

Media Release

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Northern Minnesota Harvester Wins 'Logger of the Year' Award

Mike Warren has been named "Logger of the Year" by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC).

The award, given April 12 in Walker during the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) Conference, honors "outstanding performance" by an independent logging contractor in Minnesota.

Warren, owner of M&R Chips of Grand Rapids, has operated his business for over 25 years, carrying on a logging tradition established by his father and father-in-law.

"Mike and his wife, Tammy, exemplify the high standards set forth by Minnesota's logging profession and the SIC," said Tim O'Hara, coordinator of the Duluth-based Minnesota SIC.

"He combines the traditional with the contemporary - adhering to stringent safety practices, while at the same time employing 21st century technology in his application of global positioning and geographic information technology in the cabs of his harvesting equipment."

M&R Chips adheres to Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines and Best Management Practices throughout its operations, including clean and aesthetic chipping sites, and enhanced utilization of the forest resources being harvested.

"Warren and the employees of M&R Chips have made a noteworthy contribution to Minnesota's forest management and harvesting activities by setting the bar high on safety, sustainable harvesting activities, outreach to landowners and fellow professionals, and in their collective commitment to good business practices," added Dave Chura, Executive Director of the MLEP.



Mike Warren (center) accepts the 2011 Logger of the Year Award from Jim Marshall (l) UPM-Blandin, award nominator; and Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee Chair Mark Reed (r).