. Most important is the three metre (118 in) overall width limitation that is required for transport. Drive through some old French villages and you will work that one out pretty quickly. The narrow width also factors in on mountain skid trails that are literally cut into the steep hillsides. As a result, Tigercat has engineered the machine to be very narrow. This required designing a special dozer blade that allows the wheels to be kept closer than normal to the machine while still providing adequate clearance for chains and axle oscillation. Tigercat also designed and factory installs the front blade grapples that are required for every 610 skidder sold in France.

Essentially there are four variations of the base model that are sold in different regions of the country. The first is a standard dual function arch machine with remote control just for the winch. Second is the swing boom skidder with full remote control. The swing boom itself is manufactured in Belgium by Charlier Engineering, a small engineering company that also designs and builds harvesting heads and a four-wheel drive harvester for markets in western Europe. Dual rotate motors and a large, robust bearing provide ample swing torque and lifespan. In addition to high quality machining and welding, special care has been taken in the design



The swing boom makes it quicker and easier to build high decks when space is limited.

to ensure maximum component commonality and minimal rework. The well-engineered and constructed boom accepts the standard pin connections in the rear chassis of a Tigercat skidder. The rotator, snubber and grapple are standard Tigercat issue.

The third variation is used exclusively in the Rhone-Alps and Auvergne regions. The DW610E mountain skidder with full remote control is equipped with a double drum winch. A Clohse appointed service contractor Foretmat, headed by François Lacroix and situated in Novalaise, Haute Savoie fits the winch hardware. In addition, the company designs, fabricates and fits the winch backboard and fairlead system according to customer preference. The fourth version of the 610 is the dual winch machine, additionally equipped with a 7,2 m (23 ft) 114 kNm Palfinger crane mounted between the winch and the cab.

The swing machine

The first machine to be equipped with a swing boom is owned by Bernard Fouilland who operates in the Charolais region, well known for the beef derived from the white Charolais cattle that graze the area's rich pasture land. Bernard operates alone, contracting out felling duties either to hand fallers or a wheel harvester subcontractor depending on the forest and terrain conditions.

With average production up to 400 m³ per day (one cubic metre equates to approximately one ton), Bernard's tracts are characterized by steep slopes, long skids and very small clear fell harvest areas yielding

700-1 500 m³. Often the terrain requires Bernard to use a combination of cable and grapple skidding, cabling the logs out of the most precarious areas, before building bunches for grapple skidding to roadside. (This is why the remote control of the machine and winch is required.) Whether manually or mechanically felled, the trees are always skidded to roadside without limbs and always bucked in-stand to a sixteen metre (52 ft) maximum, a transport length limitation. It is advantageous for Bernard to follow a mechanical harvester that can pre-bunch the wood, although the swing boom is an excellent tool for quickly building bunches.

Of the four skidder variations in France that Clohse Group is promoting, the swing boom seems to be the configuration with the most potential to help contractors in other parts of the world. The ability to bring the load alongside the machine comes with



Christian Ricoux owns and operates the 610E grapple skidder.

many advantages. First, it facilitates much quicker cycle times when double bunching. Rather than overshooting the second bunch and backing the load over it so that the bunches cross, Bernard just drives alongside the target bunch, releases the bunch from the grapple, picks up the new load and off he goes. Gathering loose stems and building bunches from

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The 610E grapple skidder equipped with front blade grapples for sorting logs and transporting shortwood.

scratch is also much quicker compared with a dual arch machine.

When operating on slopes and traversing side slopes, Bernard uses the boom to manipulate the load, changing the centre of gravity. This improves the stability of the narrow machine and also acts to reduce stress on the structure and axles. (Bernard notes that he would prefer a wider machine for his application but transport rules do not permit it.)

Another terrific advantage, especially in tight roadside scenarios is the ability to quickly deck the wood quite high with less effort and machine movement than a standard grapple skidder. In general, the swing boom prevents direction changes, blading and other time consuming motions, improving the flow of the operation.

Bernard has made some clever modifications that suit a one-man operation. One example, he installed an automated fuel system with an electric pump and switch on the machine so that he can refuel while

performing other maintenance tasks to increase his daily productivity.

Dual arch

The next operation BTB visited was that of Christian Ricoux, owner of a 610E dual arch grapple skidder equipped with front blade grapples. Christian operates

in the Auvergne region of central France. His terrain is usually quite steep with species and length sorts on tracts with very limited space along the roadside and no real landing area.

Felling is generally split evenly between manual and mechanized and all trees are limbed and bucked in-stand to maximum sixteen metres (52 ft), so Christian too must deal with skidding the random length shortwood. Typically he will work in mixed

forests with species such as beech, acacia and douglas fir. To deal with the random short logs, Christian will grab a bunch with the front blade grapples while skidding a load of long logs. He also utilizes the front grabs for sorting and decking the logs in the tight quarters at roadside.



The technical staff of Clohse Group appointed service contractor, Foretmat, headed by François Lacroix (second from right), situated in Novalaise, Haute Savoie. The facilities are well equipped.

Mountain logging in the French Alps

Next stop was the Rhone-Alps where double drum winch cable skidders have reigned supreme for decades. This unique configuration includes the front blade grabs along with a dual drum winch mounted on the rear chassis with the fairleads integrated into a large hydraulically moveable backboard that can be lowered below grade to act as an anchor when the machine is actively winching. When the machine is skidding, the logs are pushed up against or sitting on top of the backboard, depending upon the design.

Clohse Group technical manager, Piers Eyre-Walker explains that one of the big advantages of the Tigercat skidder over others in the market is the winch control. Excellent electronic coordination between the clutch, brake and drive results in virtually no slack and perfect control as the winch drive starts and stops. “It is one of those subtle things that you take



Nicolas Gombert recently took delivery of his first brand new machine, a crane equipped DW610E skidder.

for granted when you have it, but is very important and no one else has it. All the others tend to slip back a little when the operator stops winching.”

The Alps differs in other ways from the logging operations in Central France. There is virtually no clear felling and nearly all thinning is performed manually. There are likely around 200 double winch skidders working in the region supplying slow growing, extremely high value wood to local sawmills. The trees are large and valuable. A single stem could measure 15 m³ and values range from \$200-700 per m³. Due to high snow accumulations, there is no harvesting activity in winter. Owners and operators alike do other work during winter, often related to the ski industry.

Nicolas Gombert, who recently purchased his first brand new machine, a DW610E equipped with a Palfinger crane, is a French chainsaw sculpture champion who operates Sculpture Glance & Bois, a business that creates wood and snow sculptures for many private and corporate clients.

Nicolas purchases private timber and markets the wood himself, picking up tracts where he will harvest as little as 700 m³. He averages 100 m³ per day including felling, limbing, bucking to 14 m (46 ft), skidding and sorting. He will use the crane to reach trees that are

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Nicolas Gombert (centre) was so excited about his new skidder, he recreated it in cedar. He is flanked by Clohse Group technical manager, Piers Eyre-Walker (left) and Clohse Group owner Dieter Clohse.

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close to the skid trail and will winch out the logs that are further away. Another common practice is to winch the machine up or down extremely steep slopes to access the downed timber, France's version of tethered logging.

Sorting with the crane really improves productivity because it is very difficult and time consuming to sort with cables and the blade. Also because of the high value of the wood, the logs must be handled very carefully. The hand fallers take the edges off the butt of each log so that it rides over obstacles on the forest floor more easily when winching. The remote control system saves the operator, who also chokes the logs, a

great deal of back and forth time between the cab and the end of the cables.

For this machine, the first to be equipped with a crane, Clohse added a second IQAN system for the crane functions and modified the Turnaround® seat so that it rotates a full 360 degrees with electric rotate control. The pedals are fixed to the seat turntable and rotate with the operator. Like a forwarder, this allows the operator visibility when using the crane at any angle. It also allows the operator to use either door, a big advantage in cable skidding applications where the operator is entering and exiting the cab in difficult ground conditions. ■

LES COGNÉES 2015

Held every second year in Les Gets, a picture-perfect ski town in the French Alps, Les Cognées is a truly grassroots forestry event. It is organized by mountain skidder enthusiast Thomas Mudry and a committee of skidder operators as a friendly skills competition and a really big party. In addition, there is a forestry fair element with around fifty industry related exhibitors.

Anyone in the world who works in the forest industry should experience this event at least once. If cable skidders racing around a muddy course trying to avoid touching slalom poles at the foot of a ski hill in the mountains isn't enough of a draw, there is always the massive beer tent open from morning until night. A team of hardworking bartenders managed to sell about 20 000 litres (5,300 gallons) of beer over the two day event to an estimated 15,000 attendees.

The crowd seemed to be made up of anyone related to the forest industry from equipment operators to hand fallers to sawmill workers – all with entire families in tow. In addition to visitors from all over France, people travelled from Belgium and Switzerland and there was no shortage of tourists and curious onlookers from nearby villages.

There were two Tigercat machines among the sixteen entries. Nicolas Gombert's new crane equipped DW610E was piloted by Clohse Forestry Company grapple skidder operator, Michaël Nivarlé. Clohse Group customer, Noël Viguier, entered his DW610C. The course required a great deal of driving and winching skill as the operators tried to negotiate the logs around the course without hitting the slalom poles. The operators used the two cables (with one cable attached near the middle of the load) to manipulate the logs around tight corners and narrow forest passageways.

Dieter Clohse, Marc Breuer, Piers Eyre-Walker and Eddie Leboutte from Clohse Group along with customer and champion chainsaw sculptor Nicolas Gombert (centre) pose with an ice sculpture of a 610E skidder created by Nicolas for the event.





Massive crowds watch the finale as skidders push each other around and attempt to climb the steepest slopes. The two day event attracted an estimated 15,000 spectators.



Michaël Nivarlé, skidder operator for Clohse Forestry Company, negotiates a sharp turn and steep incline in the course.



Noël Viguier operating a DW610C, another Tigercat skidder that was entered in the competition.



The t-shirt pretty much sums up the spirit of this grassroots event.

FIRST 1085B FORWARDER

JMG Fillion is proud to own the very first Tigercat 25-tonne 1085B forwarder ever built. BTB followed up with the Fillion family at their jobsite in northern Quebec to see how the new Tigercat crane, grapple and low-wide bunk system was working out for them.

– Samantha Paul, marketing

JMG Fillion is a family owned and operated business working in the snowy hills of northern Lac-St-Jean, Quebec, about a four hour drive north of Quebec City. Owner Martin Fillion has been working in the woods since he was sixteen-years-old. His sons, Maxime (28), Nicolas (22) and Pierre-Vincent (24) are part owners and integral to the business. Maxime and Pierre-Vincent operate the Tigercat H855C track harvester. Nicolas used to run a Tigercat 1075B but now runs the new 1085B forwarder. Martin explains, “Since the boys were ten-years-old they have been coming into the woods to help me, they have always loved it. They each started working for the business when they turned eighteen.”

Martin has been working in the woods for over 30 years and loves being able to spend each day working with his family. Not only do they spend each workday together, but they also used to spend their weekends together racing snowmobiles and travelling to competitions.

The family operation

JMG Fillion is employed



The 1085B forwarder with the Tigercat F195T85 crane, Tigercat FG43 grapple and low-wide bunk.

by Resolute Forest Products paper mill in Dolbeau, Quebec and is cutting mostly black spruce, also known as black gold. Black spruce takes over 100 years to grow, making the fibre very strong and valuable. The daily intake of the Resolute mill is approximately 2 000 m³ (1,760 ton). JMG finds that

it can harvest an average of 266 m³ of wood per hectare (95 tons per acre). JMG contributes approximately 3 000 m³ (2,640 ton) per week to the mill and estimates it will cut a total of 120 000 m³ (106,000 ton) this year.

Resolute paper mill has strict regulations that apply to the contract loggers. A foreman comes around to check if they are following environmental regulations and safety protocols. JMG crew members must wear anti-cut gloves, hard hat, glasses and steel toed



The Fillion family in front of their 1085B forwarder. (L-R) Pierre-Vincent, Maxime, Nicolas and Martin.



Fully loaded 1085B forwarder heading down the hilly, snowy terrain to unload at the landing.

boots at all times while on site. Any time they need to service a machine, such as replace a chain or refuel, they must lock it out. Every near miss – an unplanned event that did not result in serious injury but had the potential to do so – has to be documented for the mill’s employee risk analysis.

JMG runs a two-shift operation for approximately ten months of the year. They only shut down for four to six weeks in the spring depending on the weather and one to two weeks over Christmas. There are seven crew members in total with three machines – one day shift, one night shift and one day shift mechanic – allowing the company to operate 24 hours per day. The boys are always competing with one another. The harvesters are trying to get ahead of the forwarder and the forwarder is trying to keep up with the harvesters. With two harvesters feeding one forwarder, they need the biggest, most productive forwarder available. That is one of the main reasons why they purchased the first 1085B they could get their hands on from Tigercat dealer, Wajax Equipment in St. Felicien, Quebec.

Their unique jobsite requires the forwarder to travel over 800 metres (875 yds) from the road in very hilly

terrain with over a metre (4 ft) of snow in the winter. Martin strongly believes the company can have two harvesters feeding a single forwarder, as long as that one forwarder is extremely durable and reliable. The cost for a second forwarder would not only include the upfront machine costs, but also the costs for two trained operators, ongoing maintenance and transport from jobsite to jobsite. With the 1085B, JMG is able to run its operation with no bottlenecks with just one forwarder.

Increased productivity – Tigercat crane and grapple


JMG’s 25-tonne 1085B forwarder includes the new Tigercat F195T85 crane, Tigercat FG43 grapple and Tigercat’s innovative new low-wide bunk system. After nine months in the woods, Nicolas and the night shift operator, Philippe Gauthier, have put 2,800 hours on the machine with Nicolas commenting, “I really like the bigger crane and the capacity of the big crane. It is very easy to handle. The higher lift capacity makes it easier to move and actually makes it feel lighter than the Loglift crane we used to have on the 1075B.” Nicolas was able to lift approximately 1,8 m³ (2.4 ton) of heavy birch with the new crane and grapple with no problems at all.

Nicolas also comments on the Tigercat grapple, “I love its design. It makes it very easy to fill and

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Tigercat H855C track harvester laying wood for the 1085B forwarder.



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overflow. We usually load eighteen grapples at 1,5 cubic metres [1.3 ton] of sixteen-foot black spruce making up to 27 cubic metres [24 ton] per load.” Tigercat district manager, Yannick Lapointe, timed Nicolas unloading a full bunk of sixteen-foot logs and it took approximately three minutes forty-five seconds.

Improved visibility with low-wide

By angling the load down toward the front of the bunk and reducing the gate height, the low-wide bunk reduces the chance of contact with the crane and provides maximum load capacity without the need for a vertical slider. The low-wide bunk system expands up to 7,5 m² (81 ft²).

Visibility is much better out the back with the gate being lower. When loaded, the operator can easily see the logs at the top of the gate and the logs being loaded all the way to the back, which greatly increases loading speed. The low-wide bunk gives the ability to load more wood while keeping the centre of gravity lower for increased stability, which makes a big difference on steep hills, rough terrain and deep snow. Martin sums it up. “The bigger grapple with the more powerful Tigercat crane and bigger, more stable bunk makes for much better productivity.”

100% Tigercat drivetrain

The 1085B excels in severe duty applications and long distance forwarding and is especially well matched to steep slopes. The machine is equipped with a full Tigercat drivetrain including transmission, differential and bogie components which greatly improve tractive effort and working travel speed. Tigercat expects high reliability and long life from the drivetrain components in tough applications like this one.

Tigercat’s unique WideRange™ transmission is well proven in extreme applications. WideRange allows quick working travel speeds coupled with tractive effort sufficient to carry twenty tonne (22 ton) loads up 60% slopes. This simple, reliable transmission solution has a built-in roading gear and gives the ability to manoeuvre on steep slopes like no other machine on the market.

“The speed is great on this machine. It is at least 1 to 1,5 kilometres per hour [0.6 - 0.9 mph] faster

than the 1075B and there is a lot more tractive effort. The forwarder can now go anywhere the H855C track harvester goes, which was not always the case,” claims Nicolas.

Their 1085B machine is equipped with the new Tigercat designed and manufactured ROB17 bogie. The bogie has the largest gear train on the market, making it more durable than any competing forwarder bogie system. The 1085 bogie has evolved from the bogies found on the Tigercat 615E and 635E skidders, which are well proven in severe-duty applications, and have been for many years. Tigercat’s bogie stops limit the load placed on the slew and help distribute the weight evenly on the bogies as they travel over tough terrain.

“You can really feel the engine horsepower going to the wheels. Half loaded or fully loaded the machine feels fast. When it is fully loaded it can easily climb a 25 degree slope in four feet of snow,” claims Nicolas. “Fuel economy is similar to the 1075 but we are getting a lot more wood. Cost per tonne is lower and we haul 25% more wood.”

Superior support

Not only is JMG Fillion impressed with Tigercat’s engineering advancements, but also with the support provided by Tigercat district manager, Yannick Lapointe and Tigercat dealer, Wajax St. Felicien, that Martin has been working with for over twenty years. “The support we get from Yannick and Jean-François [Wajax St. Felicien sales specialist] is fantastic,” says Maxime.

JMG Fillion is very pleased with the productivity of the 1085B forwarder and the family agrees that Tigercat truly cares about its customers. “I am impressed with the way Tigercat listened to our needs. We made some comments to Tigercat product manager, Jon Cooper, and now we can see those changes in the new model,” states Martin. “The 1085B has a bigger crane, more tractive effort, faster travel speed loaded and unloaded and a bigger bunk with improved operator visibility. All of this is a huge advantage to us.” ■

Watch 1085B forwarders in action in Quebec.
Visit: www.tigercat.com/video/1085b

LIVING LABORATORY

A visit with Eric Krume provides a glimpse into future possibilities for Pacific Northwest logging.

– Paul Iarocci

Based in Castle Rock, Washington, Eric Krume is the owner of Krume Logging & Excavation. He is also owner of manufacturing company, Summit Attachments and Machinery. Eric is a worker, an innovator and a dreamer. Whether he is pursuing logging, the design and manufacture of logging machinery or drag racing, he approaches the task at hand relentlessly and with singular focus and hard work.

BTB made a spring trip to Longview, Washington – a region that epitomizes Pacific Northwest logging conditions with high rainfall and terrain variability – to see Eric’s latest innovation, a fully automated cable assist system tied to the company’s latest equipment purchase, a Tigercat LS855C equipped for falling and shovel logging with Tigercat’s 5195 directional felling head. Eric, along with partner Bruce Skurdahl who works exclusively on the manufacturing side, designed and built the brand new system that was just being put to the test in April.

It is no surprise that Eric is throwing considerable time and effort into the project. Coming from a big family, Eric quit school in the ninth grade in favour of employment at a local mill. He realized very early on that the best way to get what he wanted was through hard work. He started toiling on logging crews at eighteen and parlayed his early work experiences into a successful career as a logging contractor, showing a particular aptitude for designing machines and tools to improve his own operations.

With decidedly strong views, Eric



Eric Krume, owner of Krume Logging and Summit Attachments and Machinery, is a busy guy.

stresses that the technology has not moved quickly enough to adapt to Pacific Northwest conditions and dynamics. In addition, Eric is constantly seeking out flexible solutions because of the site differences from

contract to contract. These beliefs are the driving force behind his manufacturing business. In addition to the tong thrower systems that Summit is actively marketing, Eric is developing new technology based on experiences in his own logging operations.

Eric isn’t afraid to take risks or share knowledge. “I started with nothing and I have no fear to lose what I have. A lot of people, including my competitors, come to see the stuff I am doing but I don’t mind so long as I’m getting some good, honest feedback from them.” While Eric enjoys the challenges inherent in the design and manufacture process, he is also brushing up against some harsh realities, both financial



An unmanned excavator equipped with a winch and yarder tower sits at the top of the hill.

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When ascending the hill there is virtually no site disturbance from the tracks. The machine climbs smoothly and easily.

and time related. As he is being pulled in two different directions with not quite enough time to devote to each facet of the business, he concedes that he can't do it all. However, Eric's son, Tristan, works on one of the crews and elder son, Kameron, after serving in the military is now studying engineering. Eric's daughter Jerica is married to Garrett Lindeman who operates the LS855C shovel logger. So there is strong potential to have family step in and help out with both sides of the business in the future. While it may not alleviate Eric's 80-hour work weeks anytime soon, it is surely a step in the right direction.

Eric bought his first Tigercat machine, an L870C feller buncher in 2012 from Triad Machinery and followed up in 2013 with the LS855C shovel logger – a relatively new concept at the time. Always looking for alternatives to the norm, Eric also purchased a Tigercat 635D in 2013 but it was not an average purchase process. “Most contracts say no rubber tire equipment. Period,” Eric explains. “In the eighties and nineties, they really abused that and it was ruts and mud everywhere. When I said, hey I want to use a skidder, everybody said no. I fought tooth and nail for the skidder. I went to every company and I invited every company out.”

Included on Eric's guest list for the demonstration were government forestry officials from the states of Washington and Oregon as well as representatives from

Weyerhaeuser, Hancock Timber Resource Group, Campbell Global and Plum Creek. “I had three days of a demo with the skidder before I bought it. I had to make sure that the landowners would let me use it. I showed everybody that this is not your average machine and this is what we can do with it. It took me four months but everybody signed off on it.”

Shortly after acquiring the skidder, Eric purchased his fourth Tigercat machine, an 880 logger equipped for loading. But it was the concept of full mechanization and automation with a two-man crew on excessively steep slopes that drew him to a second LS855C in 2014. By this time Tigercat had sold a number of LS855C units equipped with a feller-director stick boom married to the Tigercat 5195 directional felling head for steep slope applications from Chile to New Zealand. The flexibility of the 5195 to fell large timber with a single cut and to perform double cuts without machine repositioning, coupled with the durability of the head for shovel logging, proved to be a winning concept in mountainous regions with oversized trees. On top of that, the LS855C carrier is quick, stable and agile on the slopes. Eric decided to take the concept a step further by designing and building his own automated cable assist system.



Eric fought hard to prove the six-wheel skidder concept in Washington and Oregon.

During the April BTB visit Eric, operating the machine himself, was opening up a new section of the cut block on a slope averaging about 60% and then steepening to 80%. “I wouldn’t go here untethered, he comments. “I want to tether my way into the steeper ground.” With road access at the top, the cable assist allowed Eric to work his way down the slope, while felling downhill.



The operator controls the winch as he descends or ascends the slope, preventing sliding and allowing for downhill felling.

The set-up

An unmanned excavator equipped with a winch and yarder tower sits at the top of the hill. A Wi-Fi signal between the two machines provides the LS855C operator with a view down the hill from a camera mounted to the excavator. The operator can toggle between this and the carrier’s rear mounted camera. A second frequency allows the operator to control the winch as he descends or ascends the slope. The cable is not timed to the tracks so some operator skill is required to time the winch speed to the track speed. The cable assist prevents sliding when descending and allows for downhill felling. When ascending the hill there is virtually no site disturbance from the tracks. The machine climbs smoothly and easily.

Although the early trials are going well, Eric concedes that he is only halfway there. “I’m missing a piece. I still have got to figure out how to get all the wood onto the truck.” Gesturing, toward the slope, he says, “Getting down there is the easy part. Knowing what to do with the wood is the hard part.”

As Eric sees it, there are a couple of problems with grapple yarding as an extraction method. First it is most economical on large-scale operations with long hillsides. “The problem I have is that I don’t have a 1.5 million dollar grapple machine and I don’t get this kind of ground a lot.” No matter how well things are going on a given contract and how well the machinery is matched to the terrain, Eric has no visibility as to the type of ground he will encounter on the next contract. Second, the systems are expensive to buy, time consuming to set up and move, and require a lot of accompanying labour.

For the test tract, Eric ended up bringing in the other LS855C and shovelling the wood up to the landing. However, on steep slopes, uphill shovel logging becomes problematic after a couple of swings as the trees lose their branches. “How do you keep the wood from flinging down the hill?” muses Eric.

“I want to be fully mechanized and automated. With the cable assist I want to get rid of tower logging and see what I can do with a two-man crew. I already know what I can do with eight to ten men. I have not committed to falling for a yarder.” Eric envisions an automated grapple, half of a skidder if you will, attached to another machine with another drum on it. With one man falling, the second man could be processing at roadside as well as controlling the cable assist grapple machine. “I want the grapple to just take my pile of wood and go up the hill. It might go slow but if I can bring a half a load of logs with me, so what.”

Eric is quick to acknowledge that it is ultimately his people that allow him to carry on the research and development work and when all is said and done, it is the people that are most important to him. “My crew is what enables me to do all the extra things. I have always tried to train people and keep people working and it’s their hard work that allows me the time to think outside the box. I appreciate the job that they do for me and I keep focused on the fact that my company is only as good as the people in it. I want to invest in people. It’s really all that matters.” ■

Visit www.tigercat.com/video/krume-logging to see the cable assisted LS855C shovel logger in action.

event round-up

INWOODS EXPO 2015

Tigercat dealer MidSouth Forestry Equipment with branches in Caddo Valley and Warren, Arkansas were instrumental in assisting the Tigercat show set-up team prepare for the InWoods Expo held in Hot Springs, Arkansas June 18-20, 2015. Everyone worked diligently through the rainy, hot, humid conditions as the threat of tropical storm Bill receded, leaving the show organizers and exhibitors with a feeling of relief.

With plenty of mulch to cover and fill in the muddy areas, the show site was ready to welcome visitors to the live demo and static show. During the two-and-a-half day show, guests were drawn to the Tigercat stand with demonstrations of the 720G feller buncher, 630E skidder and new 234B loader. The static machine display included the entire E-series skidder line as well as the 724G and 726G feller bunchers.

23 Tigercat team members were on site along with management and sales personnel from MidSouth Forestry Equipment, Tejas Equipment, Patrick Miller Tractor Co. and Smith Equipment. Tigercat thanks Larry Boccarossa and the staff from the Arkansas Timber Producers Association for their excellent efforts with this event.

GOODSONS GO WEST

Tigercat team members joined Tigercat dealer Inland Group at the Canada North Resources Expo held in Prince George, British Columbia May 29-30, 2015. All eyes were on the new low-wide equipped 1085B forwarder. Special guests Bobby and Lori Goodson from Discovery Channel's Swamp Loggers series enjoyed meeting and sharing stories with visitors at the Inland booth during the two-day show.

Tigercat staff including CEO Ken MacDonald, Canadian sales manager Ron Montgomery, district manager Rob Selby, product support Gary MacDonald, engineering staff Jon Cooper, Fil Rinaldis, Ken Grein, Bruce Vaile, Rob Pentesco, Nathan Henry and marketing support Judy Brooks enjoyed visiting with numerous customers and the Inland Group team members.



The 875 logger and the new 1085B forwarder on display in Prince George.

DEMO INTERNATIONAL 2016

In June Tigercat participated in the DEMO International 2016 site selection day held at the University of British Columbia Research Forest in Maple Ridge. Planning for the international event is well underway and Tigercat looks forward to interacting with customers and dealers from around the world while showcasing live demonstrations of its latest and greatest tree-length and CTL harvesting systems in a high quality west coast timber stand. Mark your calendars and plan to attend DEMO International 2016, September 22-24 in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada.

Demo Site selection team (L-R) Tigercat product support Gary MacDonald, Tigercat district manager Rob Selby, Inland Group general manager Tracey Russell, Tigercat Canadian sales manager Ron Montgomery and Tigercat district manager Don Snively.



B & G EQUIPMENT OPEN HOUSE, ALABAMA

The Bates family officially opened the doors of the new B & G Equipment dealership in Moundville, Alabama on June 22, 2015. Four generations of the Bates family were in attendance to host local loggers, community dignitaries, B & G vendors and thirteen Tigercat staff including president Tony Iarocci, US sales manager Kevin Selby, district managers Johnny Boyd and Don Snively and product support representatives Aaron Piper and Drew Beery.

As guests arrived for the ribbon cutting ceremony and fish fry, there was plenty of time to mill throughout the well-designed, brand new building. Children enjoyed the challenge of climbing up into the shiny new Tigercat T250D loader, 620E skidder and 724G feller buncher on display.



W.J. Bates cuts the ribbon.

B & G president, Debbie Webb, expressed a warm welcome to all guests and spoke of the 39 year history of B & G Equipment with tremendous pride. Tigercat president, Tony Iarocci, conveyed sincere congratulations to the Bates family and wished them continued success with Tigercat.

The special day had all the components of a successful event – family, friends, plenty of good food, laughter and fellowship.

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TIDEWATER DEMO DAY

Tidewater hosted its first ever Demo Day on April 11 in Jesup, Georgia, drawing in more than 1,000 people. Everyone came out for a day of fun that included logging equipment demonstrations, chainsaw woodcarving, a loader competition, numerous children's activities, food, giveaways and door prizes.

A light wind kept the gnats away from the all-day event. Representatives from Big John, CSI, Maxi-Load Scale Systems, Morbark, Pitts Trailers, R Squared Solutions, Rotobec and Tigercat were on hand to answer questions. Tigercat had more than 40 staff members on site, including the CEO, president, product managers and designers.

Tigercat president Tony Iarocci commented afterward, "We truly appreciate the effort that Tidewater put into this demo event. It was a huge success. Tigercat and Tidewater have a strong long-standing partnership and always enjoy working together for the benefit of our customers. We were happy to help out with this event in any way we could."



Tidewater president Jamie Young added, "Our inaugural Demo Day was a huge success and the most successful logging show we have ever attended. Our customers were very well served by all of our vendors and I am very proud of everyone that contributed to make this a memorable event. We had loggers drive eight hours to attend this event and we are very humbled to serve such a strong industry."

Russell Giddens, owner of Nicholls Logging in West Green, Georgia, was in attendance with his wife. "This has been a great event, a lot of people." Giddens bought his first Tigercat 234 loader in 2008. "My 234 has lasted a long time and we are still running it with over 10,500 hours on it."

William Simpson, owner of WHS Logging, and his wife drove in to the event from Perry, Florida. Simpson, a fourth generation logger, currently operates seven Tigercat machines and has built the business from one crew to three crews. "I am almost a 100% Tigercat now and I just bought a 620E last week," he says.

Timmy Dopson, owner of Dopson Timber LLC based in Jacksonville, Georgia, commented on his experience as an operator: "I have run them all, even a Franklin back when I was little, and nothing runs like a Tigercat."



There was a wealth of Tigercat machinery everywhere you turned. Machine demonstrations included the 845D track feller buncher, an EHS equipped 620E skidder, the 724G feller buncher, a 234 loader feeding a new CSI delimeter, a 630E skidder and a T250D loader. Numerous other Tigercat machines were on static display.

Jonathan Stinson from Betterton Pulpwood in Alabama won the loader competition with a time of 2:08 minutes. Neal Snider from R & N Logging in Alabama came in second place and Michael Manning from Carter Logging in Middleburg, Florida placed third.

Following the demo event, Tidewater and EPG Insurance provided cocktails and dinner on the grounds of the Fairfield Inn in Brunswick. Many customers attended the dinner, hung around for the door prizes and danced the night away. ■

construction update

THE MOVE-IN BEGINS

– Steve Crosby, vice president Paris operations

Occupancy for the additional manufacturing facility was granted June 26th, with the movement of parts for 200 series loader assembly beginning immediately thereafter. Loaders will move in first, followed by undercarriage assembly, 880/875 cab assembly, 800 series boom, valve, engine and cooler assemblies, harvester heads and finally, the complete 800 series

product assembly including the new 822D/830D products which up to this point have been built in the prototype shop at the Morton Ave, Brantford facility.

Rodney Stewart, supervisor for loader production, is very pleased to be moving to the new facility.

“Although we have to work extra hard to handle the move to Paris while maintaining our production schedule, everyone is very excited to get in and start working in this world-class facility,” comments Rodney.

Long-time assembly team member Paul Brown will be the first full time assembler at the new plant, assembling off-line 200 series loader products ahead of the full assembly line move. Paul is a knowledgeable and productive worker, the right choice to get us started and on the right track in our new facility. ■



NEW TIGERCAT DEALERSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA

Tigercat is pleased to announce the opening of CTW Equipment in North Carolina.

Tigercat's long standing presence in North Carolina has transitioned from Tigercat dealer A.G. Lassiter Equipment located in Chocowinity to CTW Equipment in Williamston, North Carolina.

"Tigercat kindly thanks A.G. Lassiter Equipment for their fourteen years of service and for the strong relationships they have built with loyal Tigercat customers over the years," states Tigercat US sales manager, Kevin Selby. "Particular appreciation goes to Al Lassiter who sadly passed away this past January. One could always rely on Al to act on his word and he would be pleased to know that the fine team he formed will continue to serve Tigercat customers."

Along with the majority of the Lassiter staff, service

manager, Todd Sauls, parts manager, Brian Johnson and sales specialist, Ronnie Piland have all moved over to CTW from Lassiter. Donald Smith has also joined the sales team.

Wayne Cale, CTW Equipment co-owner comments, "We are humbled to have the opportunity to continue the legacy of A.G. Lassiter and continue providing strong customer service in the region and the best product on the market – Tigercat."

CTW Equipment looks forward to building strong relationships with area loggers and future customers by providing excellent customer service and parts availability to allow loggers to stay in the woods doing what they do best.

CTW Equipment understands the industry, the equipment and the loggers. "We know that minimizing machine downtime is critical to a profitable operation," states CTW co-owner Ben Twiddy. "We are confident that our experience and industry knowledge combined with the best product on the market will amount to an unparalleled customer experience." ■



CTW Equipment is now officially open for business in Williamston, North Carolina.

EXPANDED TIGERCAT DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA

Tigercat is pleased to announce the appointment of the Kanu Equipment Group Limited as its authorized dealer for the following countries in west and central Africa in which Kanu Equipment has an existing presence: Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and The Republic of Congo.

Kanu Equipment's footprint in these geographic regions to date has been largely in the sectors of mining, construction, agriculture and to a lesser degree, forestry. Armed with the comprehensive Tigercat product range, Kanu will now be able to offer a diverse range of purpose-built forestry equipment to these markets. Kanu will also offer parts and service support to the existing field population of

Tigercat machines already operating in the region. Kanu has fully equipped workshops and maintenance capabilities in all the areas that it operates in.

"We are very excited about representing Tigercat and it is true to our philosophy of representing quality branded products where we can get exceptional support," states Kanu Equipment CEO, Stephen Smithyman. "This enables us to live to our motto of allowing our customers to 'Experience the Support' in some very challenging countries."

Kanu Equipment Group Limited is owned by Torre Industrial Holdings which is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The Kanu name and logo is based on the analogy of the Hummingbird being a small and resourceful bird that braves the challenges that the dark forest presents and so together with the strong animal theme of the Tigercat name, it is without doubt that the combined efforts will lead to good things for both companies. ■

Check out what's **In-Store** at Tigercat...

Tigercat Wall Clock.

Battery operated, with brushed aluminum case.

See our on-line store for more great Tigercat branded merchandise.

**Order from your local Tigercat dealer
or online here: www.mestore.ca/tigercat**



www.tigercat.com

employee news

ENGINEERING PROMOTIONS

Consistent with Tigercat's strategy of growth through innovation and new product development, Tigercat is pleased to announce that the following product managers have assumed expanded responsibilities.

Jon Cooper has been appointed vice president, engineering for wheel harvesters and forwarders. Grant Somerville's new role is vice president, engineering for track machines, loaders and attachments. Shawn Pette is appointed vice president, engineering for skidders, wheel feller-bunchers, mulchers and drivetrain. ■



Jon Cooper



Grant Somerville



Shawn Pette

THE LA CRETE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hot, sunny and perfect weekend to be on the course.

La Crete, Alberta is an oasis in a remote part of northern Canada. Local business and private donors have come together to build and develop a model community that includes a retirement home and golf course. A new recreation centre is currently in the works.

Tigercat and Wajax attended the annual La Crete Golf Tournament to support a community that accounts for a large portion of the annual tree harvest in Alberta. The best ball tournament was followed by a prime rib dinner and live auction to raise funds to support the golf course. ■



(Left-right) Darren Kutschinski, branch manager, Wajax, Grande Prairie; Ken Grein, Tigercat product engineer; Baxter Attlebery, territory manager, Wajax; Rob Pentesco, Tigercat product manager; James Farquhar, Tigercat district manager.

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