



SPRING
21



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

The CrossCut

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A message from Joe Hinson, President

Déjà vu—All Over Again??

Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it
—Winston Churchill

For the first time in my relatively brief experience in Maryland, we saw a significant number of public comments on the management plans for the State forests that argued against logging. Some advocated no logging of “old growth,” but there were calls for a cessation of all logging on state lands. There has also been an effort advocating the control of logging large trees on private lands. This open challenge to both logging and the wisdom of forest managers evokes some rather painful memories for me.

I spent fifteen years in Idaho presiding over a timber industry that was so significant that it represented 25% of the northern half of the state’s economy. About half of the 1.7 billion board feet of timber needed to sustain the industry (about 20 times the size of Maryland’s industry) came from the state’s federally

controlled national forests. I showed up in 1982, in the middle of a fierce debate on how much and what kind of logging should occur on national forests. Some of the fights—spotted owls, for example—gained national attention. Idaho doesn’t have spotted owls, and so escaped the earliest logging injunctions. However, there was still plenty to argue about—salmon habitat, water quality, roadless areas, and wilderness designations, along with the adequacy of the forest planning process, ironically developed to bring some certainty to national forest management, including the amount of timber that might be expected.

It didn’t work. Lawsuits, often just arguing procedural questions



like adherence to the forest planning process or the scope of accompanying environmental impact statements, became the norm. Predictably, the U.S. Forest Service, the agency responsible for managing the national forests, became gun shy, afraid, often correctly, that the slightest procedural error in the plans or the substance of the decisions within them would lead to injunctions that handcuffed their ability to move forward.

Continued on page 10



EXPO RICHMOND IS FINALLY HAPPENING!

MAY 21-22, 2021

We were sorry to have missed you all last year but are excited to be able to host everyone this year for a safe and successful event.

The East Coast Sawmill and Logging Equipment Exposition (EXPO RICHMOND) has become America's leading trade show for the forest products industry.

Attendees can compare their current equipment to the latest state-of-the-art, most technologically advanced equipment on the market. The extensive amount of equipment displayed, along with active product and machinery demonstrations both indoors and outdoors, provide the unique "hands-on" aspect of the Richmond show.

Online registration is strongly encouraged to avoid the lines. Anyone registered before April 15, 2021, will have their badges mailed to them and be able to skip the lines! On-site registration will be available but please keep in mind that your wait time may be longer than normal due to all of the COVID-19 Guidelines that we have to put into place. We will adhere to all state and local guidelines in place at the time of the EXPO. The easiest and fastest way to register and attend the EXPO is to register online: www.exporichmond.com.

Wood Products Industry Equity Investment Relief Fund

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) will be awarding nearly \$750,000 through the Wood Products Industry Equity Investment Relief Fund (WPIEI) to 21 grantees with forestry projects that are designed to increase the utilization and production of wood products, in response to the coronavirus pandemic and earlier mill closures. WPIEI was set up to provide grants of 20% to 33% of an eligible project's cost, with the aim to help forest harvesters and wood fiber processors purchase new equipment or construct facilities to increase the utilization and production of wood products in Maryland. Given the program's oversubscription, a project cost share target of 25% for all but the smallest grantees has been established, and all WPIEI grantees will be receiving at the outset a pro-rated share of funding at just under one-half of the eligible cost share amount.

Types of projects funded included the acquisition of new or upgraded machinery and equipment for logging or mill operations, as well as the upgrading of facilities to increase efficiency, safety and productivity. Some of these projects will help wood products businesses to maintain their current staffing levels, while others have the potential to help expand business operations with the hiring of more employees. Several of the projects will lead to the creation of new part-time and full-time jobs, with one notable project planning an expansion that will create 40 new jobs.

The WPIEI grants to be initially awarded range in size from \$1,874, for a firewood splitter, up to \$130,928 for the largest mill project costing over \$1.1 million. The average grant amount is about \$36,000. MARBIDCO is also making low-cost loans available with special terms to help the applicant wood product businesses complete their entire planned projects with financing provided through the "MRBIF" and "Pandemic Recovery" Loan Programs.

Twelve Maryland counties are represented by the applicants, including from every major region of the State. Below is a list of the companies that are slated to receive WPIEI grants:

Southern Maryland

Garman Brothers Inc.
Quality Firewood and Logging Inc.
Barnes Logging
Loveville Timberworks, LLC.
Schumacher Logging Inc.
VanMeter Pulpwood, Inc.
Freedom Logging, Inc.

Central Maryland

Edrich Lumber, Inc.
A&A Tree Experts, Inc.
OE Custom, Inc.
T.D. Smith, LLC
Troyer Logging & Farming, LLC
E. Goodwin, Inc.

Eastern Shore

Southern Coastal Forest Products II, LLC
Timber Harvest, Inc.
Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc.
Millville Lumber Company, Inc.
Paul M. Jones Lumber Company, Inc.

Western Maryland

Frederick Hot Wood, LLC
Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction, Inc.
Spring Hollow Farm, LLC



Executive Director's Message

Beth Hill

It's my favorite time of year. Spring has sprung, and everything looks so vibrant and alive! The trees are taking up water, leaving another wet winter far behind us as we head into the most productive time of year.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving your membership renewals in the mail. Please continue to support MFA so we can continue to work for you! I assure you that we are working hard every day to voice the concerns of Maryland's forest community and ward off threats.

I'm looking forward to the release of the Economic Adjustment Strategy. MFA will take a leading role in pushing for implementing the recommendations and will insist that it is not just another study collecting dust on a shelf.

Most of all, I am anxiously awaiting the return of in-person meetings and events- where I feel I can be more effective both voicing and hearing your concerns. On May 25th, MFA will be hosting our first event of the year- a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Delmarva Lumber in Willards, MD. I'm sure that 2021 will hold more success stories in the industry, and I look forward to sharing them with you!

Beth Hill, Executive Director MFA
beth@mdforests.org

Upcoming Events

SPRING TURKEY SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2021

April 19-May 24

includes Sundays in certain
counties

1 bearded turkey per day,
2 bearded turkeys per season

RAMP/WILD LEEK FORAGING AND FOREST FARMING: RAMP

CULTURE

Tuesday, May 11

Ramp/Wild Leek Foraging and Forest Farming: Ramp Culture will provide the latest information and research regarding ramps, ramp foraging, forest farming opportunities, and explore the relationships that the people of Pennsylvania have with this stinky wild onion.

More info at: <https://extension.psu.edu/ramp-wild-leek-foraging-and-forest-farming-ramp-culture>

MIDATLANTIC WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE WEBINAR:

ESTATE PLANNING

Wednesday, May 12

Confused on how to start your family's estate plan? Or how to pass the farm on to the generation? This session will go over the basics of estate and succession planning.

More info at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/university-of-maryland-extension-2562059750>



Join us! Logging-related Insurance Issues

The Maryland Insurance Administration ("MIA") is the State agency that regulates the business of insurance in Maryland. The MIA provides efficient, effective service to consumers of insurance products and helps increase understanding of the vital role insurance plays in the daily lives of Maryland residents and businesses.

On May 20th 2021, Robert Baron, Associate Commissioner for Property & Casualty of the Maryland Insurance Administration will be presenting on **Logging-related insurance issues** and will respond to your questions, such as:

- How much and what types of insurance should I have?
- What happens if I am sued?
- What type of insurance should the contract hauler have?

Associate Commissioner Baron will respond to these and other questions and provide much more Logging related insurance information!

Online Webinar
May 20th
6:30 PM

For more information and to register:
go.umd.edu/insuranceforlogging

Contact: Agnes at akedmen@umd.edu
or 410-310-8445

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MFA RIBBON-CUTTING
CEREMONY AT
DELMARVA LUMBER
May 25th

LEAD MARYLAND
FELLOWSHIP CLASS
APPLICATIONS
June 1-Oct. 1

Applications for the next
LEAD Maryland Fellowship
Program cohort, Class XII,
will be accepted June 1
through October 1, 2021, for
class participation in 2022-23.
Email Susan Harrison
leadmd@umd.edu

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
June 5

Celebrate “National Trails
Day” by joining a Park
Ranger for a two-mile hike to
explore the forested areas of
the White Banks and Beaver
Marsh Loop Trails.

More info: <https://go.activecalendar.com/doit-md/event/national-trails-day-hike-3/>

2021 MARYLAND
NATURAL RESOURCE
PHOTO CONTEST
Deadline Aug 5

More info: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx>

Forestry's Resolute Standing in the Halls of Annapolis | 2021 Legislative Update from AFI & MFA

One thing is certain in the Halls of Annapolis: most lawmakers don't want to see a fish caught, a bird shot, or a tree cut. It is rightfully called the urban mindset, which largely dominates policy input and output during the regular 90-day Session of the Maryland General Assembly. If not for the Maryland Forests Association (MFA) – in partnership with the Association of Forest Industries (AFI) – forestry's standing would be unquestionably compromised to the detriment of sustainable forestry management and its attendant environmental/economic benefits. Moreover, MFA/AFI continually addresses all proposed forestry-related legislation each Session in the context of its compliance with Maryland's nationally acclaimed Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, aka Chapter 175, Acts of 2009.

Herein summarizes the 2021 General Assembly's actions impacting Maryland's forest community, aka nexus between forest landowners and primary/secondary manufacturing.

Maryland's Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy: Driven by the closure of the Luke Mill coupled with closures of sawmills statewide, the State reached out to the forest community to help underwrite a largely federal/State-funded strategic assessment, aka Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy (“EAS”) – remember MFA and AFI contributed \$2,500, respectively. The Maryland Forestry EAS process began in March 2020 with a top-to-bottom analysis of the wood products value chain. The first step was evaluating the standing timber resource across the State and within specific timber sheds. This was followed by an effort to understand the current and historical conditions facing the sector. Recommendations were to be made to implement positive changes that could rebuild and modernize the State's forest products industry and support the return of the strong entrepreneurial culture that is so important to much of rural Maryland.

Having been deeply involved in this study's development, MFA/AFI anticipated a final work product by the consultant firm – ACDS, LLC (Agricultural and Economic Community Development Services) – in December 2020 just in time to help shape pro-forestry initiatives in time for the 2021 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. This did not happen. As of this writing, Maryland's forest community still awaits this much-anticipated Report. Clearly, the value of the Report's findings/recommendations could have helped influence the outcome of policies adopted by the 2021 General Assembly – not a criticism, just a fact.

MARBIDCO to the Rescue: MARBICO remains one of forestry's strongest allies in the Halls of Annapolis in terms of policy and public financial support.

Implications attendant to the pandemic resulted in, among other things this Session, the enactment of the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs and Families (RELIEF) Act. Part of the funding approved under this EMERGENCY Act was allocated to MARBIDCO to establish the MARYLAND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY EQUITY INCENTIVE RELIEF FUND (WPIEI) to provide stimulus for forest products-related businesses to grow their business through innovation, increased production, and the development of new market opportunities. This program's ancillary objective is to complement the financial services offered by private commercial lenders by leveraging funds to facilitate larger-scale projects that will enable industry growth. This program will help Maryland wood fiber harvesters, processors, and manufacturers to purchase new equipment or construct facilities so that they can engage in increased production and utilization of locally sourced wood fiber, enhanced commercial revenue generation, and retention and creation of new job opportunities.

MARBIDCO recognizes by helping to sustain and grow a healthy forest products industry, investment now will yield substantial longer-term benefits for Marylanders. A total of \$750,000 was allocated, with initial applications due April 1, 2021. There were 21 applications asking for over double the money available. Further, MARBIDCO is hopeful additional federal pandemic-related moneys will flow to Maryland, a portion of which could still be made available to WPIEI. Hope springs eternal!

Mill Residue vs Black Liquor Legislation: Legislation was introduced to remove black liquor – a by-product of paper production – from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard law (RPS) given the closure of Verso. However, the proposed legislation – Senate Bill 65 – deemed “mill residue” and “black liquor” as the same, meaning the proposed legislation sought to eliminate mill residue, thinking black liquor was part of that definition. Hold on said MFA/AFI, not so. We ultimately prevailed. But, not to the final couple hours before adjournment – Sine Die – on April 12, 2021. In short, SB 65 was amended to separate black liquor from mill residue – essential for future thermal biomass fuel purposes – and revamped the RPS Tier 1 section of existing law as well; but, not to forestry's detriment – qualifying biomass remains a Tier 1 renewable resource. *Continued on page 10*

Marylanders Plant Trees



The coupon features the Maryland Forest Service logo at the top left. The main text reads 'SAVE \$25 ON A TREE TODAY!' in large, bold letters. Below this, a photograph shows a young child in a red jacket planting a small tree in a hole. At the bottom, it says 'Tear Here and Take Home' and 'Plant and be counted! Register every tree you plant at trees.maryland.gov'.

MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE
Marylanders Plant Trees

SAVE \$25
ON A TREE TODAY!

Tear Here and Take Home

Plant and be counted!
Register every tree you plant at
trees.maryland.gov

As Marylanders, we take pride in our State and our natural world. We understand the value of stewardship and the importance of a sustainable future, and are committed to working together to create a smarter, greener State.

Planting trees is one way that everyone can contribute to our shared vision. Trees provide ecological, economic and quality of life benefits – protecting air and water quality, reducing energy costs, increasing property values and beautifying neighborhoods and highways.

Marylanders Plant Trees launched in 2009 to encourage citizens and organizations to partner with the State to plant new trees. Today, citizens can still take advantage of our coupon program to receive \$25 off the purchase of a native tree at 86 participating nurseries across the State. The State cost of \$20 per coupon is funded through a settlement from a major power generator for Clean Air Act violations, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, and Maryland's participating tree vendors are generously absorbing the remaining \$5.

Help us plant 150,000 new trees in Maryland.

Step 1: Get a coupon towards a new tree. Get a coupon worth \$25 off the purchase of one new tree from a participating nursery with a retail value of \$50.

coupon: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/MarylandersPlantTrees/MarylandersPlantTrees2015.pdf>

Step 2: Find a participating nursery in your area. Only MPT Nurseries will accept and honor \$25 tree coupons.

participating nurseries: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/nurseries.aspx>

Caretakers of the forest.

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410.346.7297

marlen.wrabel@gmail.com

With more than 25 years of experience, Mar-Len Environmental, Inc. provides a broad spectrum of environmental services including:

- Forestry and silviculture field work
- Forest Conservation Plans
- Forest mitigation and restoration plans
- Phytoremediation expertise
- Tree planting and maintenance
- And much more

Brood X Periodical Cicadas

Periodical Cicadas: Brood X is Coming in 2021

By: Stanton Gill

So much focus has been on the economy and the Covid situation let's move forward to what is happening in the insect world this spring. First, take a minute and drift back to 2004. The air was "abuzz" with the sound of the 17-year periodical cicadas, *Magicicada septemdecim*. Male cicadas were drumming their abdomens making noises that carried for miles. The female cicadas slashed into branches to lay their eggs. At the peak of the flight activity of the cicadas, the bird population was getting plump from the bounty of insects to feed on. The eggs hatched in a couple of weeks and the nymphs dropped to the ground to burrow into the root-zones of plants to feed on tree roots for the next 17 years. We thought we were safe from the 17-year cicadas until 2021. Well, time slipped by and it is now "2021", and we will be seeing and hearing the Brood X periodical cicada this year in late spring to early summer.

In 2020, we put out several articles and pictures of rogue Brood X periodical cicadas that showed up in Montgomery, Howard and Anne Arundel counties. These were just periodical cicadas (Brood X) that got out-of-sync with the main body. The big emergence is set for this spring. Males are capable of producing a high-pitched whine that some people liken to a small chainsaw or 2-cycle engine noise. Females, which do not produce sound, are attracted to the males to mate. Males have a large group noise then sing a quitter song when a female approaches then switches to an even softer noise as he mates with the female. The group noise is the one that is slightly annoying and overwhelming.

Periodical cicadas emerge in different geographical areas and these emergence groups are labeled as "Broods". The one we experienced in 2004 in most of Maryland was "Brood X." There was another brood of 17-year periodical cicada that emerged in 2013 called "Brood II". In most central and western areas of Maryland, you will not see these Brood II cicadas. If you have customers in Southern Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York, they will be seeing activity of Brood II in 2030. It is something to look forward to for 2030. The parts of Maryland that will have emergence of Brood II is mainly in southern Maryland, Prince George's County and the lower portion of Montgomery County. In Pennsylvania, entomologists even recorded which counties you can expect to see Brood

II emerge in 2030 which includes: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, and Wyoming Counties, PA.



Periodical cicadas are found in eastern North America and belong to the genus *Magicicada*. There are seven species -- four with 13-year life cycles (including one new species described in 2000), and three with 17-year cycles. The three 17-year species are generally northern in distribution, while the 13-year species are generally southern and Midwestern. *Magicicada* are so well-synchronized developmentally that they are nearly absent as adults in the 12 or 16 years between emergences. When they do emerge after their long juvenile periods, they do so in huge numbers, forming much denser aggregations than those usually achieved by cicadas. Many people know periodical cicadas by the name "17-year locusts" or "13-year locusts", but they are not true locusts, which are a type of grasshopper. Adult *Magicicada* have black bodies and striking red eyes and orange wing veins, with a black "W" near the tips of the forewings. Most emerge in May and June.

A few weeks before emerging in late spring, the nymphs of cicadas construct exit tunnels to the surface. These exits are visible as approximately 1/2 inch diameter holes, or as chimney-like mud "turrets" the nymphs sometimes construct over their holes. On the night of emergence, nymphs leave their burrows around sunset, locate a suitable spot on nearby vegetation, and complete their final molt to adulthood. Shortly after ecdysis (the process of an arthropod molting its exoskeleton) the new adults appear mostly white, but they darken quickly as the exoskeleton hardens. Sometimes a large proportion of the population emerges in one



night. Newly-emerged cicadas work their way up into the trees and spend roughly four to six days as "teneral" adults before they harden completely (possibly longer in cool weather); they do not begin adult behavior until this period of maturation is complete. An adult female can occasionally use their stylet to pierce plant material or small fruit to extract a small amount of sugar for flight and mating but damage is not detected on most plants. The cicadas have sucking mouthparts called a stylet. Young, immature nymphal cicadas feed on liquid from plant roots. Adult cicadas do not generally feed, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture.

You may say, wait a minute, I see cicadas every summer in August. Yes, you would be correct. The annual cicada, which is out in August every year, are a large green-colored cicada and never reach really high populations numbers. They are called dog-day cicadas since they are in flight when the dog star cluster is visible in the sky in August. Although annual cicadas' life cycle is typically 2-3 years long, they are staggered so we see some emerging every summer. These late summer cicada species, which are sometimes mistaken for the periodical cicadas, are usually in the genera *Diceroprocta*. The annual cicada is more robust in body size than periodical cicadas and body is a green color.

Noise and Egg-laying

A week to 10 days after the males begin "singing," the 'early adopter' females begin to lay eggs. Each female is capable of laying up to 400 eggs in 40 to 50 pockets in the wood of several small branches of many types of trees. More than 80 species of trees were recorded in 2004 to being damaged by female cicada ovipositing. Some of the most susceptible trees we recorded in 2004 included paperbark maple, oaks, maples, ornamental pears, and fruit trees. The type of branches preferred by females is about the width of a pencil (if anyone remembers what a pencil looks like) up to 0.5 inch in diameter or a little larger.

After mating, a female cicada slices into the wood of the branch with an egg-laying apparatus (ovipositor) and places the egg into the wood. She usually lays one to several dozen eggs in a single branch before moving to another branch or tree. Female egg-laying activity is controlled by temperature. If it is cool in the spring, then egg laying is over



a longer period of time. Generally, it is 30–45 days of egg laying. Approximately 5 – 7 weeks later, the eggs hatch into tiny white nymphs. The nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into the soil to feed on grass roots and, eventually, tree roots for the next 17 years.

Are They a Threat?

Cicadas do not bite or sting defensively, nor do they attack people. If a cicada lands on you, it is only because it finds you to be a convenient place to land. A good anecdotal story is that some lawnmowers and weed-whacker's motors may produce a sound that might be attractive to the periodical cicadas. We did not witness any of this action in 2004. We did have people cancel outdoor weddings in late May and early June of 2004 because they were worried about the male cicada's singing out-competing their ceremony speakers and music.

When handled, both males and females struggle to fly at first, and males make a loud defensive buzzing sound that may startle but is otherwise harmless. Periodical cicadas are not poisonous to animals or humans, nor are they known to transmit disease. Adult periodical cicadas live only for a few weeks—by mid-July, all have disappeared. The one purpose of their short adult life is to reproduce.

Periodical cicadas can cause physical damage to small trees or shrubs if too many feed from the plant or lay eggs in the twigs;

such damage can cause “flagging” or breaking of peripheral twigs. Orchard and nursery owners probably should not plant young trees or shrubs in the years preceding an emergence of periodical cicadas, because young trees may be harmed by severe flagging. Mature trees and shrubs, however, usually survive even dense emergences of cicadas.

In 2004, many homeowners purchased netting for covering small trees, but this was not a very practical solution since the netting is often blown off trees or entangled in branches. If you do choose to put up netting, leave it on the plant only during the egg-laying period of the females. Longer periods will encourage foliar disease on several plant species, especially fruit trees. Use netting with ¼ inch or smaller openings. Check your local garden center for sources of netting.

One furry creature is ‘happy’ about periodical cicada activity. Moles are said to flourish on the fully-grown nymphs in the weeks prior to emergence. Other wild animals that enjoy the advantage include snakes and spiders. So, at least, some of nature's wildlife gets a benefit out of the nymphs that emerge from the soil.

Chemical sprays are not practical to control the periodical cicadas. Beyond the concern by owners of fruit orchards and nurseries, periodical cicadas are not regarded as pests. Their loud noises may be annoying but tolerable, since it only last for a couple of weeks. Just prepare your customers for the activity this late spring to early summer.

Why So Many?

When periodical cicada emerge, they do it in a big way with high numbers saturating an emergence area.



Periodical cicada population densities are so high that predators apparently eat their fill without significantly reducing the population (a phenomenon called “predator saturation”), and the predator populations cannot build up in response because the cicadas are available as food above ground only once every 13 or 17 years, depending on the species.

If You Can't Beat Them Then Try Eating Them

Cicadas are said to make good eating because they are low in fat and high in protein. There are over 3000 species of cicadas and they are considered a delicacy by many people in different parts of the world. The European settlers in North America observed some Indian tribe members eating cicadas. During the last emergence of Brood X cicadas in 2004, a number of very brave (or just weird) people reported to have tried deep-fried and stir-fried cicadas. This is just for the adventurous people of the world or good for a “dare” at a cook-out.

source: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/periodical-cicadas-brood-x>



2021 Statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

The Maryland Forest Service held the 2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest. The Arbor Day Poster Contest is hosted annually by the department's Tree-Mendous Maryland Program.

1st Place: Carroll County

Luke Etter of Carroll County won first place honors, with a prize of 15 trees to his school for planting.

2nd Place: Frederick County

Kaitlyn Johnson of Frederick County won second place honors, with a prize of 10 trees to her school for planting.

3rd Place: Allegany County

Henry Crawford of Washington County won third place honors, with a prize of five trees to her school for planting.



1st place



Northeast-Mid-Atlantic CFM Forester of the Year: Melissa Nash

Melissa Nash, Garrett County Project Manager and Forester - has been selected as this year's recipient of the Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Forester of the Year! Bill Buckel, MFA Board Member says, "I am so glad that Melissa is assigned to Garrett County. She is energetic and is always willing to assist with all of our forestry management activities. She was instrumental in getting our Tree Farm recognized as 2019 Maryland and Northeast Regional ATF System tree farm of the year, by being actively engaged in tours and judging." Congratulations Melissa Nash!



Member Spotlight: Paul M. Jones Lumber Company Plants Roots in Snow Hill

Founded in 1918 by Paul M. Jones Sr., the Worcester company bearing his name has been providing high-quality dimensional lumber to the construction trades for more than 100 years. Family-owned and operated since its inception, the lumber company is one of two sawmills in the county (the other is Millville Lumber also located in Snow Hill), processing managed timber into boards, siding, wood chips and mulch.

Paul M. Jones Lumber prospered and grew during the first half of the 20th century. They supplied wood for the 1939 and 1940 World's Fairs, Statue of Liberty restoration, and military and maritime projects commissioned by the U.S. government during World War II. Closer to home, the company provided wood decking for Ocean City's iconic boardwalk.

Paul M. Jones, Jr. managed operations until his death in 1991. For the past 30 years, the company has been owned and run by Paul's daughter Barbara and her husband Kenny Pusey who serves as President. Their sons Hunter and Logan are the fourth generation working at the business and serve as operations manager and maintenance manager respectively.

Thanks to Worcester's proximity to major transportation networks, the company's 50 employees harvest, mill and deliver lumber and wood products to wholesalers along the eastern seaboard from Maine to the Carolinas. They also supply international markets including Egypt, Western Europe, and Japan.

As time and technology evolved, the company transitioned from portable steam driven machinery to



and building lumber, the bark is made into mulch, the sawdust produces bedding for the poultry industry, and wood chips are turned into paper.

According to Hunter, the company is constantly “improving our processes by finding better ways to utilize our equipment to keep up with changing demands of the industry.” And always to maintain their reputation for excellent product quality and customer service while providing a great place for their employees to work.

source: <https://chooseworchester.org/https%3A//chooseworchester.org/about/news/paul-m-jones-lumber>

the automated production equipment currently used at their expansive location. The business also took advantage of Worcester’s Manufacturing Machinery Tax Exemption (MMTE) program which provides a tax rebate on new machinery and equipment over \$10,000.

A Sustainable and Strong Future

Resource conservation and restoration has always been a guiding value for this family business. The loblolly pine they cut is a natural and renewable resource harvested from managed forests. And no part of the tree is wasted. In addition to the logs milled for poles, posts



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 2021 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 2021 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!

2021 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.

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Thermal Biomass Legislation: Thermal biomass systems are defined as Tier 1 under Maryland's RPS law because of legislation enacted in 2012 when then-envisioned was a poultry litter/wood-fueled thermal biomass project. Enactment included a preference afforded "animal manure/poultry litter" as one of the designated 3 fuel sources for a thermal biomass system project, aka animal manure/poultry litter, qualifying biomass (wood), and food waste. Such preference was couched in the term "primarily" which means an uneven preference afforded animal manure/poultry litter over qualifying biomass and food waste. Legislation to delete this preference was tabled until next session, courtesy of the environmental community, which complicated the debate b/c they clearly do not understand that qualifying biomass included wood as a Tier 1 renewable resource and the benefits that working forests provide. Remember the opening herein, lawmakers do not like to see trees cut, and that is the erroneous argument advanced by the environmental community. This debate will continue this summer as efforts are made to better educate opponents and policymakers on the many benefits of wood energy, especially for combined heat and power purposes, aka thermal, during a summer study as requested by committee members. We feel confident that we will prevail as the experts' facts and data are on our side.

Funding for the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund (WIF): In 2008, the General Assembly created the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic, and Coastal Bays Trust Fund ("2010 Trust Fund") – underwritten by a portion of the gas tax and the car rental tax to the tune of about \$50 million per year – to fund efforts for Bay restoration purposes consistent with the EPA-mandated TMDL 2025 goal. The 2010 Trust Fund authorizes WIF to be eligible for a portion – not a mandated portion – of this \$50 million. However, not one nickel has ever been allocated to WIF since the inception of the 2010 Trust Fund in 2008. MFA/AFI worked tirelessly during the 2021 Session to secure a \$1 million appropriation to WIF – expanded per the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009. We got to the goal line but could not punch it over. However, in doing so, MFA/AFI has a commitment from key lawmakers to ensure WIF funding will be approved via the 2022 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021: Just before midnight on Sine Die – adjournment, April 12 – lawmakers gutted the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 – because the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee could not agree, mainly upon a new targeted greenhouse gas reduction goal. Instead, they agreed to use another bill as a vehicle to accomplish the agreed-upon parts of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, principally to set forth the following: "IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TREE-PLANTING EFFORTS, WITH A GOAL OF PLANTING AND 10 HOUSE BILL HELPING TO MAINTAIN IN THE STATE 5,000,000 SUSTAINABLE TREES OF SPECIES NATIVE TO THE STATE BY THE END OF CALENDAR YEAR 2031. There are many problems with this bill; but, MFA/AFI had zero input as the minutes ticked away to adjournment, Sine Die. However, this does not mean changes cannot be made during the 2022 Session, which are anticipated once the dust settles on how best to implement this goal.

This was a session like none other. We also weighed on various other hunting, conservation, and employment, and agricultural bills. We thank the numerous partners that assisted in the battles.

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President's Message Continued...

Demoralized, the agency retreated, and despite plans to the contrary, by 1998, a short ten-year span, national forest timber sales in Idaho had fallen to nearly zero, and about 75 percent of the mills closed.

Maryland doesn't have any national forests, but similar tactics can be aimed at the state's public timberlands. These lands are vital to the state's timber industry. Of the five lower Eastern Shore counties where the industry and timberlands are concentrated, state ownership is 22%. Remove the parcels of private lands less than 10 acres in size that are not typically sustainable sources of timber, and the State ownership is closer to an even third. In western Maryland, state forest ownership totals 122,000 acres, about 21% of the available timberland. So, in Maryland, if the State timber sale program snuffles, the industry catches the flu.

The point is whether logging proceeds on public lands is largely a political decision, occasionally driven by legal issues and seldom based on the science of forest management alone. There is nothing in the law that says public agencies must sell timber. Instead, there is a lot in the law that allows public land managers to sell timber, but only if certain conditions are met, and all other forest values are accommodated. That's a big "if," and how it is defined tells the tale of logging on public lands. The forestry community in Maryland needs to realize that it can happen here. The script is clearly written in federal land management struggles, now over half a century old. We need to unite and be actively engaged as advocates for our rights as landowners, forest professionals, and the industry. Without that effort, I fear history may repeat itself in Maryland.



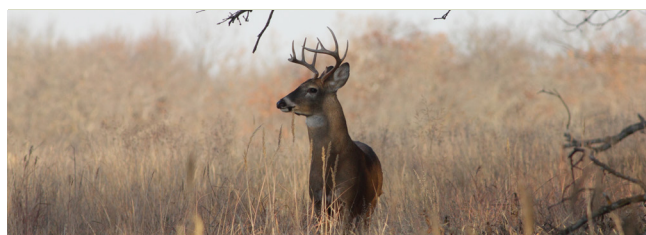
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