FALL
26

1976 MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2026

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

The CrossCut

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TREEMENDOUS PROGRAM EXPANDS
Page 2

GOVERNOR MOORE SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER
Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS
Page 3

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND PBAS
Page 4

FIFTY YEARS: A REFLECTION ON FORESTRY CONTINUED
Page 6-7

NRC CAMP RECAP
Page 8

INFORMATION ON NRCS PROGRAMS FOR PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNERS
Page 9

A message from Joe Hinson, President

Fifty Years: A Reflection on Forestry and the Maryland Forests Association

A while back, Beth told me something I didn't know—which, I have to admit, isn't particularly unusual. But this one caught my attention: **2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Maryland Forests Association.**

Fifty years.

It is worth putting that number into perspective. The United States is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. The Maryland Forests Association has been part of the story for one-fifth of our nation's history.

That is a remarkable milestone, particularly when you consider how much has changed in forestry, forest management, and the forest products industry during those same five decades.

Coincidentally, 2026 marks another 50-year milestone for me.

At the end of 1976, I left my position as a forester on Maryland's Eastern Shore and began a new career representing the timber industry in Washington, D.C. I use the term lobbyist somewhat cautiously when describing those early days. Going from digging a stuck D8 bulldozer out of the mud to working with Congress in the span of a week was quite a transition. I quickly discovered that, although I knew something about trees and forests, I had a great deal to learn about Washington.

Fifty years later, I have the benefit of hindsight. And when I look back, one of the things that strikes me most is how much forestry has changed—and how much has remained remarkably the same.

THE CHANGING TOOLS OF FORESTRY

Technology is probably the most obvious change.

When I started, our basic tools were dated aerial photographs, a compass, an increment borer, a cruising stick, and our feet and legs. There was no GIS, no GPS, no LIDAR, not much computer power, and certainly no iPad application that could tell you exactly where you were or whose land you were standing on.

To us, technology meant a light table bright enough to shine through black-and-white aerial photographs. We would trace roads, streams, and, when possible, property boundaries onto a piece of thin paper. With a little work, we could turn that paper into a perfectly serviceable view map.

That was about as sophisticated as it got.

continued on pg. 6

P.O. BOX 332, Linkwood, MD 21835

(410) 463-1755 • info@mdforests.org • mdforests.org

Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

Working Together to Secure Emergency Diesel Relief for Maryland's Forestry and Agricultural Industries

In September, after learning that states such as Louisiana were providing diesel-fuel relief to their forestry and agricultural industries in response to escalating prices, MFA immediately contacted the office of Governor Wes Moore. We explained that record-high fuel costs were threatening Maryland's forest products industry and placing significant pressure on logging operations across the state.

MFA quickly began collaborating with state agencies to provide data, statistics, and firsthand testimony from Maryland loggers. At the same time, several agricultural organizations were advocating for similar relief on behalf of their members.

By working together, Maryland's forestry and agricultural communities helped make this relief a reality.

On October 9, Governor Moore signed Executive Order 01.01.2026.19, declaring a temporary state of emergency to assist Maryland's agricultural and forestry industries during the harvest season. The order allows qualifying vehicles to use dyed diesel fuel on public roads without state penalties and waives fees for 30-day Exceptional Hauling Permits.

Read the Moore administration's full October 9 press release: **governor.maryland.gov/news/press-releases/governor-moore-signs-executive-order-bring-emergency-diesel-fuel-relief**

Tree-Mendous Maryland Program Expands Support for Community Forestry

Maryland communities now have more opportunities to care for the trees and forests in their neighborhoods and public spaces through the Tree-Mendous Maryland Program

Tree-Mendous Maryland supports community forestry projects across the state. The program provides access to native trees at reduced cost and helps fund community efforts to plant, care for, and steward trees and forests. Since its creation, Tree-Mendous has supported tree planting in more than 3,000 communities, parks, and schools statewide.

Legislation signed during the Maryland General Assembly session earlier this year updates the program's purpose to recognize community participation in both tree planting and stewardship, including community forestry activities that maintain and care for native trees and shrubs. The law took effect October 1.

Tree-Mendous is supported in part by donations from Marylanders. Individuals and organizations can contribute directly to the program, and Maryland vehicle owners can make a voluntary donation when registering or renewing a vehicle through the Motor Vehicle Administration.

The updated law allows those resources to support a wider range of projects, including stewardship, maintenance, education, and volunteer engagement alongside tree planting.

Community organizations seeking support can apply through the Maryland Forest Service's Community Forestry Catalyst Fund, which offers access to Tree-Mendous and other available funding for stewardship, planting, and other community forestry projects.

"When Tree-Mendous was created nearly 40 years ago, public conversation was focused on countering forest loss with replanting," said Maryland State Forester Anne Hairston-Strang. "Today, individuals and groups across Maryland are actively stewarding the forests and trees in their communities to keep them healthy and ensure their neighbors can enjoy their benefits. This update gives the state more flexibility to support those efforts."

The change also supports Maryland's broader efforts to care for and expand tree canopy, including through the state's 5 Million Trees initiative, which seeks to plant and maintain five million trees by 2031.

Additional information about the Tree-Mendous Maryland Program, including eligibility and funding opportunities, is available on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website.

Executive Director's Message

Beth Hill, beth@mdforests.org

Dear MFA Members and Sponsors,

Thank You for Showing Up for Forestry

It's hard to believe that it's been several months since our Logger Appreciation Dinner, but the energy from that evening is still with us.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the men and women who work in our woods and keep Maryland's forest products industry moving. Thank you to those who donated, sponsored, bought raffle tickets, contributed items to the silent auction, helped organize the evening, and—most importantly—showed up to support the people who make our forest industry possible.

With nearly 180 people in attendance, it was a tremendous evening. We were especially grateful to have Secretary Josh Kurtz join us and to see so many members, families, friends, industry partners, and supporters gathered together. Events like this remind us that forestry is about much more than trees. It is about people, relationships, hard work, and a shared commitment to keeping Maryland's forests healthy and its forest products industry strong.

The Logger Appreciation Dinner also gave us an opportunity to remember those who have helped build this industry and those we have lost along the way. Through the memorial fund and the generosity of everyone who contributed, we were reminded once again that this is an industry—and an organization—with deep roots and a strong sense of community.

And those roots run deep.

Rooted in the Past. Growing Toward the Future.

In 2026, the Maryland Forests Association celebrates 50 years of being the voice for Maryland's forest supply chain. We have built on the work of those who came before us, people who understood that advocacy and education are needed to keep our forests working forever.

Like the forests we work to protect, MFA is rooted in the past, but always growing toward the future. This milestone gives us an opportunity to honor our legacy, recognize the people who brought us here, and look ahead to the next 50 years.

As we celebrate this anniversary year, wouldn't it be great to welcome 50 new members before the end of the year? We think so!

Is there someone you know who shares our passion for Maryland's forests and the people who work in them? We'd love to have them be part of MFA!

Help us keep growing! Spread the word, invite someone to join, and help us build on the legacy of the last 50 years as we look toward the next 50. The more voices we bring together, the stronger our voice for Maryland's forests.

Thank you for being part of MFA's story and helping us keep Maryland's forests and forest products industry strong for generations to come.

Beth

Upcoming Events

PG COUNTY WALKING TREE TOUR

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Register at: eventbrite.com/e/prince-georges-county-forestry-boards-tree-tour-tickets-2000431404180

FOREST MARKETS FORUM

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026

https://forms.gle/RYWYMCrCAcDJxh7n9

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION

Dec. 5 - 8, 2026

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay
Cambridge, MD

Register at: https://members.marylandfb.org/ap/Events/Register/7EF0yoDtNCQCd

---

451ST SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jan. 13 - April 12, 2027

FORESTRY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Calvert House

Feb. 10, 2027

MOUNTAIN MARYLAND PACE

Jan. 22-23, 2027

mtmarylandpace.com

Photo: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

PRESCRIBED FIRE AND PBAS

WHY PRESCRIBED FIRE?

Prescribed fire is a natural management tool that has been utilized for thousands of years. Historically, fire was a regular part of the Delmarva Peninsula's ecosystems, occurring every 4 to 10 years. Prescribed fires are conducted following legal and safety guidelines and is the only naturally occurring management tool available to us. By conducting prescribed burns, landowners can achieve specific objectives such as: reducing fuel buildup to lower the risk of wildfires, enhancing ecosystem resilience, enhancing vegetative communities, improving hunting opportunity, increasing ecosystem health, restoring ecological & native diversity, and improving wildlife habitat overall.

WHAT IS A PBA?

A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a community of landowners, whether experienced or just getting started, who come together to conduct prescribed burns on their properties. With the neighbor helping neighbor motto and support of trained professionals, members can share resources, knowledge, and guidance, making it easier and safer to use fire as a land management tool. PBAs are driven by the idea that landowners are best equipped to manage their own lands, with the power of collective experience and support.

THE EASTERN SHORE PBA

The Eastern Shore Prescribed Burn Association (ESPBA) was formally incorporated as a non-stock corporation in the state of Maryland in December of 2025 and has since established itself as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The ESPBA unites landowners from the nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore, from Cecil to Worcester. Our mission is simple: to help our community use fire as a tool for building healthier, more diverse ecosystems. Through collaboration and shared knowledge, we aim to promote safe, responsible, prescribed fire practices and work toward sustainable landscapes for future generations.

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

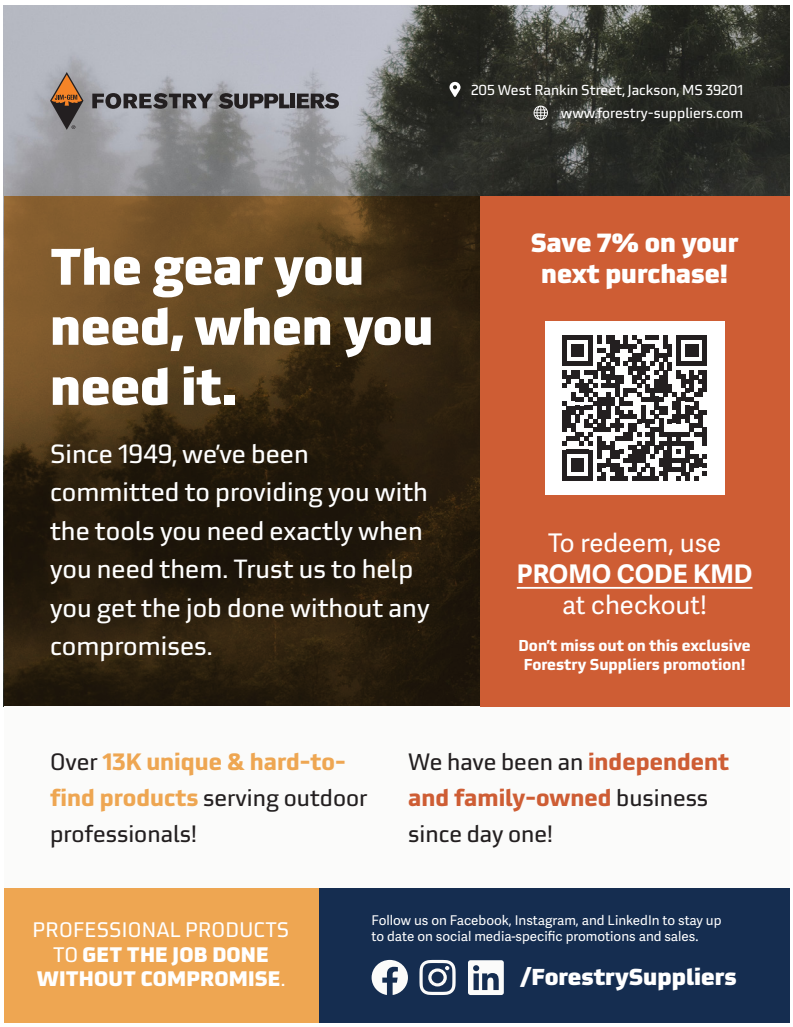
Our PBA is designed with private land habitat management in mind. We provide several resources to make prescribed fire available to you: networking with your neighbors and professional resources, specialized training, equipment, technical guidance, and burn plan and permitting assistance. In addition to this, we are currently fundraising to outfit a fully equipped and operational burn trailer to use at our convenience.

If you would like more information, or to make a donation, please contact

Kyle Magdziuk | Tall Timbers game bird biologist and ESPBA Director
Phone: 315-532-2008 or Email: kmagdziuk@talltimbers.org

Ken Oland | ESPBA President
Phone: (410) 860-9424 or Email: kenwoland@gmail.com

We appreciate your participation!



President's Message Continued...

Today, foresters have tools that would have seemed like science fiction to us in 1976. Digital mapping, satellite imagery, GPS, GIS, remote sensing, and LIDAR have transformed the way forests are measured, mapped, monitored, and managed.

Yet the basic questions haven't changed much.

What trees are growing here? How fast are they growing? What is the condition of the forest? What will it look like years from now? And what can we do today to ensure that the forest remains healthy and productive for the future?

The tools have changed. The questions remain.

FROM CHAINSAWS TO MODERN HARVESTING

Logging technology has changed too, though perhaps not as rapidly as forestry itself.

When I started, there were no feller bunchers. Timber was felled and bucked with a chainsaw, and skidders—mostly cable skidders—dragged the logs to the landing.

Today's harvesting equipment is dramatically more sophisticated, productive, and efficient.

But there is one thing that has remained surprisingly constant: a truckload of logs still looks like a truckload of logs.

Mills have changed, too. While the basic process may look familiar, there have been enormous advances in efficiency, productivity, safety, and cost control. Modern mills can produce considerably more lumber in a day than their predecessors could.

The technology has changed dramatically. The objective has not: to make the best possible use of the forest resource while maintaining a viable forest products industry.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF FORESTRY

Perhaps the most important changes, however, have occurred not in the woods or the mill, but in how people think about forests and forestry.

When I went to Washington in 1976, major battles were underway over clear-cutting, even-aged management, wilderness, and endangered species such as the spotted owl. Much of the controversy centered on western National Forests, but the debate over clear-cutting actually has a personal connection for me.

The controversy got its start, in part, with clear-cutting in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. As it happens, I helped lay out some of those clear-cuts the summer I graduated from high school while working for the Forest Service.

Maryland was hardly exempt from the debate.

I remember a bill introduced in the General Assembly that would have required the state to identify all even-aged stands on state lands and convert them to

MFA Flashback

uneven-aged stands. Fortunately, the bill did not progress.

Had it passed, I'm not entirely sure how I would have complied with it—other than by heavily logging the existing even-aged stands to diversify the age classes.

Somehow, I suspect that wasn't quite the outcome the bill's sponsors had in mind.

Over the years, however, the conversation surrounding forestry has become more informed and more nuanced. I believe organizations such as the Maryland Forests Association have played an important role in that evolution by helping legislators, landowners, and the public better understand forests, forest management, and the realities of a working forest.

That educational role is one of the most important contributions an organization can make.

Forestry is complicated. Forests are dynamic. Management decisions often involve balancing ecological, economic, recreational, and social considerations that do not always point in the same direction.

Helping people understand those realities is not always easy. But it is essential.

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED

For all the changes I've witnessed over the past 50 years, some reassuring constants remain.

My compass still points me in the right direction.

My cruising stick can still give me accurate measurements of tree diameter and height.

And with an increment borer, I can still determine a tree's age and learn something about how well it has been growing.

Some things don't need much improvement.

The same is true of the Maryland Forests Association.

For 50 years, MFA has provided a consistent voice for Maryland's forests and the people who own, manage, work in, and depend upon them. It has helped educate legislators, landowners, and the public. It has provided a forum for people in the forest community to share information and perspectives. It has also represented an industry and a resource fundamental to Maryland's heritage and future.

That continuity is worth celebrating.

Forests operate on a different timetable than most of the world around them. Fifty years may seem like a long time to us, but in the life of a forest, it can be only a portion of a rotation—and sometimes little more than a chapter in the life of a tree.

That perspective makes the MFA anniversary especially meaningful.

The people who founded the association 50 years ago could not have known what forestry would look like in 2026. They could not have anticipated GPS, GIS, LIDAR, modern harvesting equipment, or the many changes that have taken place in the forest products industry.

But they understood something that remains true today: **Maryland's forests matter, and the people who own and manage them need a strong voice.**

That need has not disappeared.

In another 50 years, the tools will undoubtedly be different. The industry will change. New challenges will emerge, and new generations of foresters, landowners, loggers, manufacturers, and policymakers will take our place.

But I suspect some things will look very familiar.

Trees will still grow.

Foresters will still measure them.

Someone will still be trying to figure out how to balance the many values we place on forests.

And Maryland's forests will still need people who understand them and care enough to speak for them.

When the Maryland Forests Association celebrates its 100th anniversary, I hope those who gather for that occasion will look back on 2026 much as I look back on 1976—with some amazement at how much has changed, but also with appreciation for how much has remained the same.

Fifty years is a remarkable achievement.

It is a testament to the people who created the Maryland Forests Association, to those who have carried its work forward, and to the generations who will continue that work.

The forest will continue to change.

Forestry will continue to change.

And so will the Maryland Forests Association.

But the mission remains remarkably constant: **to ensure that Maryland's forests—and the people who own, manage, and depend upon them—have a strong voice today and a future tomorrow.**

Here's to the first 50 years—and to the next 50.

NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS CAMP RECAP

Another successful year of the Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC)! Students spent a week exploring careers in forestry, wildlife management, fisheries, urban forestry, and other natural resource fields through hands-on activities, field experiences, and presentations from professionals across the industry. Working together, campers developed forest management plans and gained valuable insight into the many opportunities available in natural resources. Thank you to our dedicated camp staff, instructors, partners, and local Forestry Boards for helping make another year of NRCC possible and inspiring the next generation of natural resource professionals.

Information on NRCS Programs for Private Forest Landowners

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps Maryland's farmers and forest landowners make investments in their operations and local communities to improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. NRCS collaborates with other agencies, state and local governments, and Soil Conservation Districts to protect Maryland's precious natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based, locally led solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices, through **variable multi-year contracts** (typically 1-3 years). By implementing these practices, you can improve water and air quality, increase soil health, and make wildlife habitat better, all while improving agricultural and forestry operations. Your participation in EQIP is voluntary. NRCS can provide free one-on-one planning, and financial assistance can cover part of the costs of implementing conservation practices. Forestry practices offered through this program include, but are not limited to:

- Forest stand improvement
- Forest trails and landings
- Woody residue treatment
- Tree and shrub site preparation and establishment
- Prescribed burning and firebreaks
- Invasive plant species management

Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

CSP is a 5-year program that offers opportunities for producers to expand on existing conservation efforts by applying new conservation practices. These new activities will help enhance natural resources and improve the operation. For example, if you have been maintaining your forest sustainably, NRCS could provide financial and technical assistance to improve wildlife habitat and forest health. Practices include, but are not limited to, tree planting, forest stand improvement, brush management, and prescribed fire.

If you apply for CSP, an NRCS conservation planner (with assistance from biologists and foresters) will assess your land and current management practices to determine your eligibility. If selected, you will choose conservation practices and receive annual payments for implementing them and maintaining existing efforts.

Land Eligibility

Eligible lands include private agricultural lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmstead, associated agricultural lands, and public land that is under the control of the applicant and part of their operation. NRCS will complete an assessment to determine eligibility based on existing conservation efforts and practices currently being implemented. There is no minimum acreage requirement. CSP enrolls your entire operation into the program, not just one specific field or tract. Forest lands require a current Forest Management Plan.

CSP Payments

Annual CSP payments are made once per year for the 5 years of the contract and have 2 components:

- Base Payments: Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation based on the land uses included in the contract (an annual $4,000 minimum payment).
- Practice Payments: Payments to implement additional conservation practices and enhancements. Each conservation practice has an incentive that is paid based on 75% of the average cost to complete the practice.

continued on pg. 10

EQIP and CSP Participant Responsibilities

Applicants are responsible for completing and filing all application and eligibility paperwork as required. If funded, participants are required to sign a contract and agree to implement the planned conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications as scheduled.

Applications

Applications for both programs are accepted year-round; however, NRCS establishes application deadlines and batching dates for evaluation, ranking, and approval of eligible applications. Applicants should apply no later than **November 13, 2026**, to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state, and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

Reach out to your local County NRCS office for more information and to apply.
www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center

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 2026 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 2026 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!

2026 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.

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**.

Loblolly Sponsor

Sugar Maple Sponsor

Wye Oak Sponsors

Sycamore Sponsors

Dogwood Sponsors

Easton Timber and Mat, LLC
Horizon Farm Credit
J.V. Wells
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Rural Maryland Council
Timber Harvest, Inc.
T&R Land and Tree Company
Waverly Insurance Group
Parker Forestry Services, Inc.

MFA is actively seeking sponsors, as a nonprofit we depend on the generous support of the people we represent

Maryland Forests Association

P.O. Box 332

Linkwood, Maryland 21835

EDWIN REMSBERG

MFA Officers & Board Members

MFA Officers:

Joe Hinson, *President*

Tim Smith, *Treasurer/Secretary*

MFA Staff:

Beth Hill, *Executive Director*
410.463.1755 • info@mdforests.org

Lindsay Ayers, *Accounting*

Megan Smith, *Membership Coordinator*

Sarah Davis, *Design Editor*

Board Members:

Todd Berman, *Pixelle Specialty Solutions*

Bill Buckel, *Rocky Resolve Tree Farm*

James Culp, *Landowner*

Philip Gottwals, *ACDS LLC*

Tom Johnson, *Eastern Shore Forest Products*

Jonathan Kays, *UMD Extension*

Steve McHenry, *Financial Services, Annapolis*

Danny Sines, *Generation III Logging*

Doug Wolinski, *Edrich Lumber, Inc.*

Publication Notice:
We welcome your company news and updates or columns with your professional insight. Email any submissions you may have for the next edition of *CrossCut* to beth@mdforests.org.