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MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Maryland's Voice for Forest, Wildlife, and Natural Resource Management.



Our Vision

The Maryland Forests Association envisions a future in which vibrant forests are maintained throughout the State, providing diverse economic and environmental benefits to all.

THE CROSSCUT

SPRING 2016 VOL. 39, ISSUE 1

Featured In This Issue:

- Message from the President
- Featured Member: T.D. Smith
- MFA Annual Meeting 2016
- MFA Scholarship Opportunities
- New MFA Member Benefit



Maryland Forests Association
PO Box 904
Brooklandville, MD 21022



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Todd Berman

Treasurer/Secretary

Tim Smith

Executive Director

Vanessa A. Finney

Phone: 410-823-1789

Director@mdforests.org



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Electronic *CrossCut*

If you are interested in receiving the next issue of *CrossCut* electronically, instead of print, please e-mail the MFA office, director@mdforests.org.

In your email please include your name, company name, and e-mail address.



Message from the President



Driving around the state you cannot fail to notice that spring is truly upon us. You can see flowers and trees starting to bloom. Farmers are starting to prepare their fields for this summer's planting and wild turkeys are out in the fields strutting for mating season. I have nothing but hope for our future, when spring is in full form. Our new governor is making changes to promote business and it appears that Annapolis might actually get things done with an early budget

agreement. I am also pleased to tell you that we have a State Forester again after the Governor and Secretary announced that Don VanHassent will now become Maryland's 11th State Forester. Mr. VanHassent brings years of experience working with the field staff and legislature during his tenure with the Maryland DNR. Mr. VanHassent has several challenges ahead of him in coming year with forestry

businesses shrinking or moving out of the state, forest pests at an all time high, and an aging DNR work force.

I know he was the right person for the position and Maryland Forests Association looks forward to continuing our good relationship with him in the future.



If you did not make our Annual Meeting and Legislative reception in February you missed some great presentations by Charlotte Davis with Rural Maryland Council, Greg Bowen with Land Stewardship Solutions, LLC and Don VanHassent with Maryland DNR. The meeting was held in Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis, MD. We had several legislators and legislative aides stop by including Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt, who has helped several members with issues on the Eastern Shore. We appreciate her support as well as several other legislators during this session.

Please enjoy our wonderful woods and remember spring is tick season again so be careful, cover up, spray and check yourself and your loved ones for ticks.

Todd Berman
President, MFA
410-742-3163

Maryland Forests Association HUNT LEASE LIABILITY INSURANCE

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For more information
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Forest Industry Calendar

April 28—May 1, 2016

Maryland Woodland Stewards Workshop
Location: TBA
Contact: Lyle Almond, lalmond@umd.edu

May 5, 2016

Your Woodlot & Your Wallet
Location: Garrett College
Contact: Willie Lantz, wlantz@umd.edu

May 10, 2016

Forestry Herbicides: A Review of Principles and Recent Research
Location: Webinar
Contact: Allyson Muth, 814-865-2308

May 11, 2016

MD Soil and Sediment Control—Training Program
Contact: DNR, 410-713-3862

May 17, 2016

Central Region Water Quality Testing
Location: Augusta Springs, VA
Contact: Rod Newlin, 434-220-9180

May 18, 2016

Pesticide Recertification Training
Location: Hagerstown, MD
Contact: Michael Kay, mike.kay@maryland.gov

June 10, 2016

Forestry Friday—Learning How to Use a Handheld GPS
Location: Western MD Research & Ed. Center
Contact: Jonathan Kays, 301-432-2767, ext. 323

July 24—30, 2016

Natural Resources Careers Camp
Location: Garrett County
Contact: DNR Forest Service, 410-260-8501

A full list of industry events is kept on the [MFA website \(www.mdforests.org\)](http://www.mdforests.org).

Remove calendar for easy reference to events

Congratulations Don VanHassent!

The MFA is proud to pass along this great news! Acting Forest Service Director Donald VanHassent has been appointed as the permanent director. Don becomes the 11th Maryland State Forester effective immediately. Don has done a tremendous job leading the forest service handling intricate land deals, assisting with licensing and legislative issues, marketing forestry-related industries, programs and services, and maintaining the sustainability certification all the while strengthening Fred Besley's legacy. Congratulations, Don!



Please join the MFA in congratulating Don on his new - and well-deserved - appointment.

Thinking About a Timber Sale? Now You Can Call Before You Cut

Press Release—March 22, 2016

Media Contacts:

Jonathan Kays
University of Maryland Extension
(301) 432-2767, ext. 323; jkays@umd.edu

Maryland has more than 2.5 million acres of woodlands, and the majority are owned and managed by private landowners. Many understand that successfully managing their property occasionally means cutting some trees for the overall health of the woods, but may have little knowledge about how best to do so. Now they have access to a free program that can help them make informed decisions about the timber harvesting process. The “Call Before You Cut” program offers professional assistance to landowners considering timber sales. Landowners can receive complimentary information by visiting the website www.callb4ucut.com, and click on the state of Maryland. You can then “Request Info,” or by call 301-432-2767, extension 315.



Call Before You Cut began in Ohio in 2006, and has since grown to include states as far west as Missouri and as far north as Minnesota. In Maryland, the program is coordinated by the University of Maryland Extension, with support from over a dozen conservation and land management partners across the state. Call Before You Cut encourages sustainable harvesting of timber, supports the use of professional foresters, facilitates the development of forest stewardship plans, and promotes the use of Master Loggers to minimize

the impacts of timber harvests on forests and the state’s valuable soil and water resources.

According to Jonathan Kays, Extension Forester with the University of Maryland Extension, *“Having a credible information source that targets the nuts-and-bolts of timber harvesting can be a real asset for landowners when they need timely information concerning a harvest decision.”*

The Call Before You Cut program will help woodland property owners achieve their management goals and help ensure the health of their forests for the coming years and future generations. Visit www.callb4ucut.com or go directly to the Maryland page at www.callb4ucut.com/maryland to learn more.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender

identity or expression.

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MFA Member Benefit—New!

The MFA announces a new Member Benefit! Now you can receive a discount of 7% off at forestry-suppliers.com. To take advantage of this great benefit, email the MFA at director@mdforests.org to obtain the special discount code. We are proud to work with forestry-suppliers.com and hope that you take advantage of this great benefit simply for being a member of the MFA!

Visit www.mdforests.org to view the various other resources and benefits that are available to MFA members!



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MFA Scholarships 2016



The MFA sponsors or is involved with several scholarship and career education opportunities for members, families of members, or industry associates.

Additional information, and applications, if applicable, regarding these programs may be found on the MFA website, www.mdforests.org, on the Scholarship and Education page, under the "About Us" tab.

The Dick Stanfield Scholarship

Applications due May 1, 2016

This scholarship was established in 2012 by the MFA, in memory and honor of long-time member, Dick Stanfield. Mr. Stanfield was instrumental in starting the Maryland Forests Association 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.

Mr. Stanfield began working in 1956 as treasurer of Edrich Farms, Inc. on Old Court Road in Windsor Mill and was also treasurer of Edrich Farms Nursery Inc. In 1962, he established and served as president of Edrich Lumber Inc.,

located at the site of Edrich Farms Inc. and Edrich Farms Nursery, Inc. Mr. Stanfield began the operation with a small mill cutting logs into lumber, with the sawdust and shavings

being turned into mulch. He became one of the largest producers of mulch in the area. Later, as the need arose for the proper disposal of brush and wood debris, he expanded again when he developed another business that grew into one of the largest recyclers of wood products in the Baltimore area. Dick is credited with expanding the lumber business into the international arena. In addition to his career, Mr. Stanfield was an avid gardener, enjoyed fishing and boating, and was instrumental in the development and expansion of what is now known as Northwest Hospital Center.

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 scholarship will be awarded every fall. The application includes short essay and verification of college enrollment. Application deadline is May 1st with awards announced by the end of June.

The MFA continues to accept donations to the Dick Stanfield Scholarship, to build its endowment to fund future scholarships. If you wish to make a donation, please remit payment in care of the Dick Stanfield Memorial Scholarship, MFA, PO Box 904, Brooklandville, MD 21022. Donations are tax-deductible.



Thomas O. Tyler III Excellence in Forestry Scholarship

The TOT scholarship honors the memory of Thomas O. Tyler, III, a commercial forester who during his professional career was lauded for his forward-thinking approach to environmental sustainability before such practices were mainstream. Mr. Tyler is remembered for his ability to bring industry members and regulatory bodies together to resolve issues to the mutual agreement of those involved.

The award is \$1,000, payable \$500 per semester, to a 2nd year student pursuing a B.S. in Forestry from a Society of American Foresters accredited program. In Maryland, the TOT scholarship is awarded through Allegany College in Cumberland. Additional requirements include residency in Maryland, 3.0 minimum GPA, and essay. Visit the “About Us” page of the MFA website for more information on this scholarship, or visit the Allegany College website directly at www.allegany.edu, then select the Financial Assistance tab, then Scholarships.

The MFA accepts donations to the TOT scholarship and passes any funds collected to Allegany College for scholarship funding. If you wish to make a donation, please remit payment in care of the Thomas O. Tyler III Scholarship, MFA, PO Box 904, Brooklandville, MD 21022. Donations are tax-deductible.



The Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC)



The MFA accepts donations to the NRCC and passes any funds to support the Camp program. College credits and scholarships are available at the Natural Resources Careers Camp. Students join professionals from across the state for seven days of intense instruction and fun at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County, Maryland. The NRCC is presented by the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards in partnership with Allegany College, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Forestry Foundation.

For more information on the NRCC visit: <http://www.marylandforestryboards.org/nrcc.cfm>





MFA Annual Meeting 2016

The MFA board thanks all of our members who attended the association's annual meeting and legislative reception. We truly appreciate your attendance and representation of the MFA.

A special thank you to our sponsors: MARBIDCO, Mar-Len Environmental Inc, The Forestland Group, Maryland Tree Farm Committee, Outdoor Underwriters, T.D. Smith LLC, Eastern Shore Forest Products, Glatfelter, Parker Forestry Services, Timber Sure, Forest Friendly Logging, Maryland Farm Bureau, Rural Maryland Council, Troyer Logging and University of Maryland Extension.

The meeting opened with introductions and a brief "state of the association" report by MFA president, Todd Berman. President Berman shared some of the highlights from 2015 including:

- The redesign of the MFA website, Crosscut, and the 2016 Legislative Handbook are all complete
- Served on the **REWG Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee** (MD Dept. of Planning)
- Mid Shore Regional Council forestry tour sponsorship and attendance
- Attended the Farm Bureau Annual meeting in OC (with sponsored booth)
- Produced 4 Crosscuts magazines with 45 e-mail blasts with current issues and educational opportunities
- Rural Maryland Council conference sponsorship and attendance
- Mid-Atlantic Woodsman Meet sponsorship
- Joined the Sustainable Forest Initiative in the World Record Tree Planting attempt in Historic Pigtown – amongst other sites across the country
- Hosted 3 Regional Meetings sponsored by Maryland Tree Farm Committee, T.D. Smith LLC, Parker Forestry Services, and the MD DE SIC. Each meeting included updates from President Todd Berman, a Tree Farm Update from Kenneth Jolly, updates from DNR, as well as discussions on regionally relevant issues:

1 – Allegany College – September 10, 2015
(30 MFA and Tree Farm Members in attendance)

#2 – Salisbury – October 14th
(38 MFA and Tree Farm Members in attendance)

#3 – Baltimore County – October 27th
(33 MFA and Tree Farm Members in attendance)

- Tim Smith presented the Secretary and Treasurer's report. Both reports were approved and motion to file accepted.



Above: Smith family members speaking with Delegate Cassilly.

During the annual meeting component of the event:

President Berman, on behalf of the MFA, recognized Jamie Weaver - 2015 Forester of the Year and Shannon Wolfe - 2015 Ranger of the Year for their outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the industry.



Above: Ronnie Haymaker speaks with Delegate Charles Otto.

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council provided an update on the RMC and Maryland's Forestry Communities and the importance RMC's advocacy of rural, underserved communities. Charlotte also noted RMC's success in receiving \$2M in funding for the Rural Maryland Investment Prosperity Fund. And Charlotte explained grants that are available for rural programs.

Greg Bowen of Land Stewardship Solutions, LLC provided an update on the Rural Economies Work Group – Sustainable Forestry Action Items.

Don Van Hassent, DNR, State Forester Maryland Forest Service, provided a thorough legislative update, offering pieces of legislation of interest to the industry. Legislative updates are provided to MFA members via e-mail on as as-needed basis.



Above: MFA President Todd Berman talks with Joe Hinson, Eastern Shore Forest Products.

On page 20 you will find a continuation of this article which lists all of the 51 Senators, Delegates and Legislative aides, representing 34 districts in 23 counties who RSVP'd to attend the reception. While several committee hearings (including the "Death with Dignity Act") ran late into the night and kept many from attending, if any of these legislators are from your district, the MFA encourages you to send them a quick e-mail, reminding them of the MFA Mission and your membership. It's always a good thing to have a connection with your legislator. If you need contact information, use the listing from the General Assembly website.

MFA Mission

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



Above: Kenneth Jolly, MD Tree Farm speaking with Valerie Connelly and Katie Ward, MD Farm Bureau

increasing awareness of the diverse public benefits of forests, supporting the sustainable use of forest resources, promoting economic opportunity for forest landowners, and maintaining a viable local forest products industry. One of the many ways we live our mission is by working directly with the legislators and their respective committees to monitor and influence legislation and regulation that affects forests and the forestry community. The Maryland Forests Association has a proud history of being a direct resource to individual legislators and these committees.



Above: Senator Addie Eckardt speaks with Amy Cook, MARBIDCO and Daniel Rider, DNR.

Through events such as the MFA's Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception, we can communicate as a direct resource and enhance our relationships with the legislature. Your presence at this event helps make this possible.

Thank you again for your participation at the MFA's Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception.

(Continued on Page 20)

Featured Member

T. D. Smith

Tim Smith said he's been in the logging business "forever," and it's true, since he started working at his father's sawmill and on the logging crew as a kid. His great-grandfather and grand-father also were in the logging business, so it's a family tradition.

Second son of a second son, Smith shares not only his father's occupation but his name, although he isn't a "junior." His family calls him "T."



Smith started his own business in Bel Air, Md., about 10 years ago while still cutting timber for his father. He expanded into land clearing, naming his company T.D. Smith LLC. For five or six years now he has been on his own, developing T.D. Smith into a company known for logging, tree removal, and land clearing on any size property, from a backyard to a building site.

"We do a little of everything," Smith said in a telephone interview. "Everything" includes commercial, residential and industrial land clearing, tree removal, stump grinding, brush mowing and storm damage clean-up. Smith also offers selective harvest logging and invasive species management. He does fence lines, right-of-way maintenance, horse or ATV trails, hedgerows and overgrown fields.

"We specialize in difficult and dangerous tree removals," Smith said, putting to work his expertise in rope rigging, crane and machine removals.



For the smaller land clearing jobs, house lots and backyards, he doesn't use a bull dozer, rather a rubber track skid loader which is low impact and better for the environment, residual trees and landscape.



"We'll come to your property, evaluate the timber, recommend options and give a value," he said. "We can do a selective harvest. We do safe and efficient work while limiting unwanted damage to your property."

Mostly his business is a "one-man show," he said, although he has part-time employees who help with land clearing and tree removal.

Smith is a Maryland Master Logger and Maryland Forest Products operator. Participants in the Master Logger program go above and beyond what the state and county require, he explained. "We have a higher set of standards."

He works with Mar-Len Environmental, Inc., on reforestation, forest stand improvement and tree planting.

A member of Maryland Forests Association for eight years, Smith has been on the board of directors as secretary/treasurer for three years. He can be reached at (443) 567-6901.

www.TDSmithLLC.com
Tdsmithllc@yahoo.com



Carol Kinsley
cjkinsley@comcast.net

"Timber is a crop that can and should be managed properly to ensure a healthy and sustainable forest for future generations," Smith said. He works on forest stand improvement — for later harvest or for habitat, hunting or merely aesthetics.

Locally owned and operated, T.D. Smith serves Harford, Baltimore and the surrounding counties, including Aberdeen Proving Ground. Smith offers free estimates and emergency services.



USGBC Announces New Pathway to Encourage Environmentally Responsible Forest Management in LEED

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Washington, D.C. — The range of legal and responsible forest products available for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit has grown in a positive direction. This is welcome news for architects, builders and consumers seeking legal, responsibly sourced and certified forest products from well-managed forests.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has issued a LEED alternative compliance path (ACP) that recognizes wood and paper from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program as part of an integrated approach to encouraging environmentally responsible forest management and eliminating illegal wood from the building material's supply chain. The ACP will apply to all LEED v4 rating systems including Homes v4 and to all LEED 2009 rating systems.

"We applaud leaders from the U.S. Green Building Council as this change across all LEED rating tools takes a stance against illegal wood and reinforces the value of certified and responsibly sourced forest products," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. "SFI employs rigorous standards that ensure not only a responsibly managed forest, but also that only legal sources of fiber are brought into SFI-certified supply chains."

LEED has seven impact goals that include reversing climate change, enhancing human health, protecting water resources and

biodiversity, promoting sustainable material resources, building a greener economy and enhancing social equity and community quality of life.

The SFI Standards and SFI's supporting programs are tightly aligned with LEED's



seven core criteria. The SFI 2015-2019 Standards, launched in January 2015, include enhanced measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value. In the social sphere, SFI's work with rural and underserved communities, youth, and indigenous peoples promotes grassroots engagement on environmental issues and helps improve the quality of life for many.

LEED is a proven tool, unparalleled in its ability to drive wholesale transformation across every corner of the built environment and raise the bar for all players," said Rick Fedrizzi, CEO of USGBC. "Requiring architects, builders and consumers to verify the legality of forest products used in LEED buildings is part of its standing as a leadership standard, and the new ACP encourages the use of programs that certify that practice. This new path to LEED credits also recognizes the contributions forest certification standards have made in establishing the infrastructure which makes it possible to verify responsible sourcing."

(Continued on the next page)

The MFA posts all previous issues of its E-Newsletter on the association website. If you missed an issue, or just want to catch up, please visit the MFA website, www.mdforests.org and see the newsletter link on the homepage. If you or your company has content to add to this newsletter, please email or call the MFA, director@mdforests.org, 410-823-1789.

This move will further strengthen the widely-respected LEED program. It requires architects, builders and consumers to verify the legality of forest products used in LEED buildings, and awards credit for the use of forest products certified to programs like SFI. In order to count towards a LEED point, the user must

first know that 100% of the forest products are from legal (non-controversial) sources, 70% from responsible sources and

the remainder must be certified sources as evidenced by a chain of custody certification (CoC). SFI Fiber Sourcing certification counts as legal and responsible, while fiber delivered through a CoC certification counts as legal, responsible and certified sources. The new alternative compliance path pilot recognizes SFI, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and programs that are endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The alternative compliance path categorizes the various forest certification standards based on the ASTM D7612-10 (2015) standard which is titled “Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to Their Fiber Sources.” ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards.

Responsible forest management practices are also important to architects and builders focused on sustainable solutions that can transform the construction sector. Wood is an increasingly popular choice for construction because of its aesthetic qualities, and numerous environmental benefits — including renewability and a lower carbon footprint than other materials.



Because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, they sequester and store carbon, reducing greenhouse gases, improving air quality and reducing the construction sector’s contribution to global climate change. But many of these positive attributes of wood construction depend on whether the forest resource is

responsibly managed under a certification program. Forests certified to the SFI Standards are found in 42

states and provinces in the US and Canada. The acceptance of more responsibly sourced forest products into all LEED rating tools offers architects and builders greater access to these renewable products for their green building projects.

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally-recognized SFI program. SFI works at the intersection of sustainable forests, thriving communities and responsible procurement. The SFI Standards are based on principles that promote sustainable forest management. The SFI Forest Management Standard includes measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, special sites, species at risk, forests with exceptional conservation value, and indigenous people’s rights. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

Learn more at sfiprogram.org and sfiprogram.org/greenbuilding.

NASA to 3D Map The World's Forests Using Space Lasers

Source: www.grist.org (text and image)

Trees have been making a valiant effort to gobble up the carbon dioxide we've been haphazardly spewing into the atmosphere — and you might think that, by now, we should have a pretty good estimate of how much CO₂ our planet's forests hold.

But it turns out that we don't. Without a clear map of the world's woody vegetation, scientists can't make accurate predictions about, say, how much CO₂ would leak into our atmosphere if someone hacked down a given forest, or how much carbon pollution could be sequestered by replanting one. To give us more solid estimates, NASA is creating the first comprehensive 3D visualization of the world's forests, using the coolest mapping tools known to humanity: satellites and lasers.



Here's how it works: A satellite sends a pulse of light from space all the way to the Earth's surface, where it passes through a forest's canopy. Then, a small fraction of that light, called a "return pulse," will reflect back to the satellite.

The time that it takes the return pulse to travel back to the satellite is a measure of how far it has traveled, meaning we can measure the height of the object the pulse reflected off of, to within three feet of accuracy. Plus, depending what kind of material the pulse reflected against, the signal is slightly modified — so if the light encounters a leafy tree top or a woody trunk, that information will be conveyed back to the satellite detector, too.

This is called "lidar technology," and the information gathered from that pulse will allow scientists to visualize subtle variations in the architecture of our forests. With 16 billion of these pulses sent from the satellite each year, scientists may finally have enough data to accurately measure the biomass of the world's trees — and in turn, how much carbon they contain.

The mission, called GEDI (Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation), is planned for 2018. But NASA isn't exactly going out on a limb here — the organization has tangoed with lidar technology before, *Scientific American* points out, and this isn't even its first foray into tree cartography.

Satellite data isn't the antidote to Earth's myriad ailments — but it *will* provide us with more clarity in tackling them. In just a couple years, it looks like we'll know the world's trees like the back of our hand (although I guess some of us already have trees tattooed on the back of our hands). NASA's mission will be key to unlocking the door to better forest mapping techniques, and to better forest management policies.

University of Maryland Extension General Forestry Course

GENERAL FORESTRY COURSE

This non-credit course is designed for individuals wishing to increase their understanding of forests and forest management. Specifically, the General Forestry Course targets Maryland forest landowners and other citizens with an interest in the principles and practices of forestry. There are two methods of distance learning available: the web-based or online version, and the original paper version.

Note: The General Forestry Course will be offered for the Fall 2016 Semester with registration opening on June 1. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. The course will begin on September 1.

For more information, visit: <http://extension.umd.edu/forestry-course>

On the webpages you can find sample course pages along with sample interactive exercises.

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Fax: (410) 827-9039
Email: nstewar1@umd.edu

Learn More About
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Welcome!

This non-credit course is designed for individuals wishing to increase their understanding of forests and forest management. Specifically, the General Forestry Course targets Maryland forest landowners and other citizens with an interest in the principles and practices of forestry. There are two methods of distance learning available: the web-based or online version, and the original paper version.

Note: The General Forestry Course will be NOT be offered the spring of 2015. However, it will be offered for the Fall 2016 Semester with registration opening on June 1.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. The course will begin on September 1.

We appreciate your interest in the General Forestry Course. We'd like to know a little bit about who visits this web site. Please take a few moments to respond to our **Visitors Survey**. We ask only your state, country, and how you describe yourself (i.e., farmer, student, retired engineer, etc.). This information will help us to better understand who we are reaching with this web site. Thank you for your time.

Useful Links:
[Visitor Survey](#)
[Already Registered? Log Into Online Course](#)

Wye Research and Education Center

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[Get Directions](#)

News from MDA

New Invasive Plant Regulations in Effect April 11

A Notice of Final Action for the Maryland Invasive Plant Regulations was published in a recent edition of *Maryland Register*. The regulations are in effect as of April 11.



These regulations establish lists of Tier 1 and Tier 2 invasive plants, and require signage be placed near retail displays of Tier 2 plants. The regulations also describe mechanisms for listing and delisting invasive species, procedures for the disposal of Tier 1 plants, and an outline of conditions under which the Secretary's approval may be given for otherwise prohibited activities.

The department's overall goal is to prevent invasive species from entering or spreading further in the state.

"The mandatory signage is a novel approach to invasive plant regulation that will help consumers make educated decisions about their plant choices," said Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries and Pest Management Carol Holko. "We remain committed to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants, and reducing the impacts of established invasive plants where it makes sense."

Weed risk assessments are ongoing, and additional plant species will be added to the lists through the regulatory process as they are completed and approved. These science-based assessments are the foundation for decisions regarding a plant's invasive status in the state.

"We understand that invasive plants are a very real concern for land managers. The purpose of the purpose of these regulations—and the Maryland Invasive Plant Law—is to address invasive plant species that could potentially be sold or distributed in Maryland," said Holko. "We look forward to working with the various impacted stakeholder groups through outreach materials and activities, and through our nursery inspection program."

The full assessment reports are available on the program's website.

For more information on the new regulations—please visit the below website:

http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx

F&W Purchases Fountains Forestry/Real Estate Businesses; Major Expansion of Operations in U.S. and U.K.

Source: F & W

ALBANY, Ga., April 21, 2016 — F&W Forestry Services, Inc., one of the oldest and largest forest management and consulting firms in the U.S., announced today that it has acquired London-based O.C.S. Group Ltd.'s forestry and land subsidiaries. The acquisition includes three companies with forest management and real estate operations in North America and the United Kingdom.

For the Albany, Ga.-based F&W, the acquisition is a major expansion of its operations in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions of the U.S. and its first entry into the U.K. F&W currently maintains a network of 25 offices in the U.S., Uruguay, Brazil, and France.

The companies included in the purchase are Fountains Forestry Inc., a forest management firm, Fountain Lands Inc., a retail forest real estate firm, both located in the Northeastern U.S., and Fountains Forestry UK, Ltd., a forest management and real estate firm operating in England, Scotland, and Wales.

"This acquisition is a very compatible and comfortable fit for F&W," said Marshall Thomas, president of F&W. "There is a tremendous amount of synergy between F&W and the three companies geographically and operationally."

F&W will retain employees and management from the new companies and is committed to a seamless transition to ensure the ongoing quality and reliable service which clients value and expect.

"Taking care of our clients throughout this transition is our top priority," Thomas added.

The purchase includes the acquisition of seven

offices in North America that have an operating footprint covering Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and western Ontario near Lake Superior. The U.K. offices, which serve landowners in England, Wales, and Scotland, are located at Banbury (Oxfordshire), Inverness (Scotland), Exeter (Devon), and Bedale (North Yorkshire). Combined, the three companies have more than 50 employees and manage more than 535,000 acres of forests and woodlands.

Founded in 1962, F&W is one of America's premier forest resource management and consulting, real estate, and timberland investment firms. The company has more than 185 employees and manages more than 1.6 million acres of forestland in the U.S. and internationally.

About F&W:

F&W Forestry Services, Inc., of Albany, Ga., is one of the nation's oldest and largest forest consulting and management firms. The company handles timber sales, provides comprehensive forest management and consulting services, and offers forest real estate services and investing opportunities to private and industrial landowners. In the U.S., the company maintains a network of 18 offices in 11 states comprising the Southern pine belt, the Central and Appalachia regions, Upstate New York, and Oregon in the Pacific Northwest. F&W also manages private forestlands in Uruguay, Brazil, and France.

Related Links:

www.fwforestry.net
www.fountainsamerica.com
www.fountainsforestry.co.uk

Contact:

Betsy Bates
bbates@batesassociates.net
 770.451.0370

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Jessica Rodgers

After Decades of Acid Rain Damage, Northeastern Forests Are Finally Making a Comeback

Source: UMD Extension—Branching Out

BRANCHING OUT

Maryland's Woodland Stewardship Educator

Good news on the environment front: the effects of acid rain on forests in the northeastern US and eastern Canada are finally starting to reverse, nearly forty years after the United States began passing environmental legislation to control the problem.

A new, USGS-led study, which examined soil acidity and toxin levels at 27 sites in the northeastern US and eastern Canada, found that all have experienced declining levels of acid rain over the past 8 to 24 years. The study, published in *Environmental Science and Technology*, finds that aluminum concentrations (a telltale sign of acid rain damage) have declined while pH has increased in the upper soil layers across nearly all sites.

In other words, forests are finally starting to recover from an environmental problem we identified decades ago and took legislative action to fix.

Acid rain is caused by sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, two compounds produced in large quantities by coal power plants, and to a lesser extent when we burn gasoline. In the atmosphere, these chemicals dissolve in water and undergo a series of reactions leading to the formation of sulfuric and nitric acid. During rainstorms, acid water percolates into the soil, setting off a cascade of chemical reactions that disrupt terrestrial and aquatic

ecosystems.

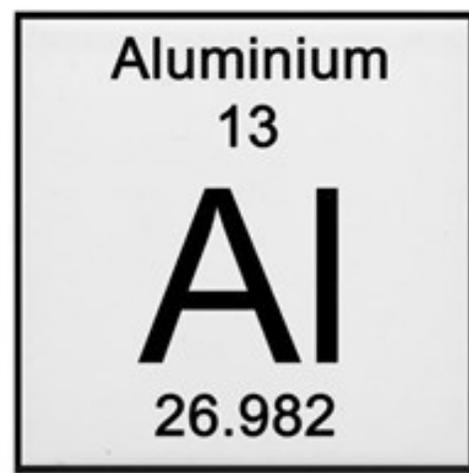
“Essentially, all the ecological problems manifested by acid rain start in the soil,” lead study author Gregory Lawrence said in an interview.

First, acid rain strips clay minerals of calcium, an important nutrient for plants, and one that helps neutralize soil acidity. Next, as soils become more acidic and calcium is depleted, aluminum starts to become liberated from its mineral bonds. “That causes problems for trees, forests, and surface



waters” said Lawrence. Aluminum is a big problem for many key tree species in the northeast, most notably red maple and sugar maple. “It impacts their overall health, in terms of seedling survival, and how they deal with climate and insect stress,” Lawrence said.

Additionally, aluminum becomes mobile in soils, leaching into nearby surface waters. Over the years, this has led to widespread fish kills, with cascading impacts on aquatic communities.



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Public awareness of the link between human pollution, acid rain, and ecological damage in the U.S. became widespread in the 1970s. At that time, the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire was publishing seminal studies demonstrating the harmful effects of acid rain on forest ecosystems. Growing public concern prompted Congress to pass a series of amendments to the Clean Air Act designed to dramatically reduce the emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides from power plants. These efforts have been widely seen as successful, with acid rain levels in the U.S. dropping dramatically since the mid-1970s.

Despite the success in reducing acid rain, scientists have had trouble telling whether forest ecosystems in the northeast are, in fact, recovering. Lawrence noted, “Prior to this study, published research on soils indicated that soil acidification was worsening in most areas despite several decades of declining acid rain. However, those studies relied on data that only extended up to 2004, whereas the data in this study extended up to 2014.”

The new research offers some of the most promising evidence to date that a rebound to pre-acid rain conditions may be underway. Across all 27 sites in the study, the uppermost soil layers are showing a strong recovery response, with aluminum levels dropping and soil pH increasing. In certain sites, Lawrence and his co-authors found that deeper soil layers are becoming more acidic, but he says this could be a natural part of the recovery process.

“I was involved with research in the mid-’90s, showing that one of the effects of acid rain was moving aluminum from deep in soils to surface organic layers, where roots do their nutrient uptake,” Lawrence said. “In this study, we’re seeing that process reverse quite strongly, with aluminum levels decreasing down into the soil. It’s sorta coming back where it came from.”

Next, Lawrence and his team hope to look at surface water chemistry in northeaster rivers and lakes to see if similar signs of recovery are evident.

“Recovery is happening,” he said. “We’re still trying to figure out how much capacity these ecosystems have to recover, but there’s no question that decreases in acidic deposition are having a positive effect.”

New Forestry App Updates Essential Publication

Source: UMD, Branching Out

Professional foresters have long relied on the “Service Forester’s Handbook,” a 135-page publication that helps them convert figures, calculate volumes and perform other essential calculations. It remains in use today although the handbook was last updated in 1986. Understanding that the content needed to be brought into the 21st century, William Hubbard, a Southern Region Extension forester with the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors, spearheaded the development of an app to complement the paper handbook. Hubbard worked with University of Georgia Extension and technology specialists to develop the app for both Android and Apple platforms. In addition to the facts and figures found in the original guide, the app includes calculators to help foresters determine soil texture, tree stand density, and much more. Download it from the Apple Store or from Google Play.

Member Information

Welcome New Members! The MFA would like to welcome the below new members that have joined the MFA .

- Dr. George Grillon
- Frank Iglehart
- TimberSure—James Groff
- Northwest Natural Resource Group—Mr. Joe Hinson
- Mr. McKinley Ben Miller

Phone: 410-823-1789

Email: director@mdforests.org

MFA Resources

There are many useful resources available to those in Maryland's forestry industry. Below are just a few; access a more complete list on the MFA website, www.mdforests.org, Resources page.

Maryland DNR: www.dnr.state.md.us/forests

MD Invasive Species Council: www.mdinvasivesp.org

MD Forest Conservancy District Boards: www.marylandforestryboards.org

Society of American Foresters: www.eforester.org

MFA Website

The MFA website, www.mdforests.org is full of resources to all of those involved in the industry. This site was developed last year and is user-friendly, and includes information on upcoming events, legislative efforts, insurance programs, and many other relevant topics. The MFA encourages all of our members to explore the website and visit all that it has to offer. If you have any questions, or content that could be added to the site, please contact the MFA.

MFA Contact Information

Address:
PO Box 904
Brooklandville, MD 21022

Phone:
410-823-1789

E-mail:
director@mdforests.org

“Learn character from trees, values from roots and change from leaves.”
- Tasneem Hameed



Publication Notice

We welcome your company news and updates or columns with your professional insight. E-mail any submissions you may have for the next edition of *CrossCut*, to director@mdforests.org.



Or Mail to :
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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 opportunity for forest landowners; and,
- Maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

MFA strives to accomplish this mission by:

- Monitoring and influencing legislation and regulation that affect forests and the forestry community;
- Promoting growth in MFA membership and finances; and,
- Recognizing recipients for outstanding contributions on behalf of Maryland's forest resource.