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MDC Names Birch Tree Man Logger of the Year

AUGUST 19TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Birch Tree, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) congratulates Tom Martin of Birch Tree on being named Missouri's State Logger of the Year for 2016! Martin was also named the regional logger of the year for the Ozark Region.

He has been a contract logger for Smith Flooring for almost a quarter century and has worked on private, state, and federal-land timber sales across the Ozarks. Martin works by himself, cutting, skidding and hauling timber.

Martin was nominated by MDC Resource Forester Gary Gognat, who says his work represents the top tier of loggers in Missouri. "There's a trait common to all past logger award winners, and Martin has it," said Gognat. "It's that inherent desire to do the very best job in the woods that he can, each and every day."

MDC Forest Products Program Supervisor Mike Morris added, "Tom represents exactly what we want from Missouri's professional loggers. He recognizes the value of proper training, safety, and conservation of resources."

In recognition of his award, Martin received a framed certificate from MDC and a STIHL chainsaw donated by long-time partner Crader Distributing of Marble Hill at the Missouri Forest Products Association summer meeting.

The Missouri Department of Conservation partners with Crader Distributing to give

annual awards to loggers who have demonstrated outstanding performance and good working relationships with landowners and foresters. The loggers are recognized for minimizing damage to trees and natural resources and using best management techniques that preserve Missouri's forested lands for generations to come.

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