



## **Lumberjack World Championships 1960 to Today**

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 which commemorated the heritage of the region's fur trade, Native American culture, and logging industry. While Historyland no longer stands, the Lumberjack World Championships has stood strong for over 60-years

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lumberjack World Championships will once again be held in beautiful and historic Lumberjack Bowl on the shores of Lake Hayward, in Hayward, WI. In days gone by, Lumberjack Bowl was a holding pond for log drives down the Namekagon River. It is fitting that the Lumberjack World Championships has been held in Lumberjack Bowl since its inception.

What started as a small event has grown into the premier and most-respected timber sports competition in the World. This year, ninety-nine competitors from around the world will compete in timber sport disciplines ranging from sawing and chopping to speed climbing, logrolling, and boom running. 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.

Today, the sound of falling timber still rings out across the Northwoods of Wisconsin. However, the sounds of 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 The jingle of the yoke chains on the teams of oxen and the rhythmic back and forth of a six-foot buck saw have been replaced by the roar of powerful skidders and the high-pitched buzz of chain saws.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 greatest 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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