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A Quarterly Newsletter Providing Comprehensive News and Information for the Maryland Forest Industry and the Landowners that support sustainable forestry practices.

The CrossCut

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A message from Joe Hinson, President

Playing the Long Game

Like any good forestry organization, MFA must always be ready to fight the occasional brush fire. Case in point. About a month ago, an MFA member wanted to know how new county regulations under the recently modified "Forest Conservation Act" might affect his future ability to qualify for a future forest retention bank. We did a little research, Beth set up a meeting with county officials and now the county officials understand the opportunities and challenges as they prepare their plan. Hey, it's what we do...

But what's really going to pay the rent and make all future fires—brush or major ones—easier to fight will be found in our ability to play the long game. I'll define this as building positive, sincere relationships with key policymakers, making friends for future partnerships, and continually educating those who need to know about sustainable forest management and the industry it supports here in Maryland. That's why we focus so much of our efforts on tours, presentations, and print communications, all carefully directed toward key audiences.

Now we have a long game whopper opportunity.

Junior Achievement was founded in 1919 by a group of business and political leaders. It's the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young



people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA's curriculum is proven to increase students' knowledge of topics related to personal finance, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship. The age-appropriate programs are designed for students in grades K through twelve. Junior Achievement on the Shore is in the final stages of building a center that will represent a "town," complete with banks, medical services, construction companies, auto dealers, and a "farm store." Each storefront will be finished to showcase the major sponsors' branding and local appearance. Salisbury's center is the first of fifty across the nation located in a rural area.

MFA's evolving vision for participating in the Salisbury center is to partner with the agriculture community to add a forestry component to the "farm store." JA "BizTown" consists of twelve in-class sessions culminating with a 4-5-hour visit to the "town." There, grade 5/6 students will explore jobs in the agriculture community.

Continued on page 9



WANT TO BECOME A LEADER REPRESENTING THE FORESTRY SECTOR?

LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities. Applications are being accepted now through October 1, 2023, for Class XIII. 20 to 25 people from across the state will be selected for the program. They will participate in a series of multi-day seminars throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C. in 2024–2025;

- Complete a travel study tour – destinations for previous classes include: Netherlands, Cuba, Brazil, China, Estonia and Russia, Vietnam, Chile, South Africa, India, Poland, and Spain;
- Pay a \$4,800 fee (tuition), payable in installments. Many Fellows secure sponsorships.

Visit leadmaryland.org for information specific to Class XIII including:

- Fee payment details
- Class calendar and program description
- Statement of understanding and expectations
- Applicant reference form
- Link to the web-based application form
- Scholarship opportunities

Past participants who continue to be a voice for the forestry sector include Beth Hill, Dan Rider, Jason Spicer, Steve McHenry and Charlotte Davis.

MFA Nominates Donna Dear and Paulette Greene for the Leopold Conservation Award

The Leopold Conservation Award® recognizes landowners who inspire others with their voluntary dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. In his influential 1949 book, “A Sand County Almanac,” Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.



Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners in 23 states. In Maryland, the award is presented with state partners Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), and Maryland Farm Bureau.

Owners of farms and forestland in Maryland may apply for the award themselves or be nominated by another party. MFA wishes our nominees the best of luck in this year's competition.

The winner of this prestigious award receives a \$10,000 award and an appearance in a feature video on the conservation success found on their farm or forest. To learn more about our nominee's owners of Mount Pleasant Acres Farms visit our Faces of Forestry BLOG: <https://www.mdforests.org/post/did-you-know-that-getting-back-to-nature-can-provide-a-spiritual-experience>



Application Date Deadline Extended to September 31st for the Dick Stanfield Scholarship

The Dick Stanfield Scholarship will provide a \$500 cash award to an MFA member, child of an MFA member, or employee of Edrich Lumber to continue their education at the college level. The application includes a short essay and verification of college enrollment.

The scholarship was established in 2012, in memory and honor of long-time MFA member, Dick Stanfield. Mr. Stanfield was instrumental in starting MFA in 1976. He had been president of the Maryland Lumberman's Association and after it became the Maryland Forests Association he served as vice president of its Central Maryland division, and treasurer from 1987 until his death in 2012. For more information and to apply visit: www.mdforests.org/scholarship-and-education

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Executive Director's Message

Beth Hill, beth@mdforests.org

A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Incredible Support!

Dear MFA Members and Sponsors,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we reflect on the journey of our nonprofit organization, we are filled with immense gratitude for the incredible support that each and every one of you has provided. It is through your selfless efforts and generous contributions that we have been able to make a meaningful impact on the forest community here in Maryland. Thank you for another successful membership drive!

It is truly awe-inspiring to witness the positive impact our collective efforts have had on the communities we touch. I am most proud of the tours we provide, it's amazing what a day in the woods can do for someone that has never had sustainable forestry explained to them. Whether it's through financial contributions, volunteering your time and skills, allowing access to your land or job site, spreading awareness, or simply being an advocate for our mission, your support is the lifeblood of MFA.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to accomplish so much, and have so much planned. Over the next several months, we plan to focus on:

1. Workforce Development- the Junior Achievement Center is the “long game” but it's a proven one, with over 80% of students pursuing a career in the field they are trained in. We are also looking to begin conversations with community colleges to see how wood can be worked into their program offerings. Perception is key when it comes to career opportunities. Conveying that forestry is a vibrant, high-tech, skilled industry is essential.
2. Business Expansion and Retention- Our business members will be seeing more of us, as we want to hear about your challenges and opportunities, it's the best way for us to be able to serve you and to establish industry trends. As always, my conversations with you will remain confidential. Exploring opportunities such as biochar, carbon markets, and green energy are also on our radar!
3. Education- Tours, tours, tours! We had a successful tour on the Lower Shore in partnership with SAF and the Tri-County Council and look forward to repeating them across the state. We've even extended an invitation to Governor Moore, so stay tuned...

None of this would be possible without your belief in our vision and your willingness to stand beside us every step of the way.

As we move forward, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Your continued support will empower us to make an even greater difference. We have ambitious goals, and, with your help, we are confident in our ability to achieve them.

Please know that your contributions, whether big or small, are valued beyond words. Each act of kindness has a ripple effect, beyond what we can imagine serving as an inspiration for others to join our cause. If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am always eager to hear from our valued members. And if you haven't renewed, it's not too late...

With heartfelt appreciation,
-Beth



Upcoming Events

APPALACHIAN EVENING

Join us for Music and Food under the Stars!

Aug. 18 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Evergreen Heritage Center
15603 Trimble Rd NW
Mt. Savage, 21545

For more information and to get tickets visit: <https://evergreenheritagecenter.org/appalachian-evening/>

REGISTER NOW FOR THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF "THE GENERAL FORESTRY COURSE" ONLINE

Aug. 28- Dec. 11, 2023

Learn more at <https://extension.umd.edu/forestry-course>

REGISTRATION FOR THE FALL 2023 SESSION OF OUR "THE WOODS IN YOUR BACKYARD" ONLINE COURSE IS NOW OPEN!

Sept. 5- Nov. 14, 2023

To register through Eventbrite, go to <https://WIYB-fall23.eventbrite.com>

"ASK ME ANYTHING" LEAD MARYLAND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO CLASS XIII

September 6th 9-10 am

Registration: <https://bit.ly/IntrotoLEADMaryland>

Zoom link: <https://umd.zoom.us/my/leadmarylandintroduction>

LEAD MARYLAND IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR CLASS XIII
 Fellows will participate in 2024 – 2025. Applications are accepted from June 1 through October 1, 2023. Applications forms are available at leadmaryland.org

AUTUMN FESTIVAL
 Celebrate Fall with Evergreen! Outdoor pumpkin games, make and take fall activities, Tours of our 3 museums, baked good and more!
 Sept. 17 | 1:00-4:00 pm
 Evergreen Heritage Center
 15603 Trimble Rd NW
 Mt. Savage, 21545
 For more information visit: <https://evergreenheritagecenter.org/event/autumn-festival-3/>

2023 ALC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Tuesday, Oct. 3
 8:00 AM
 Friday, Oct. 6
 10:00 PM
 Sunday River Ski Resort
 15 South Ridge Road
 Newry, ME, 04261

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU CONVENTION
 Dec 2-5, 2023
 Hyatt
 Cambridge, MD



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DID YOU KNOW THAT FORESTRY CAN BE A FAMILY AFFAIR?

By: Francis Smith, DNR

Meet Arthur and Rachel Egolf

The Egolf's story is a family affair. The husband and wife duo are both Maryland licensed professional foresters. Arthur has a Master's degree in forestry and has spent his career running his logging operation, Egolf Forest Harvesting, from sun up to sun down. Rachel has utilized her forestry degree in serving in various roles in the public and private sectors. The couple agrees that their main job has been raising their two sons, Teddy and Cole. Instilling an understanding of the outdoors and how our natural resources are so intertwined has been a priority for Rachel and Arthur.

As Rachel simply puts it, "We're foresters." Her interest in forestry goes back to her school days in Somerset County and some inspiring biology and environmental resource teachers. "I really loved anything to do with the Bay," Egolf says. Noting that forests are the highest and best use for protecting the bay.

Rachel's wooded path continued in her youth when she signed up for the Natural Resources Career Camp offered by Maryland Forestry Foundation. "I just love the sounds and the feeling of being out in the woods," she adds. From there, it was on to Virginia Tech for a forestry degree before she came back to Maryland and worked for the Maryland Forest Service as a forester on the Eastern Shore.

While Rachel was receiving a Bay-inspired education on the Shore, Arthur was growing up in a subdivision with no background in forestry. He went off to college to become a wildlife biologist. "That's what I thought I was going to be, but I just love the woods," he adds. However, the forest was in his genes earlier than he realizes, with firewood being his first entrepreneurial venture in the woods from junior high into high school. Through his logging operation, Arthur's timber harvests are providing habitat improvement for many species of wildlife.

The married couple, reside in Delaware with their two boys. Rachel and Arthur will occasionally ride by a stand of trees and realize it's a forest that Rachel planted 20 years ago that he's now thinning. It's that cycle of forest management that the Egolfs want to continue for many generations.

“I just love the sounds and the feeling of being out in the woods...”

"The very first tract I ever worked on when I came over to Delaware, we own it now," says Arthur. That same tract was also son Cole's first work site as part of a work-study for high school. Even though it's been a grind, "I just love what I do. I couldn't imagine doing anything else," he says.

Arthur's logging years began back when he was set up with repossessed equipment from Chesapeake Forestry and they financed him. "That's something that'll never happen again," he points out, citing the tougher times nowadays for logging companies to get started. There aren't any mills anywhere that will finance loggers, with liability concerns probably being the biggest reason, he says.

The biggest hurdle to the profession in his eyes is land ownership and the fact that it's not all managed for timber. Clearing of land for solar is another concern of the Egolfs, with the loss of wildlife habitat and natural resources, versus their tried and true practice of thinning and managing the forest as a renewable, regenerative resource. With all those things cited, it all comes down to markets and economic opportunities. "We've got a fraction of the markets we used to have," says Arthur. Arthur and Rachel are extremely proud of the role they played in getting Southern Coastal Forest Products, a pole and post mill located in Eden Maryland, up and running. They are also excited to see how emerging carbon markets will benefit landowners and if they keep forests productive.

With challenges and opportunities on the horizon, you can't keep the Egolf family out of the woods, they admit that tree talk is a common conversation in their house.

Woodland stewards, advocates, and recreation enthusiasts, those traits are strongly instilled in sons Teddy and Cole also. Both boys hunt and can operate chainsaws. Wood grain runs so deep in the family's DNA that their oldest son Cole drove a skidder to high school on "Drive Anything But A Car Day" to showcase and educate others on timber harvesting and the equipment that's a part of it. Cole will be going to Del Tech this fall and starting in diesel mechanics, with an eye toward coming back and working for his dad. Teddy being only 15, he's itching to drive and operate all the equipment.

Arthur and Rachel own and actively manage timberland. They have engaged their sons in the landholdings, noting that if logging isn't a good fit for either son, there'll be a steady income coming off the land for both boys if they manage it right. "That's what I'm trying to instill in them," Arthur says.

The family pitched in as a whole on the planting side of things for Sussex County, Delaware on a pine harvest and hardwood restoration project. Considering there were 300 ball & burlap trees to get in the ground — just about the largest planting stock possible — Rachel still recalls how helpful the boys were in those efforts. Between helping run the tractor and unloading the trucks, it was all Egolf hands on deck.

Most important to Rachel is taking the boys to properties they work with and having them spend time and get to know the property and the people. Even more personally rewarding, doing some planting reinforcement on their property with her sons, but most of all, planting trees for significant events in their son's lives. "It's really cool to see how they've grown and how the trees have grown," she says.

It's not just her children Rachel is interested in passing on a sense of stewardship to. From teaching Envirothon to working with the Future Farmers of America forestry program, there are avenues to spread the message and she has covered a lot of ground. Rachel cites the book "Leave No Child Inside" by Richard Louv as a big influence on her approach.

Whether involved in outreach and education or forest management and sustainable harvesting, there is no shortage of passion for the forest in the Egolf family tree. "Get kids outside into the woods and they'll understand it," says Arthur.





COMING SOON FUNDING FOR PORTABLE BRIDGE MATS FOR LOGGING BUSINESSES IN MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

In spring 2023, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service was awarded \$175,000 in funding from the U.S. Forest Service in order to advance the utilization of locally-sourced portable bridges or bridge mats on timber harvest sites throughout Maryland and Delaware. Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council (WMRC&D) will be the nonprofit partner responsible for administering the procurement of the bridge mats and the subsequent sales and distribution to participating logging businesses.

The program will offer significant cost-share to eligible logging businesses, with those maintaining good standing status within the Maryland/Delaware Master Logger Program receiving the highest discount. A 95% discount on bridge mats will be offered to participating Master Loggers and an 80% discount will be offered to all other participating logging businesses.

To be eligible for participation, logging businesses will need to make the following commitments:

1. They shall not resell the mats.
2. They shall use them.
3. They shall properly install them and promptly remove them.
4. They shall provide usage data that, among other information, describes how the crossing would have otherwise been accomplished without the bridge mats.

More information about the program and the start date for enrollment will be coming later this summer. For questions or to add your business to the list of program applicants, please contact Dan Rider at daniel.rider@maryland.gov.



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White-Tailed Deer Blood Kills Bacteria That Causes Lyme Disease

As tick season kicks in across the country, the executive director of the University of Massachusetts Amherst-based New England Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEWVEC) and his team have completed research that offers a promising lead in the fight against Lyme disease.

The study, published recently in the journal Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases, demonstrates that the blood of the white-tailed deer kills the corkscrew-shaped bacterium that causes Lyme disease, a potentially debilitating illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year some 476,000 people are diagnosed with and treated for Lyme, the most common vector-borne disease in the U.S.

“Deer are vitally important to the survival of deer ticks, but they are not involved with transmitting the Lyme bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*,” explains senior author Stephen Rich, professor of microbiology. “We’ve known for some time that ticks taken from white-tailed deer are not infected, and we speculated that something about the deer prevented those ticks from becoming infected. But until publication of our paper, no one had done the experiment to show that deer blood – specifically the serum component of white-tailed deer blood – kills Lyme.”

The results of the study may one day lead to new strategies and approaches for Lyme disease prevention and treatment, says lead author Patrick Pearson, a Ph.D. student in NEWVEC, whose upcoming doctoral examination focuses in part on this research.



Some people infected with Lyme get a tell-tale target rash around their tick bite. Credit: Getty Images

“In these experiments we determined that white-tailed deer serum kills the Lyme bacterium. The next important question will be to understand exactly how deer blood kills Lyme bacteria,” Pearson says.

The research is one project of NEWVEC, which was funded by the CDC last year with a \$10 million award to prevent and reduce tick- and mosquito-borne diseases in New England. NEWVEC aims to bring together academic communities, public health practitioners, residents and visitors across the Northeast, where Lyme infections are concentrated.

The Lyme disease bacterium is passed to juvenile blacklegged (*Ixodes scapularis*) deer ticks from mice the arthropods feed on. The infected ticks then pass the bacterium on to humans when they feed on people.

“We are the accidental host,” Rich says. “The ticks that bite us are actually looking for a deer because that’s where they breed. Without the deer, you don’t have ticks. But if you had only deer, you wouldn’t have any Lyme.” To carry out their experiment, the researchers obtained blood serum from a semi-captive white-tailed deer herd at Auburn University in Alabama. The deer were believed to have no exposure to ticks and the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

The researchers then grew the Lyme disease germ in test tubes and added the deer serum. “And lo and behold, it killed the bacteria,” Rich says. “Whatever it is in the deer that’s killing the germ is part of the innate immune system, a part of the immune system that precedes antibodies.”

Pearson adds, “The Lyme bacterium has proteins on its surface that protect it from the human innate immune system. Deer blood is somehow different such that Lyme bacteria are apparently unable to protect themselves from the innate immune system of white-tailed deer.”

The next research step is to determine the precise mechanisms in deer blood that kill the bacteria.

“We’d like to determine if it’s something we can induce in humans,” Rich says. “Or maybe we could use this somehow to our advantage to reduce the incidence of Lyme disease in the wild.”

source: umass.edu/news/article/white-tailed-deer-blood-kills-bacteria-causes-lyme-disease

MFA Supports the “Jobs in the Woods Act”

Forest Resources Association (FRA), along with other organizations including MFA, applaud Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer’s introduction of the “Jobs in the Woods Act.” This legislation provides educational pathways for those interested in a career in forestry. “The sustainability and competitive viability of the forest products industry relies on an intact, healthy wood supply chain, including a viable workforce. The Jobs in the Woods Act provides workforce training opportunities for those interested in a career in forestry. A key component of the legislation includes education opportunities to expand high school forestry curricula in rural forest-based economies. These programs will provide an opportunity for young adults to establish a career in the communities where they were raised.”

Forest product industry manufacturing facilities are located in areas where they are the primary economic base for rural forest-based economies. They serve as a key employer and provide good-paying direct and indirect jobs. The forest products industry, including loggers and haulers, primary and secondary manufacturers, pulp and paper mills, sawmills, and engineered wood products, is one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the U.S., sustaining nearly 930,000 families and contributing \$353 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

The Jobs in the Woods Act provides for the following:

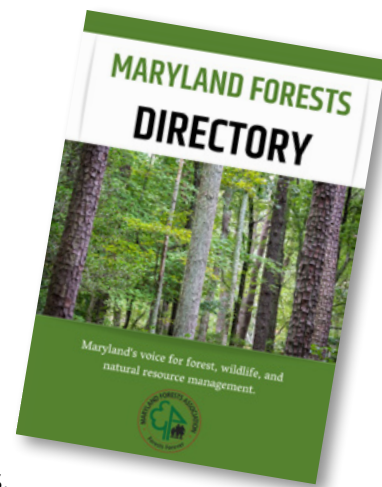
- Creates a grant program to be administered by the Secretary of the USDA
- Provides grants to eligible organizations to establish forestry workforce training programs
- Grants from min \$500,000 to max \$2,000,000
- Allocates \$10,000,000 per year for each FY 2023 through 2027.

The draft bill is currently undergoing revisions to include comments/edits from House Ag Committee staff.

We have exciting news to share with you! The MFA is working on creating a directory of resources within the state that will connect you with a variety of forestry professionals.

The directory will include:

- Master loggers
- Consulting and industrial foresters
- Forest landowners
- Sawmills
- Paper and pulp mills
- Woodworking
- Forest product operators
- And forest products purchasers and businesses.



This detailed set of contacts will be organized by region for ease of access. MFA members and Master Loggers will be highlighted. If you or your organization is interested in being featured in the directory, please contact MFA at info@mdforests.org if you want to update your contact information with your company name, address, email, and phone number. You are also more than welcome to opt out of the publication, please let us know if you would like to do that. We are excited to offer this tool for connection in our sector and will keep you updated as we get closer to a publishing date.

President’s Message Continued...

Ours will be a forester, where the students will see what foresters do through hands-on exercises like measuring trees and learning how to identify Maryland’s major species by leaf structures, seeing and using foresters’ tools, and learning the basics of forest management. Older students will choose a career with a set salary and learn to budget by making choices regarding the lifestyle they want and the resources they have. For example, a student may choose to have a horse or chickens in which case they must factor in such costs as animal bedding in their budget or they may have to plan for the cost of lumber when building a house.

JA will work with us to include our specialties in the curricula and in professional graphic design to portray our industry and occupations. There will also be significant opportunities to showcase local companies, their services, and products in the design of the whole package. We can’t expect short-term gains, but with 10,000 students per year, their parents, and a whole host of educators, volunteers, and public officials, don’t be surprised if we get some. Beth recently visited the center with Gary Allen from the Maryland Forestry Foundation. Knowing that education is the key,

Gary immediately saw the benefit of the JA Program and pledged financial support. Our partners will be key in making this happen! Other partners in the “farm store” include the Delmarva Chicken Association, Maryland Grain Producers, Horizon Farm Credit, and Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Later this year, Beth and I hope to present the board with a proposal for a Forest Political Action Committee. This will be a dedicated voluntary fund used for political contributions and lobbying efforts on behalf of MFA. It will simplify our accounting legal requirements and help firmly establish MFA as a political force in the state. This will be another major step in our “long game” strategy.

The long game must be designed to increase forestry’s footprint in Maryland. It will be based on education, communications, and policy involvement. Fortunately, MFA is well on the way, thanks to the challenge and grants we have been given to head up the implementation of the Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy. We’re making good progress but make no mistake, there is a lot of work to do, but it must be done.

Your Membership Matters!

The Maryland Forests Association relies on the support of our members and sponsors to fund our organization and allow us to be the voice for Maryland forestry. **Please help make 2023 another successful year for membership!**

We are counting on you to renew your membership and ask that you invite your friends, family and colleagues to join us as a collective voice for Maryland forestry. Last year, your contributions helped us boost our scholarship, career camp, and general funds. Help us exceed our 2023 goals and consider a contribution in addition to your membership renewal.

We are working harder than ever to serve you better and represent Maryland’s forestry industry. We cannot do this work without your support. Please look out for membership renewal letters and you can also renew online at mdforests.org. Thank you!



Your Support Makes a Difference!

2023 Membership Rates:

- Student – \$10
- Forestry Board Member – \$20
- Landowner/General Public – \$35
- Natural Resources Professional – \$60
- Hunting & Recreational Clubs – \$80*
- Businesses/Agencies/Education/Organizations – \$150
- Loggers/Haulers \$250
- Sawmill/Primary & Secondary Wood Product Manufactures – \$350

* Insurance fees must be paid directly to the insurance company, MFA processes membership only.

Sponsor Membership Rates

MFA offers three levels of Annual Sponsorship, starting at \$600. Each level provides an membership with MFA plus additional advertising benefits.

Visit mdforests.org to learn more.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Announces Revised Hunting License Price Structure

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that legislation passed during the 2023 General Assembly will increase the price of hunting licenses and some associated stamps beginning with the 2023-24 hunting season. The existing structure and fees had been in place since 2002, and the price of a regular resident hunting license had remained unchanged for 35 years.

“Updating our license fees was necessary for the department to continue to offer quality services to Maryland hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Acting Director Karina Stonesifer said.

“These funds are essential for managing the state’s wildlife and associated lands that the public can enjoy.” Hunting license fees, in conjunction with matching federal grants, comprise more than 90% of the department’s Wildlife and Heritage Service budget.

Under the new legislation, the price of a resident regular hunting license will increase from \$24.50 to \$35 while the cost of a non-resident hunting license will increase from \$130 to \$160. Prices for apprentice and junior hunting licenses, 3-day non-resident licenses, migratory game bird stamps, and stamps/permits for furbearer-related activities have also been adjusted.

The 2023 legislation also created a new hunting stamp that will be required in order to hunt sika deer. The resident sika deer stamp will cost \$10 while the non-resident version will cost \$25. The newly created stamp will enable the department to better track how many hunters pursue sika deer annually and provide valuable information for future management decisions.

Additional information concerning 2023-24 hunting license and stamp fees is available at: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2023/06/22/maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announces-revised-hunting-license-price-structure/>

Governor Moore Invites Visitors to Explore Maryland in New Tourism Campaign

“You’re Welcome” tagline to run through August in key northeast markets to draw travelers to the state

Governor Wes Moore and the Maryland Department of Commerce’s Office of Tourism have announced the launch of the state’s new “You’re Welcome” tourism campaign. Running through August in various northeast markets including New York City and Philadelphia, the campaign invites travelers to discover new experiences and make stronger connections in Maryland. The campaign was created in partnership with Marriner Marketing Communications and will run across digital, out-of-home, social, broadcast and audio outlets, with a voiceover by Governor Moore in the TV and radio spots.

“From the sandy beaches of the Eastern Shore to the mountains of Western Maryland and everywhere in between, Maryland is home to spectacular natural beauty,” said Gov. Moore. “I am proud to support and participate in our new ‘You’re Welcome’ tourism campaign, which embodies our belief that we want everyone to experience and enjoy Maryland’s many unparalleled destinations.”

To promote trip itineraries and invite exploring throughout the different regions in Maryland, the campaign highlights the state’s water experiences consisting of more than 3,100 of shorelines, Ocean City and the state’s numerous beaches, the Chesapeake Bay and its storytellers, as well as quintessential bay towns; local seafood and culinary experiences including a Crab & Oyster Trail; history and heritage with the Most Powerful Underground Railroad Storytelling Destination in the World; unique scenic drives with 2,400 miles of byways; and outdoor recreation featuring Maryland’s Trail System Second-to-None.

“With our refreshed campaign and the power of Governor Moore’s welcoming message, we’re confident we’ll increase the awareness and inspiration to boost travel to Maryland, and entice visitors to stay extra nights to enjoy everything that makes our state so special,” said Maryland Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson.

“To the trail seekers, the ocean obsessed, the family fun finders, the romantic escapers and everyone in between... welcome! And you’re welcome – to invest in a Maryland vacation, where you can have the experiences that leave you with a lifetime of happy memories,” said Liz Fitzsimmons, managing director of the Maryland Office of Tourism.

To learn more about Maryland Tourism, go to www.visitmaryland.org.

Thank you to our sponsors!

The MFA thanks all of the companies who engage in sponsorship of the association! Sponsors help keep our educational events affordable and improve the overall structure of the MFA. For more information on sponsorship, visit mdforests.org.

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Sycamore Sponsors



Dogwood Sponsors

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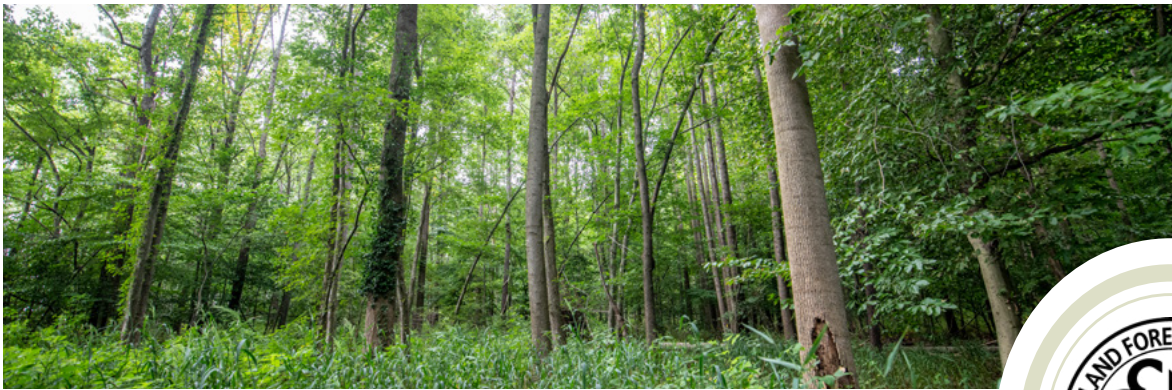
Rural Maryland Council
Timber Harvest, Inc.
Waverly Insurance Group



Maryland Forests Association

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