

Young Maine loggers talk

Name: Adam J. Kenneson
Age: 25
Profession: Owner/Operator
Company: Kenneson Timber Inc., Fort Kent

How and when did you decide you wanted to work in this industry?

I began working in the logging industry in 2012. I was a student at the University of Maine at Fort Kent when I started dating Katherine Nadeau, who fortunately became my wife. Her father, Mike Nadeau, owner of White Oak Inc. offered me a job early on in our relationship, and I knew it was my destiny to stay in the area and be with Katie.

Does your family have a history doing this kind of work?

As far as a family history of logging, I'm comfortable to say yes. I may not have roots in the forestry industry but yes, I married into a family with a thick history in the woods. White Oak started in 1988, and Mike's grandfather, Patrick Nadeau, started making a living in the Northern Maine woods in the 1950s.

What has been your favorite memory associated with working in the woods?

I don't have a specific memory that stands out as my favorite, however, I can say that I've always had a fondness of the Maine Woods and being able to take in the beauties of the Northern Maine wilderness while I work is enough of a perk to do my job.



What is your greatest challenge as a young person in this industry?

The greatest challenge I find with my job is survival. The forestry industry is a high demanding, competitive industry with many players. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity through White Oak to have the chance to start my own company and provide a comfortable living for my family in an area of the world that is unlike any other, Fort Kent, an area that is small town, breathtaking, and close-knit.

What are your hopes for the future of this industry and the next generation of loggers?

My hope for the industry is preservation. I do, after all, have a bachelor's degree in environmental studies. That may sound contradictory for the nature of my profession. I simply mean that I hope current and future loggers profit from the land while keeping the mindset that our resources are limited and they are a gift. With the proper practices, loggers in Maine have a great opportunity to pursue a rewarding life for their family.

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