

# THE LANDING

SPRING 2018





# 2017 GOOD DESIGN™ AWARDS WINNER

## 3756G FORESTRY SWING MACHINE

The John Deere 3756G Forestry Swing Machine recently received the GOOD DESIGN Award, the oldest, most prestigious design-excellence recognition in the world. Now in its 67th year, the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design presents the award to acknowledge the most innovative and cutting-edge industrial, product, and graphic designs produced around the globe. Everything from paperclips to Boeing jets have been recognized.

“We are incredibly honored to have received a GOOD DESIGN Award for the 3756G Swing Machine,” said Tom Budan, Vice President Worldwide Forestry at John Deere. “This award verifies that we not only created a productive and powerful piece of equipment, but also the innovation of the swing machine design. Innovation is one of our core principles, and this recognition solidifies John Deere as the world leader in the forestry industry.”

A panel of distinguished design professionals, industry specialists, and journalists judged the 3756G Swing Machine. Judges use criteria that date back to 1950 for the award, including innovative design, new technologies, form, materials, construction, concept, function, utility, energy efficiency, and sensitivity to the environment.

The panel called the 3756G a “rugged, efficient new player” in John Deere’s forestry lineup that is “all about” improving productivity and uptime in some of the toughest working conditions possible. The machine combines “strong proportion, active stance, and bold graphics” to make it an industry success.



### JUDGES' NOTES



An overarching design language for all John Deere forestry machines that conveys the strength, power, durability, and longevity of the machines while maintaining a consistent look.



Countless hours of virtual-reality and field testing with customers that resulted in excellent visibility.



On the log-loader rear-entry cab, floor-mounted windows improve visibility to the tracks and working area.



A high-rise cab with larger windows enhances visibility to the job at hand, while “strengthening the perception of security and safety.”

*In addition to the 3756G Swing Machine, the 310E Articulated Dump Truck, the four-track 9RX Series Tractors, and the Round Baler family have also received GOOD DESIGN Awards.*



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Ponting Contracting Ltd. builds logging roads in some of the toughest, most remote locations imaginable.

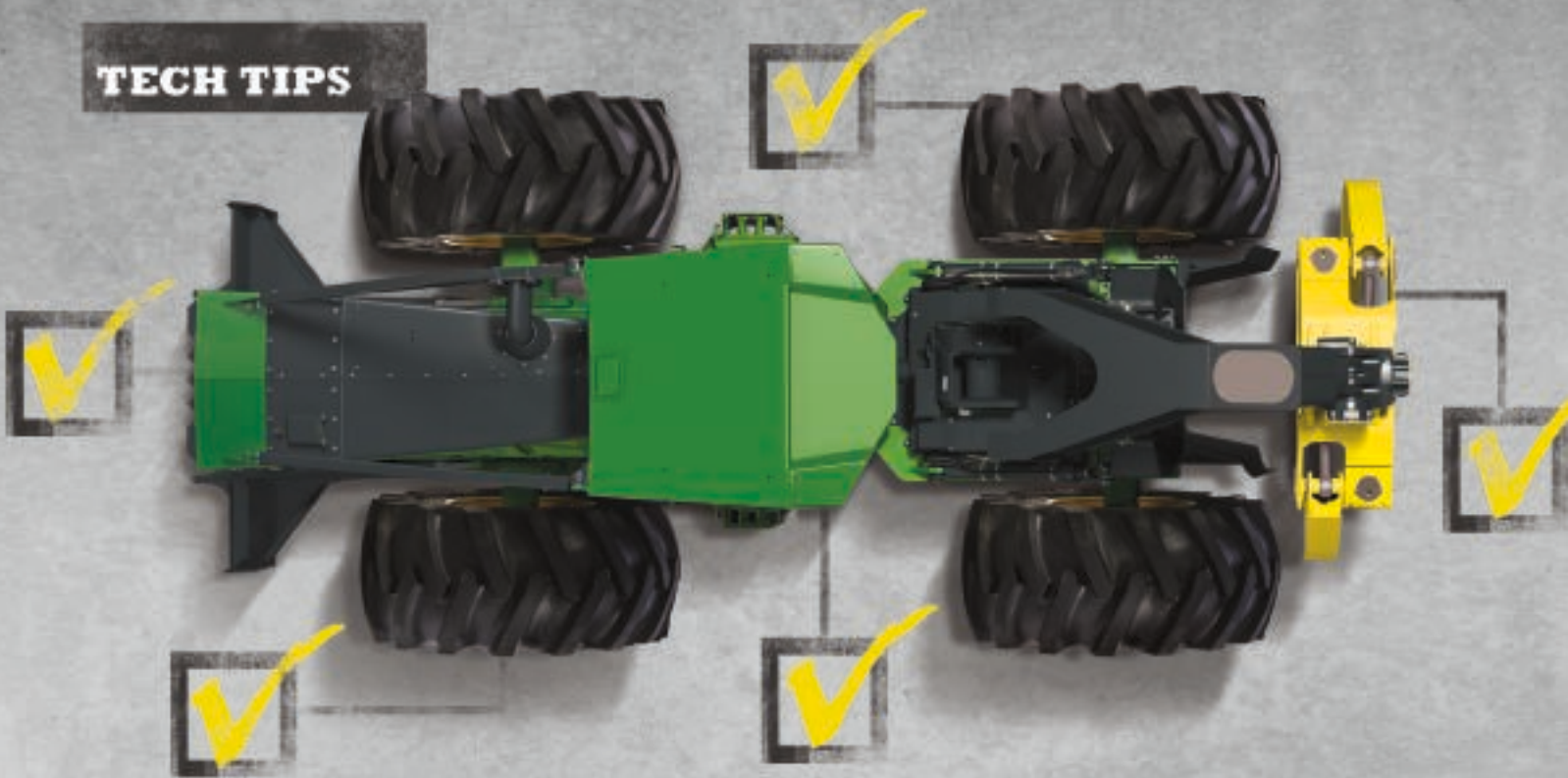
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Logger Dan Melcher is proud of his father’s service in World War II as crewmember on a B-17 Flying Fortress.

### Cover image:

*The Ponting Contracting Ltd. floating camp in a remote location near Vancouver Island.*

## TECH TIPS



## GAIN PEACE OF MIND WITH JOHN DEERE CERTIFIED USED L-SERIES AND OTHER FORESTRY EQUIPMENT

Through John Deere Certified Used, our dealers can provide you with high-quality, well-maintained forestry equipment. That includes John Deere's popular L-Series Skidders and Feller Bunchers, which are now eligible for up to a 12-month used warranty. Here's what you need to know to add a piece of equipment to your fleet — and gain peace of mind.

### Why John Deere Certified Used?

To be certified, John Deere L-Series Skidders and Feller Bunchers must be five years old or newer, or under 8,000 hours. G-Series Forwarders, G-Series Wheeled Harvesters, and M-Series Tracked Feller Bunchers/Harvesters must be five years old or newer, or under 10,000 hours. Prior models can also be certified if they meet these guidelines.

### Are they warrantied?

Yes. In addition to being certified as high-quality machines, John Deere Certified Used machines are covered by a factory warranty. Up to 12-month unlimited-hour powertrain and hydraulic warranty is available on wheeled feller bunchers and skidders. Six-month warranties are available on forwarders, wheeled harvesters, tracked feller bunchers, and tracked harvesters.

### Is financing available?

Certified Used machines that are warrantied for 12 months are eligible for low rate financing from John Deere Financial.

### How do I know it's a quality machine?

Each Certified Used machine must pass a strict 100-plus-point inspection, including performance checks and fluid analysis. The inspections are performed by experienced technicians and thoroughly reviewed by the used equipment manager at eligible John Deere dealerships.

### When is a used machine a good alternative?

There are many reasons you may want to add a machine to your logging operation. Maybe you need to keep up with changing mill quotas or are diversifying services. Sometimes a used machine just makes sense. The price is right. Maybe you don't need all the latest bells and whistles. Or you have an urgent need for another machine to keep up with a surge in production.

### How do I find a John Deere Certified Used machine?

Visit [machinefinder.com](http://machinefinder.com) to do a search. By creating a new account, you can specify the model you are looking for and get a notification when one becomes available.

Machine Finder represents only a portion of all the John Deere Certified Used machines that are available. There may be used machines on your local dealer's lot that haven't been listed yet or may be eligible for certification. Many Deere equipment dealers are qualified to certify used machines. Ask your dealer for more information.

### Five reasons to buy John Deere Certified Used forestry equipment:

- ✓ Low-hour machines
- ✓ Must pass strict 100-plus-point inspection
- ✓ Up to 12-month, unlimited-hour powertrain and hydraulic warranty available on wheeled feller bunchers and skidders
- ✓ John Deere quality
- ✓ Backed by the John Deere dealer network



# RUSSIA ON THE RISE

## RUSSIA'S FOREST INDUSTRY

At almost twice the size of the United States, Russia is by far the largest country in the world in terms of land mass. It spans nine time zones and borders more than a dozen other countries.

It's no surprise that this giant country is also home to the largest forest area on earth, comprising more than one-fifth of the world's forests. Russia's forests cover about 45 percent of its land and alone are larger than the continent of Australia. They account for over 50 percent of the world's conifers and one percent of the world's biomass. Vast coniferous forests, known in Russia as "the taiga," cover Siberia and represent the largest forested region on earth.

With the world's largest harvestable area and untapped timber reserves, Russia is growing into a global forestry giant. The country's forestry industry has become more competitive in terms of timber harvesting, hauling, and processing costs, as the result of more investment in modern logging equipment, sawmills, and other equipment such as kilns, planers, and moulders.



## MODERNIZED AND MECHANIZED

Russian loggers harvest mainly softwood, along with some hardwood, including spruce, fir, birch, and aspen. Logging sites are typically clear-cuts of naturally grown, publicly owned forests. Operations range from small private companies to giant holdings with hundreds of forestry machines.

In recent years, Russia's logging operations have become much more modern. Today, most are fully mechanized. Mechanization began in the 1990s, when Timberjack (purchased by John Deere in 2000) opened dealerships and began selling forestry equipment. Originally, full-tree methods were introduced in Siberia, where they remain popular. Now approximately 90 percent of operations all around the country use cut-to-length methods that include both tracked and wheeled harvesters. Many tracked harvesters are lightly modified excavators that started their lives as diggers.

## EMERGING GLOBAL LEADER

Through modernization, Russia has become the world's leader in round-wood exports, and it's ranked fifth in terms of cutting volume. It is the largest supplier to the world's largest importer of wood products, China. Russia primarily exports round wood to China, but an export tax on softwood logs has provided an incentive to Russian companies to process logs in their own sawmills. As a result, while Russia's export volume to China continues to rise, it now comprises more lumber and fewer logs.

Russia also exports wood products to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries of Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan; Japan; Finland; and other European countries. With experts predicting lumber shortages in coming years, and with traditional suppliers in Europe and North America unable to keep up with demand, Russia is well positioned to fill the gap.



- + LARGEST FOREST AREA IN THE WORLD
- + LEADING ROUND-WOOD EXPORTER
- + LEADING EXPORTER TO CHINA
- + LOGGING SITES TYPICALLY CLEAR-CUT
- + MOSTLY SOFTWOOD
- + 90-PERCENT CUT-TO-LENGTH
- + FULL-TREE LOGGING POPULAR IN SIBERIA



DEERE GEAR





# DOWN THE ROAD

## RELIABLE CRAWLER JOHN DEERE DOZERS ARE ROAD WARRIORS

Getting to a timber stand isn't always easy, especially over treacherous terrain. Loggers need tough road-building machines that are not only productive, but also help contain costs. Dependable, efficient John Deere 750K and 850K Crawler Dozers deliver the power and performance needed to push up stumps, peel away topsoil, and spread ballast.

Both models feature PowerTech™ 6.8-L Final Tier 4 (FT4) diesels that produce generous displacement, power, and lugging ability. Total fluid efficiency (diesel fuel plus diesel exhaust fluid [DEF]) is excellent. Plus diesel particulate filter (DPF) cleaning is generally automatic, without disrupting machine performance.

Operators will appreciate the quiet, spacious cab and fatigue-beating comfort in K-Series Dozers. Low-effort controls command the blade and full-featured hydrostatic drivetrain, for superb response and control in the woods. Plus numerous features simplify service, including wide-open component access and an easy-to-clean V-cool package. So you'll spend less time on maintenance and more time in the woods building roads.

To learn more, visit [JohnDeere.com/Dozers](http://JohnDeere.com/Dozers)



# GYPSIES



Photography by  
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## MARK AND NANCY PONTING FOLLOW THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

Desolation Sound is an apt name for the deep-water sound that lies between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia. Barren, rocky islands appear on the horizon, like mountaintops peaking out of the water, steep and menacing. It is as if a mountain range were suddenly submerged in an ocean. The area's austere beauty makes it a global destination for boating and kayaking, as well as a playground for the rich and

famous. Billionaire Bill Gates owns one of the islands, and actor John Wayne's descendants own a summer retreat on Stuart Island. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer also has a place at Fawn Bluff.

"Every year, Gates brings in a barge of horses for the week that his family is there, just so his guests can go horseback riding," says Mark Ponting, owner, Ponting Contracting Ltd. "Can you imagine?"



# OF THE @CAST





Ponting runs a successful logging-road-building business out of Campbell River on Vancouver Island. He owns several large boats to shuttle crew members to the Sound and other remote locations. Today he takes the John Deere film crew out to see his road-building operation firsthand.

Soon after the boat leaves port, a pod of killer whales joins us. They are clearly showing off, breaching and playfully exposing their pectoral fins. "We work hard," reflects Nancy Ponting, Mark's wife and business partner, as she admires the whales. "But you can't beat the view from our office. We love what we do. We really do."

## PLANES, BOATS, AND AUTOMOBILES

When the boat travels out into more open water, the seas become rougher. A certified captain, Mark navigates the waves with calm confidence, as several of the islands come into view. "You see those mountains back there with roads carved out of them? We have probably built 75 percent of the roads in this area."

The first thing that immediately strikes visitors about Ponting Contracting's operation is how widespread everything is. John Deere road-building machines are transported between jobsites by barge. Crew, supplies, and parts arrive by boat or floatplane. Three- or four-hour boat trips are not uncommon.

The company even owns a fully equipped, 12-room floating camp for extended stays at the remote locations. Crews are rotated, with each employee working 14 days of 12-hour shifts, then taking seven days off. "We're the gypsies of the coast," observes Nancy.

During our visit, the floating camp is being painted, so Mark informs us we'll be staying at an old logging camp. Our film crew has visions of staying in log cabins, building a fire in a fireplace, and fetching water from a well, but the accommodations are modern and comfortable, complete with a camp cook who feeds us like kings. The night we stay, we even catch Game 7 of the World Series via satellite dish.

Still, typical jobsite conditions can be extreme. "We never get tired of the wildlife and beautiful scenery," says Nancy. "But we're constantly battling the weather and the elements. Winters are brutal, with snow and ice. We might not be able to get the crew out of camp in time and we get caught in a blizzard."

"YOU CAN'T BEAT THE  
VIEW FROM OUR OFFICE."

NANCY PONTING  
CO-OWNER, PONTING CONTRACTING LTD





## WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Ponting Contracting builds 30–40 kilometers of logging roads per year, mostly for International Forest Products LLC (IFP). “We have a reputation for working in the toughest places up in these inlets, through heavy rock cuts and that kind of thing,” says Mark. “We’ve got the right people, the right equipment, and all the accommodations, so we can do the types of jobs most companies are not really set up for.”

Roads are often cut through steep, rugged terrain. It’s not uncommon for a crew to build road through a 18- to 21-meter-high rock face. That’s a lot of drilling, controlled blasting, and excavating. In such conditions, the crew might advance only 10 meters in a single day.

Drilling machines and John Deere 3754D Swing Machines are used to build the roads. It takes years to train an excavator operator to run the swing machines. After a few months, an operator gets the basics down. “But it takes years to become proficient — to get really dialed in and turn it into an art form,” says Mark. “You really need guys like that to be able to do what we do.”



The company's John Deere swing machines are specially configured for road building. "These forestry excavators are purpose-built for our work," says Mark. "We use them in the most extreme conditions and push them to the limits of their capabilities. They hold up great — we have good uptime. And our operators love them because they are very ergonomically advanced and comfortable."

Over the years, Ponting Contracting has purchased 14 pieces of John Deere equipment, one each for every year it has been in business. Support from its local Deere dealer, Brandt Tractor, has been excellent, according to Mark.

"We work in the middle of nowhere," says Mark. "If we can't get the service and parts we need, we can't operate. Brandt will come out in the middle of the night to make sure we have everything we need on the next crew boat, so we can get it out to the site. They'll do whatever it takes."

"When it takes a half-day to get to a jobsite, we can't afford to have crew standing around on the side of a hill with a machine down," adds Nancy. "In order to make money, we need that equipment to be working. And Brandt helps us do that."

## TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

Mark and Nancy met the old-fashioned way. "We met in a bar," laughs Nancy. "No computer dating for us, not like nowadays. Neither of us were regulars, but we happened to be there the same night."

Nancy is the yin to Mark's yang. "I'm not the most patient guy," Mark admits. "I'm kind of a wrecking ball, and Nancy smoothes everything over (laughs). So we work well as a team."

The two display obvious affection for each other, not without a little needling. "Let's just say I'm like the chicken soup of the family company," says Nancy. "I'm the one people come to when they need comforting."

Both Mark and Nancy grew up on Vancouver Island. Their families have long been involved in the forestry industry. "It's in our blood," says Nancy. "After he was a pilot instructor in the military, my father was a chainsaw mechanic for a logging contractor for many years."

Mark's great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother, and great-uncles all moved to Canada from Sweden during World War II. The family worked for logging companies, felling spruce which was used to build warplanes such as the de Havilland Mosquito.

"They wanted to be cowboys, so they pooled their money together to buy a ranch in Alberta," says Mark. "They raised cattle for two years. When they took the cattle to market, it wasn't even enough to cover the train freight bill. So they got back into the logging business in British Columbia. That's all they've done since."

During the 1970s and '80s, Mark and his father built logging roads for logging contractors, as well as some civil construction projects, like the highway from Sayward to Port Hardy on Vancouver Island. In the mid 1980s and early '90s, Mark worked for IFP, first as an excavator operator on a road-building crew, then as a road-crew supervisor foreman, and finally as a contract supervisor, bouncing around different logging camps along the coast of British Columbia.

When IFP closed up shop and began contracting everything out, Mark partnered with a friend and started a road-building business. "With my experience in the industry, I knew all the right people," he remembers.







“WE HAVE A REPUTATION  
FOR WORKING IN THE  
TOUGHEST PLACES.”

MARK PONTING  
CO-OWNER,  
PONTING CONTRACTING LTD.



In 2003, he and Nancy decided to branch off on their own, starting a new business with just one other employee. The company has grown to over 20 employees today.

In the beginning, Nancy did the books, managed the safety program, and helped out in camp. “When we first met, I didn’t even know how to run a computer,” Nancy remembers. “So I took a few courses and did research on the safety program. I’d do whatever was needed, including cooking and cleaning at camp, ordering supplies, or transporting crew members.”

Mark is extremely proud of the job Nancy has done with the safety program. “Our people are not just employees, they are our family. Nancy has worked hard to help keep everyone safe.”


The company has earned a well-deserved reputation for quality work. Mark equally values his family’s quality of life: “We’re very fortunate to have built a company and a lifestyle we are both proud of.”

*Ponting Contracting Ltd. is serviced by Brandt Tractor Ltd., Campbell River, British Columbia.*



To see more of the story, visit [JohnDeere.com/TheLanding](https://www.johndeere.com/TheLanding)





**DOWN TIME**

# FROM FLYING FORTRESS TO MAINE FOREST

At his office in Bingham, Maine, logger Dan Melcher (featured in the Fall 2017 issue of *The Landing*), president of Harry H. Melcher & Sons Inc., proudly displays a photo of the B-17 Flying Fortress that his father, Harry, flew during World War II. The iconic B-17 dropped more bombs than any other U.S. aircraft in the war and had a reputation for toughness.

Harry is pretty tough, too. His B-17 survived the war, but he almost didn't. "My father was shot down in another B-17 over Frankfurt, Germany, when he was a substitute for one mission with another crew," says Dan. Harry had not yet completed 25 missions, the number airmen had to fly before they completed their tours of duty.

Like many badly battered B-17s that made it back to base, Harry persevered. After his capture by the Germans, he was held from January until March 1945 as a prisoner of war. The Germans

kept moving the prison camp because the Russians were advancing from the east. "The camp actually got attacked at a railroad station by American planes," says Dan. "My father hid out for three days with other prisoners until meeting up with General George Patton's army that was coming the other way. He had some adventures!"

After the war, Henry returned to Florida and started his own logging business. In 1977, he incorporated the business with Dan and his other son, Mike. And the rest, as they say, is history!



# **OUTRUN™** THEM ALL.

**WHEN OTHER MACHINES TAKE A KNEE,  
TAKE THE LEAD WITH UP TO 300 HORSEPOWER.**

By boosting horsepower on all models — up to 300 on our 948L — L-Series Skidders are now the most powerful in the forest. They provide more pulling power and faster multifunctioning, and offer the widest range of grapples available, including the new 17.5-sq.-ft. option. So get into an L-Series Skidder and get out ahead each day.



**JOHN DEERE**

[JohnDeere.com/Skidders](http://JohnDeere.com/Skidders)



# OUTRUN™

TAKE SOME RISK OFF THE TABLE.

With the Certified Used program from John Deere, you can add pre-owned John Deere skidders and wheeled feller bunchers to your fleet with confidence. These thoroughly inspected machines are backed by a six-month or optional 12-month warranty. Combine that with competitive financing, technology, and dealer support — and your team is ready to OUTFIT.



**JOHN DEERE**

Learn more at [JohnDeere.com/UsedForestry](https://JohnDeere.com/UsedForestry)