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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

VOLUME 45 • ISSUE 4 • WINTER 2022

A message from Joe Hinson, President

Fall Forward

Every fall we are admonished to set our clocks back for the end of daylight savings time. “Fall Back” is the repeated message. While “Fall Back” might be ok for clocks, I think it’s a horrible metaphor for the whole season. For me, “Fall Forward” is a much more useful concept.

Fall is really a beginning, not an end. Yes, it’s at the end of the year, but it also ushers in all that we know the new year is going to bring us and signals us to get ready for it. For example, it includes an election every two years, with new people to get to know and help them understand our unique industry.

We’ve already begun that process. Beth and I have been quietly meeting with legislators, both those who have just been elected and those who have been around for a while and whom we want to get to know better. I must say, so far, I think we’ve made

a lot of progress in expanding our presence and building new relationships. In addition, we have a new governor with whom we’ve had some promising conversations regarding the role biomass energy can serve in meeting Maryland’s renewable energy goals.

We’ve got some new tools, most notably in the form of the newly released report of the Climate Change Commission. This report notes support for the use of, “low-value woody material from a forest management action with a net positive carbon benefit should be included to support healthy and climate-adapted forest composition and sustainable urban tree management.” We can do that—in fact, we already are! The report also calls for, “...a Forest Products Council (to) provide ongoing support and guidance to the development of an environmentally and economically beneficial forest products industry

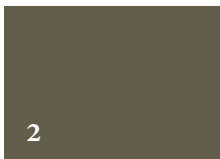
Continued on page 8



During a forestry tour in Dorchester County, we were pleasantly surprised by the recognition both MDA and DNR bestowed upon our organization in recognition of the contributions we’ve made to Maryland’s economy and heritage.



STEPHEN BADGER



MARYLAND STATE NURSERY NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS

Each fall, the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery accepts orders from Marylanders working on reforestation projects. If you have a project for creating a windbreak or enhancing wildlife habitat, consider purchasing your native seedlings from the nursery now for spring 2023 planting. Visit <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/nursery.aspx> to learn more.

This year's catalog features more than 50 species, with a few different choices from last year. There are more than 2.5 million seedlings available for sale. If you are not sure which species are right for your needs, please call your local forestry office. They can answer questions about site conditions, species selection, and financial incentives for which you may qualify.

When buying from the John S. Ayton State Forest Tree Nursery in Preston, Maryland, all seedlings purchased shall be planted for conservation, lumber and/or cut Christmas tree purposes. We continue to provide UPS seedling delivery to your door. UPS shipping fees will be included in your order total. Your order will ship in March or April depending on your shipping address. You also have the option of picking up your seedlings at the nursery.

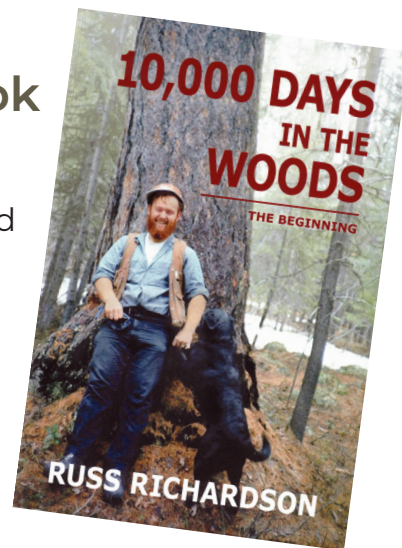
10,000 Days in the Woods Book Review

Jonathan Kays – Retired Extension Forester

10,000 days in Woods is an enjoyable and easy to read series of fifty-eight short stories of one man's journey from childhood to becoming a professional forester. (Figure 1) Entertaining and informative stories of the author's childhood experience on a family farm in Massachusetts mold a boy enchanted with nature to see and experience things many people will never know. Experiences with wood heating, observing changes in the landscape, hiking a mountain, investigating a beaver pond, making maple syrup, and observing timberdoodles are but a few of the well told stories that make up the collection of his early years. The drive to go to college to learn the profession of forestry is enabled by a high school guidance counselor that helps him overcome academic challenges to prove himself in a small two-year college in North Dakota, eventually leading to a forestry degree from University of Montana.

The last 40 stories of the book are humorous and reflective accounts of experiences with working in the woods with fellow workers as a seasonal forester with the US Forest Service out west, as a logger, and many related occupations. The stories have humor and a lack of pretense that engages the reader to want more. After many years out west, the author misses the mountains and culture of New England and decides to move east. That is where this part of the story ends.

This book is only the first volume and cover stories through 1975. This is a great read if you are a forester and for anyone else that loves nature and the environment.



First Day Hikes 2023

Kick Off the New Year Outdoors with Maryland State Parks

First Day Hikes include First Weekend Outdoor Opportunities, with Ranger-led Hikes and Self-Guided Hike Options for the Whole Family!

Maryland State Parks will be offering First Weekend hike opportunities across the state from December 31, 2022 - January 2, 2023. First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks that encourages all 50 states to offer outdoor hiking opportunities on the first day of the new year! Join us in Maryland on January 1st or throughout the first weekend of the new year for a hike at a state park near you. Learn more at: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/firstdayhikes.aspx>



Executive Director's Message

Beth Hill, beth@mdforests.org

As the final days of 2022 draw to a close, I would like to express my gratitude to our members for their generous support throughout the year. Because of you, MFA continues to flourish as we promote sustainable forestry on all levels across the state. As a recap, I'd like to highlight some of our latest achievements.

- We are contracted with the Maryland Department of Commerce to help Implement the Economic Adjustment Strategy over the next 2 years.
- We hosted the "Logger Appreciation Dinner," the largest gathering the forest community in Maryland has seen in over 20 years.
- Our nominees, Donna Dear and Paulette Greene, made it into the top 3 finalists for the prestigious Leopold Conservation Award and were celebrated at the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention.
- We are finalizing a guidance document specific to forestry zoning in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Planning.
- We hosted numerous tours for members, state agencies, and legislators and have more in the works!
- We continue to work with key environmental groups and partners that realize that forestry and forest management are a huge part of meeting Maryland's climate goals.

2023 promises to be a busy year for our organization. I ask that you continue to help us succeed by showing up and participating in the events we have planned. I am delighted to continue to serve as your Executive Director and wish each and every one of you a wonderful Holiday Season!

Beth



Pictures from the Logger Appreciation Dinner and Tours

Upcoming Events

FIRST DAY HIKES

Jan. 1, 2023

Find locations at: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/firstdayhikes.aspx>

FOREVER MARYLAND 2023 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

Jan. 9, 2023 | 4 pm

Email:

info@forevermaryland.org for the meeting zoom invite.

WELCOME BREAKFAST FOR RURAL LEGISLATORS

Jan. 11, 2023 | 7:30- 9:00 am

For more information and to register visit: <https://rural.maryland.gov/events/14471/>

WOODS IN YOUR BACKYARD COURSE January 11-March 8, 2023

Registration closes Jan. 4
<https://extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard-webinar-series>

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 445TH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jan. 11 - April 10, 2023
Annapolis, Maryland

MARYLAND GOVERNOR- ELECT WES MOORE'S INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Jan. 18, 2023

MFA DAY IN ANNAPOLIS Jan. 31, 2023

Governor Calvert House

Register at: <https://mdforests.wufoo.com/forms/x1mx8lys0x-crvjx/>





DID YOU KNOW THAT PRESCRIBED FIRE AND TIMBER HARVESTING CAN RESTORE WILDLIFE HABITAT?

By: Francis Smith, DNR

Maryland forests are home to some reclusive, elusive creatures, including the bobwhite quail, a game bird that many Marylanders would never know existed due to their limited numbers and shrinking habitat. However, some folks remember the unique “bobwhite” call as the resident quail scurried along on our forest edges and fields.

John Long recalls that time and currently spends his off time working to bring the species back to a thriving population in a sustainable, quail-friendly young woodland habitat in Wicomico County. He directly supports the species in the most impactful way by successfully raising northern bobwhite quail through active forest management.

When it comes to this species’ struggles, “most everybody says it was the loss of habitat,” says Long. With this in mind, he incorporates a combination of thinning and prescribed burns to create a young forest that his favorite game bird can call home. On a broader scale, he admits many factors impacted quail, including predators, farming chemicals, and practices. “You have to manage all these different parts to have quail rebound back,” Long notes successfully.

In the end, he knows it all ties into the forest. Long has seen aggressive thinning on his property lead to “a lot of natural succession of plants that for the next 5 or 6 years will provide great quail habitat,” he says. Long adds that while the aforementioned understory benefits the bird population, at the same time, he also has a crop of trees that will continue to grow in value. He calls it a “win-win situation.”

“You’ve got to look at the whole picture, the layering of the forest, and decide the proper balance.”

Wildlife and woodlands are Long’s life, and his 1,000-acre property is dedicated to raising the northern bobwhite and stocking them in their natural habitat “just like they do with a trout stream.” From a one-day-old bird he gets from North Carolina to a 6-8 week-old bird that’s then released, the quail are in the hands of excellent stewards in Long and an adjoining landowner, Tom Fisher, that has partnered in his efforts. It’s a hands-on operation and a passion for them,

and their annual stocking flock is up to 7,000 now after initially starting annually with 125 birds about ten years ago.

Long and Fisher release the young birds in groups of 25-50, where they think a covey (a group) of wild quail historically would have been. The hope is that they will get accustomed to living in the wild after about a month and adapt to forest habitats and potential predators. Long points out, contrary to popular opinion, they have seen success and even some reproductive carryover into successive breeding seasons.

One of the most rewarding moments was when they started hearing more and more of the mating calls in the spring as they had been raising and releasing more and more broods. “We were starting to see broods that reproduced there on the property,” Long says. They had such success that they even started giving birds to other people who had an interest in this iconic native game bird. Even more rewarding for Long is taking his grandkids out on a hunt, being led by a dog to point out the covey of quail, and hopefully a successful hunting trip, but at the very least soaking up nature and enjoying the woods and the great outdoors.

Long has paired up with the Department of Natural Resources on restoration work on his land. The agency has close to 5,000 acres neighboring his property with the Nanticoke Wildlife Management Area on the other side of Quantico Creek. He knows having contiguous forestland between 1,000 and 10,000 acres is essential to have enough birds to establish a resident population and sustainable habitat.

Long notes with quail there is “a lot of migration and immigration,” so corridors are an absolute necessity for long-term survival.

Other quail advocates and partners are Washington College and Professor Dan Small and the college’s Chino Farms, where habitat restoration work has been ongoing as part of its Natural Lands Project. “Chino Farms is an excellent display of conducive quail habitat. They have a lot of quail, and it’s inspiring to see that because once somebody shows that it can be successfully done, the rest of us can try to copy,” Long explains. Quail Forever and Lower Shore Land Trust are other advocacy groups that have helped boost support for the northern bobwhite quail.



The combination of fire and timber harvest are the two most impactful tools Long says he has to use on his land to create sustainable quail habitat. “Burning is becoming more popular. It significantly increases your likelihood of having quail around, especially in thinned areas where you need an understory favorable to quail,” he adds.

Following a thinning and a burn last spring on his property, they already hear more birds. Sound forest management seems to be the key as opposed to taking cropland and trying to build habitat and hedgerows. Long notes the issue of “clean farming” where there are no hedge rows or ditches, no place to cover, and “the quail just won’t survive.”

It’s the mosaic of forest habitat that he sees as key to quail having a long-term, viable future. Aggressive thinning to create a layered understory with new succession plants, intermixed with some “really big majestic looking trees,” is what a diverse woodland is to Long and one that offers cover and corridors for the northern bobwhite. “You’ve got to look at the whole picture, the layering of the forest, and decide the proper balance,” says Long.

People manage their forests for different objectives, and for John Long, it is all about the rush of the covey rise when quail are pointed and jumped up from the forest floor on a hunt with his grandchildren in tow. To him, woodland stewardship is engaging young people and recognizing the responsibility to future generations. “Be appreciative of the natural resources provided to us. We must be grateful for them and manage them for generations to come,” Long says.

Upcoming Events

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU- DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023
Governor Calvert House

Cost: \$35.00/person

MFA FREDERICK COUNTY FORESTRY FORUM

Feb. 15, 2023
Mount St. Mary’s University
Conference Center

Cost: \$18.00/person

Register at:
[mdforests.wufoo.com/forms/
p1xoa57e0t0hqpb/](https://mdforests.wufoo.com/forms/p1xoa57e0t0hqpb/)

2023 TASTE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE CELEBRATION

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023
Live! Casino & Hotel

Ticket prices increase after
Jan. 13: [www.eventbrite.com/
e/2023-taste-of-maryland-
agriculture-celebration-
tickets-444621915117](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-taste-of-maryland-agriculture-celebration-tickets-444621915117)

2023 MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

October 4 - 5, 2023
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Annapolis

2023 ALC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023

8:00 AM

Friday, Oct. 6, 2023
10:00 PM

Sunday River Ski Resort
15 South Ridge Road
Newry, ME, 04261

2023 Frederick County

FORESTRY



Forum

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Join MFA as we host a Forestry Forum to call attention to the challenges and opportunities for fostering forest sustainability in Frederick County. We will bring together experts, county and state officials, and local forest stakeholders to communicate information about the county's forests, landowners, and forest enterprises.

When: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Where: Mount St. Mary's University Conference Center | 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD 21703

Cost: \$18.00 per person to cover lunch

Key Objectives:

- (1) Provide an update on the status/condition/ownership of forests in Frederick County: forest area, trends, species, age classes, and sustainability issues.
- (2) Inform about the challenges and opportunities the forestry sector faces operating in and drawing from the county.
- (3) Inform about initiatives for forest conservation- state programs, tree planting activities, cost incentive programs, forest insect and disease detection and control programs, easements, and landscape-scale forestry initiatives.
- (4) Update on land use planning, zoning, and permitting:-current county requirements, county and state perspectives, and landowner and operator perspectives.

We thank these steering committee members for the dedication, collaboration, and outreach that went into planning this event: Al Goetzl- Seneca Creek Associates, LLC, Dan Rider- DNR Maryland Forest Service, Mike Kay- Frederick County Forestry Board.

As always, we appreciate our generous Sponsors and Members for their continued support! The work of MFA is also made possible by grant funding provided by the Rural Maryland Council and The Maryland Department of Commerce.

Registration: <https://mdforests.wufoo.com/forms/p1xoa57e0t0hqpb/>

4 CE credits are available for attendance by MD-DE Master Loggers, CE credits for SAF Members are pending.

Biomass Renewable Energy Credits Approved in Maryland

Maryland's Public Service Commission on December 14th approved certification of renewable energy credits for a forest products facility in Maryland which uses biomass energy in lieu of fossil fuels. This is the first such approval of biomass credits in the state and will likely open the door for other wood products companies who generate biomass energy to gain similar approvals. Certificates granted by the PSC for renewable energy can be marketed to other businesses that need credits to meet their own renewable energy requirements.

"The action of the Public Service Commission is an important step forward. It changes old assumptions and offers new encouragement to producers and potential new users of biomass as an essential component of Maryland's renewable energy resources," noted Gary Allen, President of the Maryland Forest Foundation. "MFA believed the current law was vague and could be interpreted to include biomass as a stand-alone source of renewable energy. Now, the Public Service Commission has agreed and that's a huge step forward for Maryland's forest industry," said Joe Hinson, President of MFA.

MFA Announces Dick Stanfield Scholarship Winners

The MFA Board of Directors is pleased to award two \$500 scholarships for the 2022/2023 school year.



Sidney Kiser is a freshman at the University of Wyoming, majoring in Agricultural Business with a concentration in farm and ranch management. Miss Kiser was the Vice President of her FFA chapter in high school, where she completed an internship at a local farm learning how farming and forestry go hand in hand. This experience opened her eyes and she realized she would like to have a ranch of her own in the future.



Noah Mason is attending his final semester at Wor-Wic Community College, where he will graduate with an associates degree. Noah greatly appreciates all of God's creations and the great outdoors and is planning to continue his education by pursuing a degree in Biblical Studies from Liberty University. Beth and Joe enjoyed spending time in the woods with Noah this summer and are looking forward to featuring him as a future "Faces of Forestry profile".

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.



Maryland Nonprofit Seeking Applications to Establish Firewood Banks

Firewood banks are organizations which provide emergency and seasonal wood for heating homes. Similar to food banks, firewood banks can be run by nonprofits, churches and other religious organizations, state or local governments, or tribes. Typically, firewood banks are run entirely by volunteers, who help split, stack, and store wood to be picked up by or delivered to those in need. Firewood bank

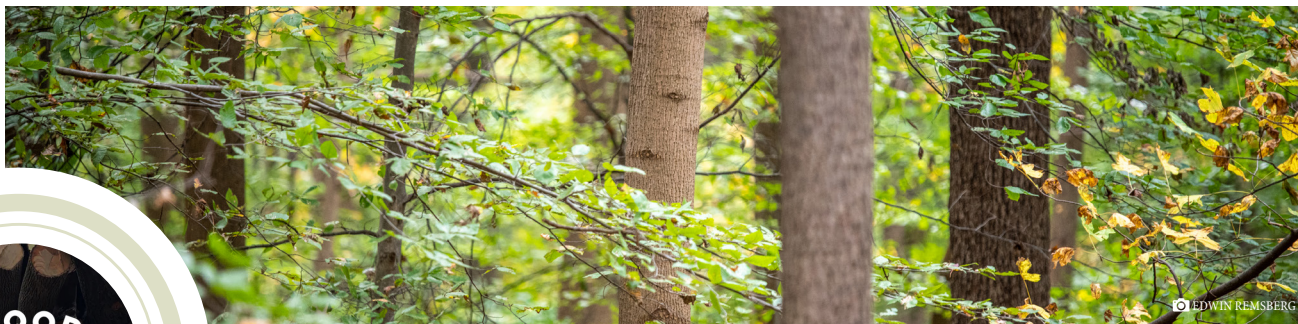
programs and structures can vary widely in the source of wood, organization type, funding, and strategy. Because of the critical need firewood banks fill for many tribal and rural areas of the country, federal funding has been provided to support their continued work.

"The historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (Section 40803(c)(17), signed into law by President Biden, included \$8 million for firewood banks. The Alliance for Green Heat, a national non profit organization, is working with the U.S. Forest Service to facilitate the deployment of this funding to firewood banks across the country. Approximately \$1.3 million of this funding will be made available during FY 2022 with progressively more funding made available in following years.

This website and these application materials have been created through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Alliance for Green Heat to facilitate the deployment of this funding to firewood banks across the country.

The Alliance for Green Heat is accepting applications on a rolling basis. There are a couple of established firewood banks in southern Maryland, but plenty of room for more!

For more information, visit: <https://www.firewoodbanks.org/>.



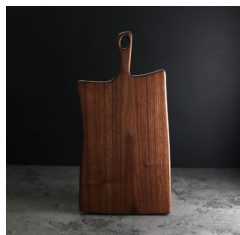
Sandtown Furniture Company Announces WOOD for GOOD

We're on a mission to build an urban sawmill, an operation in Baltimore City @baltimorepeninsula where salvaged trees are milled into high-quality lumber. We do some of that on a small scale now, but we also take a lot of local trees to PA to be milled. We want to build this industry and create those jobs in Baltimore! In 3 years, we envision a team of 10+, processing a million pounds of salvaged wood annually. Milling logs into lumber + slabs + building beautiful products. But that's a BIG effort & we can't do it alone. After the HQ2 build, the budget is tight, and we could use a hand.

So, this holiday season, we are kicking off our WOOD for GOOD campaign- a collection of beautiful wood products to make this dream a reality. All proceeds will go directly to purchasing the actual sawmill and outdoor forklift we need, and then the hiring will begin! If you hope to spend your holiday dollars in a way that makes a difference, please consider checking out our featured wood products. For design & production, we collaborated with a badass designer + maker named Jenn. We came in with high expectations + she took it to another level!

Due to popular demand Round 1 of WOOD for GOOD products has sold out, but more products will be available in January and February for Round 2:

www.sandtown.com/pages/woodforgood



SANDTOWN
FURNITURE CO. 1830 BELT ST.



President's Message Continued...

in Maryland." Hmm...sounds like a ready-made role for MFA to play!

We're also making some new friends, most notably from environmental and conservation groups who are increasingly supportive of biomass energy, as evidenced by their support for the language in the climate change report. We're looking forward to working with them and getting them out in the woods to view firsthand the role of a biomass market in forest management.

Lastly, I'm proud of the growing partnerships and mutual

support that we're building with state agencies like Commerce, MDE, MDA, and DNR. In addition to the state agencies, there is great cooperation with the Maryland Clean Energy Center, Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, Maryland Rural Council, and SAF. We're really looking forward to working with all of these groups.

So that's why I look at Fall as a time to look ahead, not fall back (unless you're a clock). Besides, if you fall back, all you're going to do is bonk your head. Who needs that?

Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc.

For 30 years, Eastern Shore Forest Products Inc. has produced high quality products and provided exemplary service.

We are suppliers of:

- Mulches
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- Bio-Retention Soil
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- Sawdust/Shavings
- Fence Posts
- Expert Garden Systems
- Bio-Mass Fuels
- Buyers of Timber
- and much more...

For more information, visit esforest.com or contact Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc. at 410-742-5540.



Your Membership Matters!

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

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

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



Your Support Makes a Difference!

2023 Membership Rates:

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

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

Sponsor Membership Rates

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

Visit mdforests.org to learn more.

Northern Long-Eared Bat Now Endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has now listed the Northern Long-Eared Bat and “Endangered”. The listing becomes effective January 30, 2023. Previously, the bat was considered “threatened” but the “endangered” designation is the strongest protection given a species and is warranted when a species faces extinction. It also triggers designation of “critical habitat” and prohibitions against “take”, interpreted to mean any lethal activities as well as disruptions to habitat or life cycles.



All this has serious implications for forestry in Maryland, particularly in western Maryland with hardwood forests favored by the bat as well as caves and old mines where they hibernate. While the main threat to the bat is a fungal “white nose syndrome”, the species breeds and roosts in mature forests, meaning we can expect logging restrictions. At this point, we’re awaiting forestry guidance from the Fish and Wildlife Service but guidelines on how to avoid “incidental take” as now adopted in Indiana might serve as an indicator. They include requirements to leave at least 60% of the crown cover after harvests and not removing such favored trees as shagbark hickory or dead snags. There are also requirements for leaving at least 16 trees per acre of the favored species as well as the largest trees of those species in the stand. Finally, felling timber is restricted to October to the end of March.

If there is good news in all this, it’s that MFA leadership has extensive experience in crafting the conservation plans that will prescribe acceptable forestry activities to avoid any unlawful “take” of the bats. These “habitat conservation plans” are complex and time-consuming but may well prove necessary, particularly in Western Maryland. It is possible to complete these in cooperation with state agencies and MFA will be exploring this as a possible option. Stay tuned!

Strong Opening Weekend for Maryland Deer Firearm Season

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that hunters reported 10,116 deer taken on the opening weekend of the 2022 Maryland firearm season, Nov. 26-27. Despite bad weather on Sunday, the overall harvest was just 3% lower than last year’s official opening weekend harvest of 10,446 deer.

The harvest total included 5,090 antlered and 4,697 antlerless white-tailed deer, and 162 antlered and 167 antlerless sika deer.

Learn more at: news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/12/02/strong-opening-weekend-for-maryland-deer-firearm-season/



HUNT LEASE LIABILITY INSURANCE for Maryland Forests Association Members

For less than the price of a new tree stand, you can protect your hunt club, all of its members and guests, and even the landowner with a \$1 million policy. Contact Outdoor Underwriters for more details and don’t forget to tell them that you’re an MFA member!

For more information, contact:

866 - 961 - 4101

or visit them online at: MFA.OutdoorUnd.com



Underwritten through Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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

Loblolly Sponsor



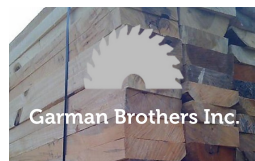
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Danny Sines, *Generation III Logging*

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.