



History of the Lumberjack World Championships

The tradition of competition between lumberjacks began in the 1890's. In keeping with the timber sports tradition and with a nod to yesteryear, the first Lumberjack World Championships (LWC) was held in Hayward, WI, in 1960.

Located on the shores of Lake Hayward, the first LWC was held at Historyland, a historical theme park. Historyland commemorated the heritage of the region's fur trade, Indian culture and logging industry. While Historyland no longer stands, the Lumberjack World Championships, has stood strong for 60-years

The 60th Annual Lumberjack World Championships will once again be held in beautiful and historic Lumberjack Bowl on the shores of Lake Hayward, in Hayward, WI. This year, over 120 competitors from around the world will compete in timber sport disciplines ranging from sawing and chopping to speed climbing, log rolling, and boom running.

What started as a small event has grown into the premier and most-respected timber sports competition in the World. Each year, an estimated 12,000 spectators flock to the LWC to witness not only the fierce competition in Lumberjack Bowl, but to experience the celebration of timber sports on the festival grounds.

In days gone by, Lumberjack Bowl was once a holding pond for log drives down the Namekagon River. In honor of its heritage and legacy, Lumberjack Bowl was recently named to the National Historic Register.

The sound of falling timber still rings out across the Northwoods of Wisconsin. But the sounds today are much different than those of yesteryear. The jingle of the yoke chains on the teams of oxen and the rhythmic back and forth of a six-foot buck saw have been replaced by the roar of powerful skidders and the high-pitched buzz of chain saws. In homage to the past, the Lumberjack World Championships continues to celebrate the skills of the world's lumberjacks and lumberjills, their speed, balance, lightness of foot, strength, focus, and amazing timber skills.

In the words of Tony Wise, founder of the Lumberjack World Championships, "The Lumberjack World Championships were inaugurated in 1960 to perpetuate and glorify the working skills of the American Lumberjack. Hayward, Wisconsin came into existence because of the lumber industry; therefore, it was fitting that one of the largest logging competitions should be held here also."

We couldn't have said it any better.

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