



summer
19



Howard County Farmer, Keith Ohlinger joins MFA Board of Directors. See page 3



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

The CrossCut

VOLUME 42 • ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2019

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MFA Executive Director Beth Hill and new MFA board member Keith Ohlinger visited Bill Buckel at Rocky Resolve Tree Farm in Garrett County with LEAD Maryland Class XI. Read more in the Director's Message on page 3. The Buckel family was named 2019 Maryland Tree Farmer of the Year.

Message from the President

We have seen the end of a historical era. For 131 years, Maryland had just one paper mill within its border. This spring, Verso announced it would permanently close their facility in Luke, Md.

The Luke papermill was a powerhouse of employment. Its closing is not just devastating for the more than 675 families directly supported by the mill, but also to the loggers, truck drivers, and equipment salespeople who supplied it with wood. Some environmentalists may think this will save trees and wild places. But in reality, we will see the opposite.

For more than a century, private landowners, both small and large, could harvest timber to improve habitat, pay for college tuition or pay off farm debt in bad farming years. For more than a century, public land managers could harvest timber to fight insect infestations and reduce fire danger. But for decades, American voters have pushed for a service and technology-oriented economy over a locally-based manufacturing one. Most high-tech jobs can be quickly sent overseas. When factories close, we lose the free resources that farming and forestry offer like clean air, clean water and wildlife habitat.

American consumers have also changed. Most people do not get a daily newspaper or magazines that kept several paper mills around the country in business. How many people take time to put pen on paper and write a letter to be mailed?

Continued on page 11



MARYLAND CONSERVATION CORPS RECRUITING

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is now recruiting members for the Maryland Conservation Corps, an award-winning AmeriCorps program that engages young adults aged 17-25 in extensive conservation, environmental, and natural resources management projects across the state.

The department seeks to hire 35 full-time members who will work on seven teams for an 11-month period, beginning in late September 2019.

In an average year, Maryland Conservation Corps members will:

- Conduct interpretive state park programming
- Help preserve rich historical heritage sites
- Improve park nature centers
- Maintain hundreds of miles of trails
- Plant thousands of trees
- Provide environmental education programming for Maryland students
- Restore wildlife habitat
- Support the improvement of the Chesapeake and coastal bays
- Work with schools to plant bay grasses

For more information and an application, please visit **dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/mcc.aspx** or contact Luke Terrell, Deputy Director of Conservation Corps at 240-278-5218 or luke.terrell@maryland.gov



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Dorchester County, Md.

Conservation Areas Expand in Maryland

In Dorchester County, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved \$5.98 million for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to acquire and conserve more than 2,500 acres of priority habitat for migrating and wintering birds. And the Scenic Rivers Land Trust in Anne Arundel County preserved 174 acres of forest land through the county's Forestry and Forested Land Protection Grant Program.

CHURCH CREEK — The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved \$5.98 million for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to acquire and conserve more than 2,500 acres of priority habitat for migrating and wintering birds.

“The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is an integral part of Maryland’s First District and provides essential habitat for waterfowl on the Eastern Shore,” said U.S. Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md-1st). “These funds will help preserve ecologically important wetlands and support our local waterfowl hunting economy and community.”

Blackwater made the acquisition a priority in 2006 with anticipated sea level rise changing the woods to a marsh in the next 100 years. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Project Leader Marcia Pradines, who is stationed at Blackwater, said the woods eventually will become marsh by 2100.

The acquisition will also bring more public hunting to Blackwater as an additional asset Pradines said about 2,000 hunters use the refuge each year, and opening the refuge to more public access will be a great benefit.

The funds came from the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps.

Source: Dorchester Star, by Dustin Holt, June 21, 2019

CROWNSVILLE - Working with two Crownsville landowners, the Scenic Rivers Land Trust set aside the 174 acres of forestland with money from the county’s Forestry and Forested Land Protection Grant Program, according to a press release.

The grant program is administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and is funded by fee-in-lieu funds generated from the Forest Conservation Act. Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources designates both properties as “Targeted Ecological Areas” — a title given to forests and other areas that are a priority for preservation, Scenic Rivers Trust officials said.

The newly protected properties are significant in that one is recognized by the Audubon Society for having a diverse array of birds that require large patches of forest for nesting and breeding and the other has two historical sites: a rare bog with several endangered plant species and 1,000 feet of scenic forested road, which lines Generals Highway.

Source: Capital Gazette, by Angela Roberts, June 30, 2019

Upcoming Events

Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council Conference

AUGUST 5 - 6

Juniata College, Huntingdon PA
maipc.org

Deadline Maryland Natural Resources Photo Contest

AUGUST 30

The 16th Annual Maryland DNR Photo Contest winners will be featured in the department's 2020 wall calendar and published in the winter 2020 edition of the magazine. Submit photos online: dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx

Deadline MFA Dick Stanfield Scholarship Applications

See page 6

Maryland General Forestry Course SEPTEMBER 1

Non-credit course designed for individuals wishing to increase their understanding of forests and forest management. Register at: extension.umd.edu/forestry-course

The Woods and Wild Lands: Delmarva Forestry Seminar SEPTEMBER 21

Wor-Wic College, Salisbury

Topics include chainsaw maintenance, forest stewardship practices, wildlife management, tree care and more. Lunch included. Afternoon bus tour of Great Cypress Swamp. Contact Agnes Kedmenecz, UME Woodland Stewardship Educator, for more details at 410.827.8056, ext. 125 or akedmen@umd.edu.

More events on
page 5

Executive Director's Message



Beth Hill with Emily Wilson, LEAD Maryland Foundation President, at the LEAD Maryland Class XI June Seminar in Garrett County studying forestry, natural resources, agriculture, energy and other rural region topics.

LINKWOOD, Md. — I recently attended and spoke at LEAD Maryland Seminar 3 in Western Maryland where Class XI focused on rural community development and the forest products industry. We heard local people talking firsthand about how the recent closure of the Luke Mill will have negative impacts on the region. Everyone was caught off guard by the sudden announcement including landowners and tree farmers who are left wondering if there is going to be a market for the woodland that they've invested time and money into. Not only will 675 direct jobs be lost, another 2,025 associated jobs will be lost in the area.

There have been several meetings with various stakeholders trying to figure out what's next. Many are hopeful that the plant will be sold to another wood consumer allowing for continued economic stability in the area, but no one knows if that will happen, and ultimately that is in Verso's hands. What is clear though, is that people want to keep doing what

they know: logging, hauling, and managing an abundant natural resource that is critical to health of the forest and the rural economy. Several grants have been applied for that will help revitalize the industry. If awarded, MFA will be reaching out to its membership for input. Stay tuned...

It was uplifting for me to see and hear my fellow classmates begin to relate to or understand sustainable forestry. They now know that forests are a renewable resource that needs management to remain healthy and vibrant. They realize the economic impact the forest products industry has across the state.

All it takes is simple conversations. We don't have to be an industry that is so misunderstood. I urge all of you landowners, loggers, and foresters to talk to people. Tell them what we do and why it matters!

Beth Hill, Executive Director MFA

MFA Welcomes New Director, Farmer, Keith Ohlinger

The Maryland Forests Association, Inc. is pleased to introduce Keith Ohlinger as the newest edition to its Board of Directors. He is the owner of Porch View Farm LLC, located in Howard County where he raises heritage breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs, geese and rabbits, and honey bees. Keith uses what the land has to offer managing it, along with his animals, to create the optimal scenario without chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Keith's farm is also home to a portable sawmill that provides lumber for his farming operation. Recently, Keith planted 7,500 trees in a silvopasture model which will create living fences, feed animals and provide biochar as a soil amendment. Keith also sources wood from other suppliers to help meet his needs.

"Keith's progressive views on farming and forestry will make him a valuable addition to the board," said Beth Hill, MFA's Executive Director. "He is well connected in an area of the state where we lack representation and we welcome his point of view. The majority of Maryland's forestland is privately owned, and farmers like Keith, account for a large percentage of that ownership. MFA would like to better serve these landowners."



Keith also serves on the Howard Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors and as Vice-Chair of the Maryland Agricultural Commission (representing direct farm markets). He is a current member of LEAD Maryland Class XI.

"Forestry and agriculture are one and the same and have been since humans began. I'm honored to be a part of this team," said Keith.

If you are interested in joining the Maryland Forests Association Board of Directors, please contact Beth Hill at beth@mdforests.org.

Forestry aid ‘a plan, not a solution’

Western Md. nonprofit seeks to study declining industry with federal grant

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — A western Maryland nonprofit has applied for a federal grant to study — and, hopefully, improve — the state’s declining forest products industry.

With help from the state government, the Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council in Hagerstown recently applied for a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to pay for an “economic adjustment strategy” to be produced by a hired consultant, said Dan Rider, stewardship manager for the state’s forest service.

The grant would develop a plan to strengthen the forest products industry in Maryland over the next five to 20 years, he said.

“We want to create a vision for what we believe a sustainable forest products industry should look like,” he said. “It’s a plan, not a solution.”

If the council receives the grant, several state agencies, including the agriculture department, and industry groups have pledged to match it with \$100,000 in additional cash and \$50,000 in kind.

The council helps protect and develop economic, natural and social resources in the region.

Several sawmills on the Eastern Shore have closed over the last two decades, and the forestry industry was rocked last month when the Verso Corp. announced it was shuttering its 131-year-old paper mill in Allegany County. The mill was one of the state’s largest buyers of round-wood and wood chips, and its closure is a massive blow to the regional economy. It’s expected to hamper forestry efforts across the state and put an unknown number of loggers out of business.

The state is also in the process of shutting down a wood-burning power plant at Eastern Correctional Institution in Somerset County to connect the prison to natural gas — a move that would eliminate a significant buyer of wood chips on the Shore. Forestry advocates have asked the state to build another wood-burning plant elsewhere.

Though some regions haven’t benefited from economic adjustment strategies, states such as Maine and Vermont used them to rebuild to own forest product industries, Rider said.

“What this plan does is enables us to find solutions in a very thoughtful, strategic, organized way instead of running around waving our hands in the air and grasping at everything that comes down the pike,” he said.

Rider said he expects the commerce department to decide on the proposal by the end of the month.

by Jonathan Cribbs

Originally published in the June 25 issue of the Delmarva Farmer. Visit the Delmarva Farmer and subscribe at: americanfarmpublications.com/the-delmarva-farmer/



Joe Hinson Appointed MFA Vice President

Joe Hinson has had a long and varied career in forestry. It began on the Eastern Shore as a land management supervisor for Chesapeake Corporation, where he was responsible for the management of many young stands that are now mature, beautiful forests. He moved on to Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist for the national timber industry specializing in private forestry issues. In 1982, Joe was named Executive Director of the Idaho Forest Industry Council, representing the large industry in that state, a position he held for 15 years. During that time, he drafted and successfully sought passage of over 30 pieces of legislation that impacted the forestry industry, including being the principal author of a complete revision of Idaho’s implementation of the non-point section of the federal Clean Water Act.

In 1998, Joe founded Northwest Natural Resource Group, LLC, a consulting firm that specializes in resolving complex natural resource issues at the highest levels of state and national government. In this position, he drafted the “statement of need” for Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program as well as the state’s plans for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. NNRG also developed unique conservation plans to help private landowners deal with species listed as “threatened” or “endangered” or candidates for such listings under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Joe’s wife Margaret is a third-generation cattle and sheep rancher and the former President of the American Sheep Industry. In 2012, the couple “retired,” returning to Salisbury, Md. where they enjoy golf, fishing, their friends and Joe’s unabated interest in working with private landowners and the timber industry.

“We are excited to be working with Joe. His experience with legislative issues will be key to advancing MFA’s vision,” said Beth Hill, MFA Executive Director.



Be Sure to Visit Our Website & Follow Us on Social Media!

Please visit mdforests.org to find Maryland Forests Association news and events, as well as industry resources. We recently had a website refresh that now includes a blog. MFA is also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, you can find links to social media on our website.

Upcoming Events

Invasive Plant ID for Professionals SEPTEMBER 5

Prince Frederick, Maryland

Part of the 2019 Master Gardeners Garden Smarter Program, Hosted by the University of Maryland Extension Calvert County at the Community Resources Building.

An Invasive Plant ID for Homeowners will be held on September 15 from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. at the same location.

Register at
extension.umd.edu/events

Society of American Foresters National Convention OCT 30 - NOV 3

Learn more and register at
eforester.org

Ag Law Conference NOVEMBER 14

The 5th Annual Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference held in Annapolis. Visit extension.umd.edu/events for more information.

PLANT Award Deadline NOVEMBER 30

People Loving And Nurturing Trees (PLANT) is a statewide award program to recognize communities for their tree planting and tree care efforts. PLANT is sponsored by the Maryland DNR Forest Service and the Maryland Community Forestry Council.

Learn more at:
marylandforestryboards.org/plant_award.cfm

The CrossCut is published quarterly. If you have an event to share, please email MFA at info@mdforests.org



Glotfelty Nominated for Outstanding Logger of the Year!

Glotfelty Lumber Company, Inc. of Garrett County Maryland has been nominated for 2019 Forest Resource Association Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger of the Year.

Glotfelty Lumber Company, Inc. was named 2018 Maryland-Delaware Master Logger of the Year. They are known for treating every piece of land as if it were their own. They strive to please both foresters and landowners by following best management practices.

Job site safety and training are important to the Glotfelty's. They stay current with all necessary training and licenses to ensure they are meeting all regulations. The company goes above and beyond with their contributions to the community through programs such as Log A Load for Kids and an Annual Log Auction that raises funds for West Virginia University Children's Hospital. They are active in several organizations including the Mountain Logger Cooperative, Maryland Forests Association, West Virginia Forests Association and Potomac/Garret State Forest Advisory Board. Best of luck to the Glotfelty's! They are certainly deserving of this award.

Sponsored by the Maryland Forest Association, the Outstanding Logger of the Year award recognizes outstanding loggers in Maryland and Delaware.

The program is open to all independent logging contractors.

The Maryland-Delaware Master Logger Program accepted nominations until July 1, 2019. The award will be announced in September for Maryland's Logger of the Year for 2020. Loggers can be nominated by anyone and past winners of the LOY Award from 2010 and earlier are eligible for nomination.

Nominees should be loggers who have shown the ability to log in a professional manner. They follow the management plans of the landowner while being aware of the sensitive environmental conditions, following applicable laws and regulations and are involved in promoting the profession of logging. The award winner will receive an engraved plaque, complimentary registration at a MFA Regional Meeting or Annual Meeting, and a chainsaw. If eligible, the winner will automatically be nominated for the regional 2021 Forest Resources Association Outstanding Logger Award.

For more information, visit extension.umd.edu/masterlogger/logger-year or contact Agnes Kedmenecz at the Wye Research and Education Center via email: akedmen@umd.edu

Welcome New Sponsors!

The Maryland Forests Association is excited to welcome our newest Dogwood Sponsors: GFR Forestry Consultants, Edrich Lumber Inc., and Timber Harvest Inc. Sponsors are critical to helping MFA achieve its mission and we appreciate your support. If you are interested in becoming an MFA sponsor, please visit our website at mdforests.org/sponsorship-information or contact Beth Hill at beth@mdforests.org.



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LOGGING



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CONTACT: 1-888-610-TREE WEBSITE: GFRFORESTRY.COM

Timber Harvest Inc. is a buyer of standing timber, based in Cordova, Maryland.

CONTACT: 410-364-5959



MFA Dick Stanfield Scholarship

Application deadline is August 31, 2019

The Dick Stanfield Scholarship was established in 2012 by the MFA, in memory and honor of long-time member, Dick Stanfield who was instrumental in starting the Maryland Forests Association in 1976. Mr. Stanfield 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. The scholarship provides 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 short essay and verification of college enrollment. Download the application at mdforests.org.

Maryland gypsy moth population slows in 2018 but landowners should remain vigilant



female gypsy moth laying eggs



gypsy moth larva (late instar)



male gypsy moth

Photos: Connecticut Department of Energy & Environment Protection

There will be no Gypsy Moth suppression in Maryland conducted by the Maryland Department of Agriculture in 2019. Gypsy Moth populations remained at low levels in 2018 due mainly to diseases of the caterpillars. Annual population monitoring will again take place in the late summer and fall of 2019 to determine levels for 2020.

From the Maryland Department of Agriculture

The gypsy moth is by far the most destructive pest of forest and shade trees in Maryland. The caterpillars eat the leaves of oaks and other hardwoods in May and June. Heavy populations of caterpillars will eat most or all leaves in a tree. Large outbreaks have affected hundreds of thousands of acres statewide.

The gypsy moth caterpillar often is confused with the eastern tent caterpillar, which also appears each spring. Though very visible, the eastern tent caterpillar is not as serious a threat to trees.

Since 1972, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has conducted a variety of activities to help manage the gypsy moth. MDA Forest Pest Management (FPM) personnel monitor the presence and severity of gypsy moth infestations using different surveys. The types of surveys and where they are conducted have changed a little over the years, but the most important are surveys of gypsy moth egg masses. Information from these

surveys is used to assess the potential for damage and tree loss in each area, and is provided to landowners, managers and the general public.

The gypsy moth is attacked by predators, parasites, and, most importantly, diseases. These mortality agents are monitored by FPM workers. However, if these natural controls have not suppressed the populations, very high infestations may need to be treated with insecticide to protect trees in areas where dieback or mortality can't be tolerated.

Although Maryland, like other states in the northeast, has suffered severe outbreaks of the gypsy moth, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Forest Pest Management Section has been highly successful in protecting our forest heritage.

Learn more at mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/gypsy_moth.aspx or extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/gypsy-moths-trees



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or visit us online at MFA.OutdoorUnd.com



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Contact the Maryland Forests Association

As of January 1, 2019, The Maryland Forest Association announces its new Executive Director, Beth Hill and new contact information for the organization:

Address: P. O. Box 332, Linkwood, Maryland 21835

Phone: (410) 463 - 1755

Email: info@mdforests.org

Our Mission

The mission of the Maryland Forests Association is to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by:

- Increasing awareness of the diverse, public benefits of forests;
- Supporting the sustainable use of forest resources;
- Promoting economic opportunities for forest landowners; and,
- Maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

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.

Smokey Bear Celebrates 75th Birthday

Smokey Bear is the longest running public service advertising campaign in U.S. history. But the 75-year-old icon hasn't been without critics. The public campaign to prevent forest fires started out as a war effort — experienced firefighters and other able-bodied men were deployed overseas — protecting forests from unwanted fires was a national safety matter. As decades have passed, Smokey Bear has continued his message, but with a more nuanced approach.

Smokey the Bear, as he was originally known, was created by artist Albert Staehle and authorized by the Forest Service on August 9, 1944. His first catchphrase was, “Smokey Says – Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires.” In 1947, the message was updated to, “Remember...Only YOU can prevent forest fires.”

The government's wildfire prevention campaign was incredibly successful, reducing forest fires from an average of 30 million acres nationally in the 1940s to 7.4 million acres by 1988. By the 1990s, there was an average annual wildfire burn of 3.3 million acres. But despite the progress, forest fires are back on the rise and some critics say Smokey himself is to blame — or at least the messaging.

USDA Forest Service researchers Geoffrey Donovan and Thomas Brown published a paper in 2007 called “Be careful what you wish for: the legacy of Smokey Bear” to call attention to the need for a more tolerant attitude toward wildfire that included prescribed burns and fuel management practices. Smokey Bear's tagline was updated in 2001 to “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.” Replacing forest fires with wildfires was intended to clarify Smokey's message of preventing unwanted and unplanned forest fires versus prescribed burns. But professional foresters say there is still a lot of work to be done to educate the public about the difference between forest management practices and wildfire prevention.

According to a Congressional Research Service (CRS) brief, wildfires have burned an average of 7.0 million acres annually

since 2000 (doubling the 1990 average). And in 2018, 58,083 wildfires burned 8.8 million acres nationwide, the sixth-largest figure on record in terms of acreage burned (the 2015 fire season was the largest, with 10.1 million acres burned).

Not all wildfires are disasters — many occur in large and largely undeveloped areas. But the ones that do occur near developed communities can cause massive destruction and garner significant media attention. The CRS reports that only about one percent of wildfires are catastrophic — two percent were classified as large or significant in 2018.

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) calls on the need for forest management to keep forests healthy. That means prescribed burns and silviculture techniques. NASF says that 80 million acres of U.S. forest land is at risk to insect damage and disease. State and privately owned forests make up two-thirds of the nation's forestland — providing economic, environmental and social benefits to communities. NASF says:

These benefits are maximized when forests are actively managed, but in order for management to occur, diverse and ample markets for wood are needed.

Wood markets allow private landowners to generate the necessary revenue to not only retain ownership of their forestland and keep forests as forests, but also to manage it in ways that benefit all Americans.

Highly diverse wood markets also increase options for forest management on state and federal lands. When markets are capable of accepting and processing all kinds of wood, land managers are empowered to remove undesirable growth that curbs forest productivity and fuels wildfires.

On the eve of Smokey Bear's birthday, it's clear that he is far from retirement. He still has a “bear of a job” to do, preventing unwanted forest fires and educating the public on the importance of forest management.



MARYLAND FOREST FIRES

200 Wildfires **2,200** Acres burned **5,000** Incidents

The Maryland Forest Service responds to an average of 200 wildfires that burn more than 2,200 acres of forest, brush and grasses*. Outdoor burning should be done on low fire danger days. State regulations apply to activities in woodland and within 200 feet of woodland, or activities adjacent to or within an area where flammable are located. Maryland DNR advises open air burning is only allowed if:

- There is a natural or constructed fire break at least 10' wide completely around the material to be burned that is free of flammable materials;
- Adequate personnel and equipment are present to prevent the fire from escaping;
- At least one responsible person remains at the location of the fire until the last spark is out; and
- Burning occurs between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight unless the ground is covered with snow.

Check with county or municipal health department for local regulations and permit requirements before burning.

*According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2019.

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Membership is growing because of you!

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. **Our 2019 membership drive was a success! And we have you to thank.**

Not only did many of our faithful members renew, we also added several new members and sponsors. And more than that, many of you went above and beyond, contributing more than the standard membership rates to boost our scholarship, career camp, and general funds.

We hope you notice that we are working harder than ever to serve you better and represent Maryland's forestry industry. Spread the word, consider your family, friends, and neighbors who are also interested in protecting Maryland forestry and ask them to join! If you forgot to renew, it's not too late, please do.



Your Support Makes a Difference!

2019 Membership Rates:

- Student – \$10
- Forestry Board Member (NEW!) – \$20
- Landowner/General Public – \$35
- Natural Resources Professional – \$60
- Hunting & Recreational Clubs – \$80*
- Businesses/Agencies/Organizations – \$150
- Sawmill – \$300

** 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 about our membership benefits and follow us on social media for news and updates.



Woods in Your Backyard, Online Course

Registration opens in August. Fall session begins Sept. 4.

The Woods in Your Backyard online course promotes the stewardship of small parcels of land for the personal enjoyment of the owners and improved environmental quality for society. If you own one to ten acres in the Eastern United States that is forested or has unmowed natural areas, this course is for you. It is for you if you have a mowed lawn area that you want to turn into a woodland. It is also for you if you are a land manager or part of a group that manages natural areas, such as a preserve or a community woodland.

The 2019 Fall session will run Sept. 4 - Nov. 19, 2019. Registration through Eventbrite will open in August. Please visit extension.umd.edu/woodland for more information and other courses available through the University of Maryland Extension.

Legislative Briefs

Disaster Aid for Forest Landowners

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) commends Congress and President Trump for delivering needed aid through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (H.R.2156) for private landowners recovering from recent floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. Among the provisions is \$480 million for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) of the Farm Service Agency.

Coalition Urges Economic Relief for Forest Landowners

SAF joined a coalition of 29 forestry and conservation organizations from across the country urging the House Ways and Means Committee to act on the Forest Recovery Act (FRA), introduced by Congressman Earl L. “Buddy” Carter (R-Ga.). The FRA would allow a tax deduction for the fair market value of timber destroyed from natural disasters, providing much needed economic stability to forest landowners.

The letter states, “The House passed emergency disaster appropriations bill provides needed relief for agriculture crops and farmers but does not provide economic relief for forest landowners that have lost their timber crops.”

Md. Agencies Working To Help After Mill Closing

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan pledged support for workers affected by the closing of the Luke Paper Mill in western Maryland. In June, Hogan announced that state agencies and local officials would provide support and seek state and federal funding and grant options. *Read more about the federal grant to study Maryland’s declining forestry industry on page 4.*

Tree Damage: Do’s & Don’ts

Tree damage can occur anytime. Lightning and high velocity winds are just two of the natural perils that threaten Maryland’s trees. When storms damage trees, cleanup and recovery are important. Some injured trees can be treated and repaired to maintain their health and value to your home. Others should be removed. Below are tips that will help you make the right decisions:



Do not remove limbs that have electrical lines running through them. Immediately alert your electricity provider and allow them to assess danger.



Do contact your homeowners insurance carrier before any tree work is performed. Many policies cover at least a portion of tree removal cost if damage has occurred.



Do contact a tree care professional to remove large trees, large limbs and significantly damaged trees. Use Maryland DNR’s searchable directory to find a licensed professional in your area: dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/forests/tree_expert_search.asp



Do not attempt to operate chain saws and heavy equipment, especially off the ground. Only remove small limbs and do minor pruning yourself. Other work should be done by a tree care expert.



Do plan ahead. Properly selected and placed trees will help reduce the amount of damage your trees sustain in storm.

President's Message Continued

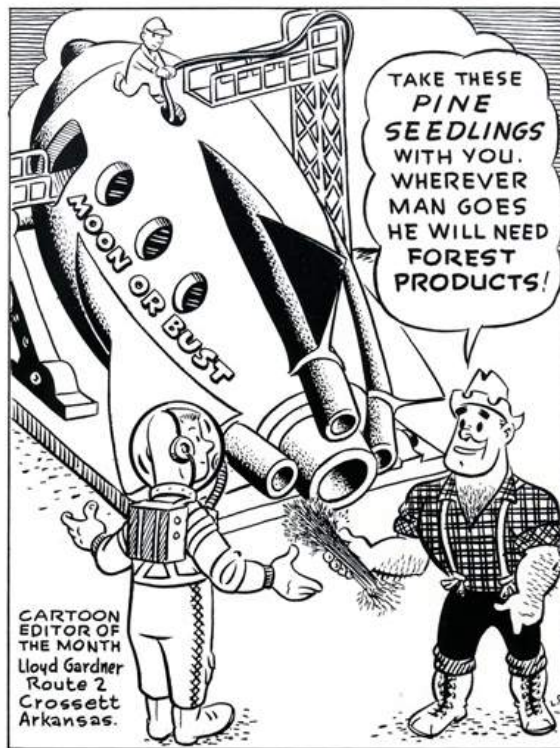
In 1996, four papermills sourced material from the state of Maryland to produce an array of paper products. A little more than twenty years later, there is only one that regularly buys raw materials in Maryland. And in 1996, Maryland's Eastern Shore supported seven pine sawmills to produce deck materials, structural lumber and lumber for wooden ships. Today, only two full time pine mills remain, producing less than 10-percent of what was produced twenty years ago.

Lack of resources is not a contributing factor to the closure of these mills. In fact federal and state data shows that there is more big timber across Maryland than we had 40 years ago (USDA Resource Update FS-166). The most significant contributing factors are the change in consumer's taste and government restrictions on the industry.

It's not all bad news for the industry. In other places — Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama — forest products have seen a large surge in growth. New industries are being planned and built all over the south. The advantage our southern neighbors have is large tracts of private land and state governments working to remove barriers rather than create them.

The American consumer's preferences will continue to change. And so, our forest products industry must continue to reinvent itself in an effort to supply new products in exciting new ways. But one thing that won't change is the fact that we need a healthy forest industry to keep Maryland's forests and economy strong and vibrant.

Todd Berman, MFA President



By Lee Davis, March 1958

Abel Woodsman debuted in the Jan. 1948 issue of *Forest Echoes*, published by the Crossett Lumber Company of Crossett, Ar.

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