



THE CROSSCUT

Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

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MFA website <http://mdforests.org>

news alerts and updates at <http://mdforests.blogspot.com/>

JANUARY / FEBRUARY (Vol. 32, Issue 1)

Karin E. Miller, Editor

Inside this Edition

Page 2

- USDA Farm Bill Resources
- Benefits of Working Forests

Page 3

- Preview ~ MFA's 34th Annual Conference Site

Page 4

- Governors Take Stance on LEED
- SFI Standard Update
- Carbon Market Report

Page 5

- Executive Summary—Forest Summit

Page 6

- US Hardwood Mkt Update
- Unintended Ripples from Biomass Subsidy Program
- Did you know....?

Page 7

- Forests Improve Children's Health
- Biofuels and the Bay

Page 8

- DNR Updates
 - Changes to ESA
 - TEAM
 - Natural resource violations

Insert ~ Membership Application

Page 11

- Where your dues dollars go~ MFA Income and Expenses

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From the President's Pen

Bob Eaton

Happy New Year to all of you! In the weeks prior to the year end I kept hearing references to a "new decade." "How could that be," I thought "didn't we do that only a couple years back?" Turned out, they don't make years as long as they used to. It really is a new decade with new challenges as MFA enters its 34th year of renewed efforts to represent our members.

The legislature convened in January, which means that MFA's Policy Committee gets down to the serious work of monitoring legislation. You can also monitor legislation of interest to forestry by visiting our website (<http://mdforests.org>) and clicking on the "Bills to Watch". We encourage your input, either by responding directly from our website or by contacting any member of our Board of Governors (names and contact info is on the website at "Inside MFA"). We exist for you and we want to hear from you!

Another thing to anticipate with a new year is the MFA Annual Conference. Many of you are thinking "but we just did that." True. But the Education and Outreach Committee is already well under way in planning this year's event. MFA has been able to negotiate very attractive room rates at the Gaylord Hotel in National Harbor. The site, just a few miles south of Washington, DC, on the Potomac River, has won much acclaim for its design, location and amenities. If you haven't visited the DC area much, or as much as you'd like, consider making a long weekend out of this year's meeting. You will never have nicer accommodations more conveniently located at such an affordable price. The Education and Outreach Committee is also looking at some innovative scheduling and content items to further make this year's get together better than ever. I will look for you there November 5 & 6.

Before we charge full bore into 2010 I do want to note a major accomplishment that you and the MFA completed in 2009. An effort was undertaken to make the organizational structure of MFA more relevant and responsive to our membership, and more efficient in advocating for you. Your Board of Governors spent a lot of time throughout 2009 developing a structure that focused on functions and services. The By-Laws were updated to facilitate these changes. At the 2009 Annual Meeting you, our members, voted to implement the improvements. This year, 2010, the improved structure is fully implemented and the initial results are very encouraging. I expect 2010 to be a watershed year for your MFA. With your support and participation it is bound to be! ~ RHE

PHOTO CONTEST on FACEBOOK

It's winter and a beautiful time to take photos of our trees and forests. Using MFA's presence on FACEBOOK, there's the ability to see and share our favorite photos with one another. Become a FAN of MFA today and start posting your favorite wintery forest photos and viewing those posted by your fellow members. The next issue of THE CROSSCUT will highlight those that receive the most feedback.



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2010 MFA Officers

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John Jastrzembski 1st VP	301-784-5309
Dick Stanfield, Treasurer	410-922-5959
John Foster, Past President	302-378-9893

Board of Governors

Central Region

Chris Holmgren	Montgomery	Secondary FPI	2012
Mel Noland	Baltimore	Forest Landowner	2011
Tim Smith	Harford	Forest Industry	2011
Dick Stanfield	Baltimore	Forest Industry	2010

Eastern Region

Robert Hess	Somerset	Forest Landowner	2012
Kirk Rodgers	Dorchester	Forest Landowner	2011
Bob Tjaden	Queen Anne's	Forester - U of MD	2010
Tom Wieland	Wicomico	Forest Industry	2012

Southern Region

Joan Hill Bearden	Charles	Business Community	2011
John Colton	St. Mary's	Forest Landowner	2012
Bob Eaton	Charles	Forest Landowner	2011
Chris Holmes	Anne Arundel	Retired USFS	2010
Brian Knox	Anne Arundel	Consultant Forester	2010
Gene McCandless	Charles	Business Community	2011
Steve McHenry	Anne Arundel	MARBIDCO	2012

Western Region

John Jastrzembski	Allegany	Forestry Prof. ACM	2011
Donnelle Keech	Allegany	Ecologist —TNC	2010
Pete Miller	Garrett	Forest Industry	2012
Bob Shives	Washington	Forest Landowner	2010

Staff: Karin E. Miller, Executive Director

Founded in 1976, MFA is a nonprofit [501(c)(3)] citizens' organization of forest landowners, foresters, loggers, wood-using industries and resource-based interests.

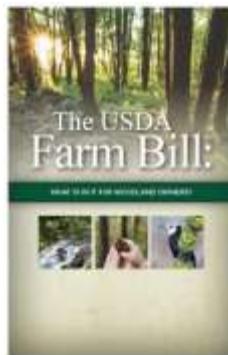
The mission of Maryland Forests Association is to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by:

- 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.

Membership benefits include subscriptions to *The Crosscut*, *Legislative Updates*, MFA E-news, and for qualified members, participation in the *Safety Group Insurance*, *Timberland Liability* and *Hunting Lease Liability Insurance* programs. For more information on membership call or write us.

THE USDA Farm Bill

What is in it for woodland owners



Why is the 2008 Farm Bill important to me?

As the owner of forested property or woodlands, you may qualify for landowner assistance under the 2008 Farm Bill program. If the future plans or goals for your property include:

- Conserving soil and water resources
- Establishing wildlife habitat
- Sustaining your woodlands
- Implementing your forest management plan
- Restoring wetlands

This Farm Bill has opportunities for those interested in technical and financial assistance for applying conservation activities in their woodlands.

What are the benefits for woodland owners like me?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of financial incentives to woodland owners who are engaged in conservation activities. Some programs offer annual payments for a conservation use, others offer one-time up-front payments for long-term easements conservation, and most include government funds to share the cost of implementing your forest management plan.

Download the complete brochure at:

<http://nacdnet.org/>

Or contact the NACD at 202.547.6223

The Benefits of Working Forests:

Even though forest landowners may only engage in timber sales every decade or so, these working forests provide amazing value to our national and state economy. According to a 2009 report by Forests2Markets, Inc. private working forests, including indirect and induced values "contribute as much to the national economy as the plastic and rubber manufacturing industry". The following table, adapted from the report, provides some very interesting information.

Private Forestland Benefit		
Average Number of Jobs Created per 1000 acres	8	15.6
Average Amount of Payroll per acre	\$270	\$560
State Taxes Generated per acre	\$ 9.85	\$ 1463
Sales generated per acre	\$733	\$1644
Contribution to state and Regional GDP (per acre)	\$318	\$478

The report concludes that working private forest lands create \$277 per acre more in GDP than forests owned by the government agencies or other ownership types.

Adapted from 2009 Forest2Market, Inc.

MFA 34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ~ NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2010 Gaylord National Conference Center in the spectacular National Harbor

“Maryland's Working Woodlands”

From backyards to State Forests, managing your woodland makes a difference

Friday November 5 ~Possible field trips

Doncaster Demonstration Forest - Established in 1984 to educate the citizens of Maryland by demonstrating sound forest management practices to help assist landowners in managing their own woodland. This forest serves as an educational resource where a variety of silvicultural practices, forest best management practices, and wildlife habitat management practices are implemented and studied.

National Arboretum - Established in 1927, "to serve the public need for scientific research, education, and gardens that conserve and showcase plants to enhance the environment" the 446 acre arboretum contains 9.5 miles of roadways and receives more than 500,000 visitors annually

Saturday November 6

- Session I: State of the Forest
- Session II: Why Manage? Just Because It's Green Does Not Mean It's Healthy
- Session III: The Forests All Around Us



MFA GROUP RATE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE GAYLORD NATIONAL

Single/Double Occupancy \$149 / night plus tax

(Includes resort service fee)

Group rate available three days prior to, and following the conference



Room reservation deadline is **OCTOBER 6th**
Help MFA meet its contract obligation and make the most of your meeting experience by booking early.

Call the Gaylord directly at 301-965-2000

Plan to bring the family....National Harbor has something for EVERYONE! Learn more at <http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylord-national/>

GOVERNMENTS TAKE A STANCE ON LEED FOREST CERTIFICATION CREDIT

Governors from across the United States are urging the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to ensure its new forest certification benchmarks for the certified wood credit in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating tool are inclusive.

Many note that the current preference for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is biased against forest products from North America where more than 80 percent of the forests are certified to SFI, Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or American Tree Farm System (ATFS) standards.

In his letter, Governor Schweitzer said: **"Under the proposed benchmarks bamboo from China and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood from Russia and Brazil would be certified, whereas Montana wood would not. I am confident Montana's environmental protections exceed those of China and Russia."**

Governor Kulengoski noted that most of Oregon's wood products industry is certified to the SFI standard. "Like FSC participants, their management under SFI third-party certification represents a commitment to responsible forestry that

goes well beyond Oregon's comprehensive forest practice laws."

Maine Governor John Baldacci urged the USGBC to ensure its proposed Forest Certification Benchmark accommodates all of the major forest certification schemes recognized in the marketplace. At this time, **we are not convinced that this is the case.**

These are just the latest voices to be heard. In 2008, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty and Washington Governor Christine Gregoire both called on the USGBC for a more inclusive approach to certification. And in 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill that would have required builders to reach the LEED gold rating for commercial buildings. He said it would create a bias for certain building materials over others **without a clear benefit:** **"For instance, the use of California wood building construction materials is highly discouraged in favour of foreign grown bamboo and wheatgrass."**

The governors were not the only ones to express their views. South Carolina State Forester Henry G. (Gene) Kodama also sent a letter to USGBC, stating: **"The State of South Carolina currently has 2.1 million acres certified under the**

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) programs. . . . If the final benchmarks issued by USGBC contain the same restrictive language that favors only FSC certification, only 6,000 acres of forestland in South Carolina will qualify."

And in Canada, Kathy Dunderdale, Chair of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, told USGBC the draft **benchmarks are so detailed and prescriptive that they would likely exclude most credible forest certification programs.** . . . In her letter, she said **"the environmentally preferable, as well as administratively more manageable, solution is for the USGBC to recognize all credible forest certification programs" including SFI, FSC, CSA and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC).**

Many other Canadian government agencies, such as the Competition Bureau of Canada, the Canadian Forest Service and Public Works and Government Services Canada also recognize SFI, FSC and CSA, the three forest certification programs used in Canada.

From January 2010 SFI Newsletter

SFI ® 2010-2014 Standard

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Inc. has released its revised forest management standard **that reinforces its role as one of the world's leading third-party forest certification programs supporting and promoting sustainable forest management.**

Among other things, the new SFI® 2010-2014 Standard, the result of an extensive 18-month public review, is based on 14 core principles that promote sustainable forest management, five more principles than the SFI 2005-2009 Standard. The new principles address responsible procurement practices in North America, avoidance of controversial sources offshore, research, training and education, and public involvement. The standard also has 20 objectives, 39 performance measures, and 114 indicators – up from 13 objectives, 34 performance measures, and 102 indicators.

"The new standard was enriched by the views and expertise of many people, and offers a solid foundation as we build new partnerships and look for more ways to promote sustainable forest practices," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of non-profit SFI Inc. More than 180 million acres (73 million hectares) are certified to the SFI forest management standard in North America – making it the largest single standard in the world. SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on



all suppliers' lands. **"SFI certification benefits our forests, our communities and our business," said Guy Gleyseren, senior vice president of production at Time Inc. "The standard was already one of the leading forest certification standards in the world, and the revisions reaffirm this leadership."** The revised standard and related documents may be found at www.sfiprogram.org. For more information, contact Chip Murray at 202.463.2782 or chip_murray@afandpa.org.

New Report Highlights State of Forest Carbon Markets

Ecosystem Marketplace, an information clearinghouse on environmental markets and ecosystem services, has published a report titled **"State of the Forest Carbon Markets."** The report was developed to examine the current status and historical trends in forest carbon trading in both the voluntary and compliance markets, with details on transaction volumes, credit prices, project types, geographic scope, etc. The data presented in the report was gleaned from information provided by project developers and intermediaries. The report indicates that since the start of 2007, forest carbon markets have funneled \$100 million into forestry conservation projects around the world, transacting 20.8 million tons of carbon dioxide. The report is available at <http://ecosystemmarketplace.com>. For more information, contact Nadine Block at 202.463.2753 or nadine_block@afandpa.org.

Mapping a Sustainable Forestry Strategy for Maryland: Report on the Public Engagement Process Executive Summary

During 2009, a multi-stakeholder partnership lead by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service developed a plan for obtaining public input in identifying key issues and strategies for sustaining forests and forestry in Maryland. Sponsoring organizations included The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology; The Biophilia Foundation; Chesapeake Bay Program; Chesapeake Bay Trust; The Conservation Fund; Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service; Forest Industry; Maryland Agriculture Council; Maryland Forest Association; The Nature Conservancy; The Pinchot Institute; Town Creek Foundation; and University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. Further information at <http://www.agroecol.umd.edu/>

The public engagement process, which included five listening sessions held throughout the state in June 2009, and a statewide forestry summit held in October 2009 in Linthicum Maryland, resulted in the identification of four issues areas and for each issue,

Issue 1. Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland:

Inventory forests that have high environmental, economic and social value at the landscape scale and adjust management accordingly

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests.
2. Monitor and mitigate forest threats from invasive species, fires, and predation.
3. Increase the amount of certified forest land, both public and private.
4. Maintain and enhance forest biodiversity.

Assess impacts of current regulations and institute improvements to retain forest-based enterprises.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Review laws or ordinances that affect the health of Maryland's forests.
2. Reduce and streamline regulations that unnecessarily constrain landowners in managing and harvesting timber.
3. Develop and implement industry-focused land use regulations at the state and local level.

Increase State financial assistance to help industry upgrade and modernize

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. For tax credits, take a long view over short term budget-based decisions.
2. Increase funding and opportunities for logger training and education to increase efficiency, profitability, and public profile of harvest operators.
3. Implement tax exemption program for all equipment and pollution control/mitigation devices used in wood harvesting and manufacturing processes.

Market Maryland-based products through a Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Establish a "Buy Local" campaign.
2. Offer forest product utilization funds for new ideas and products.

Issue 2. Reducing Demographic, Social, Cultural, and Economic Impediments to Forest Retention:

Address Fragmentation and Parcelization

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Make it a state priority to keep large tracts of forest land intact and working.
2. Provide education and incentives to encourage landowners to manage parcelized ownerships as a single large unit.
3. Develop and implement forestry-focused land use regulations at the local level.
4. Prepare for pending intergenerational transfer of land, e.g. education and outreach, estate planning assistance.
5. Manage the urban forest and green space to retain and/or improve urban tree canopy.

Issue 3. Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner:

Increase knowledge and implementation of forest values and practice through education.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Build capacity among woodland landowners to educate themselves and access professional assistance.
2. Educate legislators and local government officials so they can make informed decisions about the sustainable management of forest resources.
3. Educate citizens/consumers of wood products to support use of sustainably harvested forest products and sustainably managed urban forest systems.
4. Increase use of forest-related curriculum by school children and teachers and increase implementation of forest practices on school properties

Increase outreach capacity and technical assistance for landowners

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Develop a portal for private landowners that provides access to available education, technical and financial assistance – foresters, consultants, nonprofits, certifiers, educators, etc. – through increased partnering of different organizations to leverage limited resources and maximize impacts.

2. Obtain detailed survey information on private landowners to target outreach education.

3. Increase staffing and resources at the State level (Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Service, University of Maryland Extension) to meet needs and fill gaps.
4. Create and enhance enterprise opportunities for private foresters.

Create and provide incentives to private landowners for managing forest land

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Provide enhanced income and property tax credits for landowners who implement their forest management plan.
2. Offer targeted incentives to engage owners of forested tracts 10 acres or smaller in active forest management.
3. Improve the partnership between green industry and the forest industry (e.g. landscapers and arborists).

Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets for Forest-based Resources:

Expand the Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program in support of private forest landowners and develop a robust plan addressing emerging opportunities such as biofuels and ecosystem services

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Establish pilot projects based on prior research into product viability, new markets, and income options
2. Increase public awareness through education and information about these opportunities
3. Explore possibilities and create financial incentives to support these opportunities
4. Provide technical assistance and tools to the industry and to private landowners to take advantage of these opportunities

The MD DNR will incorporate the survey, listening session, and summit outcomes in the Maryland Forest Resource Assessment and State-wide Strategies and Response Plan, due to the USDA in June 2010.

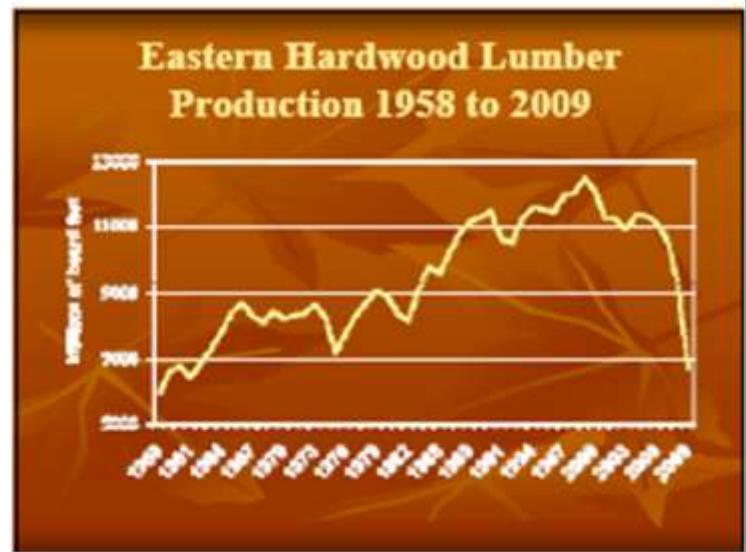
The Condition of the US Hardwood Market.

The projections are not great for the US Hardwood Market. According to the William Luppold of the USDA Forest Service we are in the worst market for hardwood products since the great depression.

Even with positive signs that the economy is improving, the US has permanently lost as much as 25% of our hardwood lumber production capacity in the last 18 months. This loss of capacity is very disturbing. We run the risk of reducing the demand for high end products that are very valuable for our economy. The end result is that these high quality trees will probably be sold to make wood chips.

We are already seeing this in sections of the region and country where saw log trees are more valuable for products such as mulch. Relatively stable oil prices, competitive labor costs, the continued decline of the value of the U.S. dollar, and transportation costs are actually buffering the severity of the loss.

Review of Luppold's chart from a Fall 2009 Society of American Foresters presentation in Keedysville, Maryland exhibits the changes in US hardwood exports over the past two decades and the impact that Chinese imports (and consequently exports to the US) have on our wood markets.



When the US economy improves one of the more probable scenarios is that prices may improve slightly as the current inventory is depleted. Then, prices for finished products could increase dramatically due to the reduced hardwood refinery capacity. This could force and even greater shift to finishing materials overseas.

The Unintended Ripples from the Biomass Subsidy Program

The Washington Post reported subsidizing biomass could end up causing more economic damage than good—driving up the price of raw timber, undermining an industry that has long used sawdust and wood shavings to make affordable cabinetry, and highlighting the many challenges involved in decreasing the nation's dependence on oil by using organic materials to create biofuels. Read complete article online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

DID YOU KNOW.....?

- Maryland's open space is kept green, the water cleaned, the air purified and wildlife habitat enhanced by a healthy forest products industry.
- Each person in the U.S. uses the equivalent of a 100-foot tall tree each year for wood and paper needs.
- One acre of healthy, growing forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and produces four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of eighteen people. -- but when trees begin to decay, this process is reversed.

FORESTS IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Last spring, the U.S. Forest Service awarded a half million dollars in matching challenge cost-share funds to improve children's health and make a closer, active connection between America's youth and the outdoors.

The USDA Forest Service presented awards to 24 Forest Service applicants and their partners from around the country. The awards, matched dollar for dollar by agency partners, will top \$1.5 million. The projects will help improve children's health, combat obesity, and connect kids to the land in a hands-on way.

"This opportunity is important to us for a lot of reasons," said Gail Kimbell, Chief of the Forest Service. "We can help address troubling declines we see in the mental and physical health of our children. At the same time, we can inspire future conservation leaders, who can perpetuate the critical role nature and forests play in the quality of life for Americans."

Studies show a growing chasm between children and nature, which has led to drops in physical and outdoor recreation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. about two-thirds of young people, grades 9-12, do not engage in recommended levels of physical activity.

More than 250 groups vied for the awards. The Forest Service sought proposals focused on underserved and urban youth; recreation and conservation education; solid, broad-based partnerships; and innovative techniques.

Keynote speaker, author Richard Louv, whose scientific research supports the Forest Service program and led to the book — Last Child in Woods — drew attention to the distance between kids and nature. Nature, he said, is as essential to children's health as nutrition and adequate sleep.



As read online

Report: Biofuels can produce jobs, cleaner Bay

Ramping up production of next-generation biofuels in the Chesapeake Bay region could generate as many as 18,600 new jobs and help clean up the bay at the same time.

That's the upshot of a new report by the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the state of Pennsylvania. It says that farms, forests and landfills in the six-state region could realistically produce about 500 million gallons of fuel - enough to replace all the gasoline consumed in the Washington metro area for six weeks.

"The states of the Chesapeake Bay region are well positioned to be national leaders in next-generation biofuels," said Maryland state Sen. Thomas M. "Mac" Middleton, a Charles County Democrat who is chairman of the bay commission.

Nearly all the biofuel produced nationally now is corn-based ethanol. But experts foresee a new generation of biofuels developing from raising switchgrass (pictured above, growing in a test plot on the Eastern Shore) or fast-growing trees like willows and poplar, from landfill refuse and even from algae. While such biofuels could be a boon for farmers in the region and a jobs generator, the report says, they also could be a "cost-effective" way to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution of the Bay and its rivers - "if done right."

If blended into current agricultural and forest practices, they can reduce erosion and act as a nutrient "sink," soaking up more of the nitrogen and phosphorus that otherwise would wind up in the water, feeding algae blooms. There are an estimated 8 million acres of idle or underutilized croplands in the region, making it possible to produce biofuels without disrupting current agricultural and timber industries.

The report, the third by the groups looking at biofuels potential around the bay, calls for adoption of the 500 million gallons a year as a regional goal, with states setting their own goals as well.

Other recommendations include encouraging farmers to plant more winter crops for biofuels production and developing guidelines for the harvest of crop and woody waste for use in biofuels. And finally, it recommends taking precautions to ensure that the push to biofuels doesn't result in the introduction of any new invasive species that could wreak ecological havoc.

Next-generation biofuels like switchgrass aren't competitive yet because their production costs are higher than oil. But experts foresee that changing as the economy recovers and federal renewable fuel standards stimulate more biofuels production.

Getting biofuels off the ground "will require states to step up to the plate and entice industries that will take those feedstocks and turn them into energy," said Ann Swanson, director of the bay commission. From <http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com>

Changes Proposed to the Maryland Threatened and Endangered Species List

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife & Heritage Service's

Natural Heritage Program recently completed a review of the Threatened and

Endangered Species List in Maryland. As a result of this review, changes to the list are being proposed as published in the Maryland Register on January 15, 2010.

The proposed changes include adding 16 species of plants and animals to the list, revising the status of 4 species, and removing 8 species from the list. A summary list of changes can be viewed at www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/. Public comments on the proposed changes are being accepted until February 16, 2010. Please e-mail your comments to Glenn Therres gtherres@dnr.state.md.us or mail them to:

Glenn Therres, Associate Director
 DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service
 580 Taylor Ave., E-1
 Annapolis, MD 21401

If you have any questions on the proposed changes, please contact either

Glenn Therres (phone: 410-260-8572, gtherres@dnr.state.md.us) or Gwen Brewer (phone: 410-260-8558, gbrewer@dnr.state.md.us).



Office of Communications

Volunteers Sought to Educate Maryland Students about the Chesapeake Bay and Environmental Issues

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking interested adults to become TEAM (Teaching Environmental Awareness in Maryland) volunteers. *"Our volunteers' mission is to educate students about the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland environmental issues," said TEAM DNR Coordinator Amy Harry.*

Since its inception in 1998, TEAM DNR volunteers have delivered 1,000 classroom programs to more than 30,000 students in Maryland.

Volunteers should have an out-going personality and a strong desire to protect the Chesapeake Bay. No prior teaching experience is necessary. Currently, TEAM offers schools free classroom programs on the following topics:

- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed**, Streams, Oyster Reefs, Horseshoe Crabs, Chesapeake Watermen

The next workshop will be held as follows:

- Friday, February 19, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All workshops will be held in the lobby conference room of the Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland.

DNR, Attorney General, District Court Join Forces to Address Natural Resources Violations

District Court in Anne Arundel County to set aside one day a month for natural resources cases under new pilot program

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Attorney General's Office and the District Court of Maryland will launch a pilot program on January 15 under which the court in Anne Arundel County will set aside one day each month to try only cases dealing with natural resources violations.

"We cannot let the crimes of a select few hinder our efforts to protect the natural and living resources that belong to all Marylanders," said DNR Secretary John Griffin. "By scheduling all natural resources cases on one day, we are giving everyone involved an opportunity to focus on the impact and severity of these crimes."

Under the new pilot program, on the third Friday of each month the Maryland District Court in Anne Arundel County will hear all pending natural resource cases, including fishing, hunting, boating and tree export violations. The State's Attorney's office has also assigned a special attorney strictly to prosecute these cases.

The pilot program supports DNR's plan to step up enforcement of fishery poaching violations, as recommended by the Maryland State Task Force of Fishery Management. DNR is also proposing a new schedule of penalties and fines that will impose penalties on first time offenders, which depend upon a criminal conviction. The new enforcement system:

- assigns points to violations based upon the gravity of the offense;
- has increased penalties for repeat offenders and special protection for certain species; and
- includes provisions for automatic suspension for certain violations.

"DNR and its partners and stakeholders are working hard to create a fair system of fines and penalties to ensure the safety of our fisheries," said Assistant Attorney General Joe Gill. "Working with the District Court to focus the docket on natural resources violations will make sure these cases are given their due attention."

DNR will work with other counties to expand the pilot program if it is successful.

**MFA... "MD's Voice for Forest, Wildlife, and
Natural Resources Management."**

By becoming a member,
you are helping to promote the
maintenance of Maryland's
forest land base and natural resources.

**THE
MARYLAND FORESTS
ASSOCIATION**



**CITIZENS FOR TREES,
FORESTS, AND FORESTRY**

**MFA... Maryland's Voice for
Forest, Wildlife, and
Natural Resources Management**

Get informed:

- New publications
- Upcoming meetings and workshops
- New forest management alternatives
- Cutting red tape for permitting
- Who's who in the forest community

Enjoy MFA's Forestry Action:

- Annual Conference and seminars
- Forestry tours and workshops
- Arbor Day and other celebrations
- Networking events

Participate in the MFA Safety Group Insurance Program, Timberland Liability or Hunting Lease Liability Insurance Program.

MFA offers YOU a chance to be informed and get involved by supporting the only nonprofit, tax-exempt organization in Maryland that brings together and represents forest landowners, natural resources professionals, hunt clubs, businesses, and others in both private and public sectors of the Maryland forest community.

Receive The Crosscut

Our bi-monthly newsletter. Keep abreast of all of the current issues impacting public and private natural resources, forest landowners, and forest products industry.

Learn what is happening:

- In the forest community
 - In your area and region
 - Around the State
 - In the legislature
10. Sawmills.....\$ 250 plus \$100 per MMBF production

Get information about:

- New publications
- Upcoming meetings and workshops
- New forest management alternatives
- Cutting red tape for permitting
- Who's who in the forest community

**Learn more about MFA and its programs
by visiting our website at
<http://mdforests.org>**

The Maryland Forests Association is a non-profit corporation designated as a 501(C)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service. Associations like MFA are now required to report what portion of their dues is related to lobbying and therefore not tax deductible. We estimate this to be 10% based on the current definition of lobbying.

Maryland forest community
serving the
since 1976

Top 10 Reasons to Join MFA

- MFA represents the total forest community by serving as an advocate for forest landowners, forestry professionals, and the forest industry. MFA provides information for individuals and groups, and presents testimony to local and state officials and the legislature on issues relating to forests and forestry. MFA follows state and regional issues and maintains a listserv to alert members on issues of concern and [Emails to Watch](#). [page on our Website](#).
- MFA builds effective partnerships by maintaining close liaisons with appropriate state agencies, businesses, and conservation groups.
- MFA representatives participate in meetings, committees, task forces and commissions to make sure that forest landowner, professional forester, and forest industry perspectives are heard and understood.
- MFA works to increase incentives and eliminate disincentives for forest landowners to keep their land in forest.
- MFA works to assure that landowners have the right to choose forest management strategies that will meet their own objectives, including the sale of forest product.
- MFA works to streamline the forest harvesting permitting process.
- MFA offers professional development through its Master Logger Program and Annual Meeting programs.
- MFA supports lifelong learning.** MFA's "Maryland Forests Forever Interactive CD ROM" teaches students of all ages about forests, forestry and the forest products industry of Maryland.
- MFA supports financially and participates in educational programs for youth, including the Natural Resources Careers Conference, Project Learning Tree (PLT), 4-H, and the Envirothon.
- MFA is a primary sponsor of the Thomas O Tyler Excellence in Forestry Memorial Scholarship for a forestry student at Allegany College of Maryland.

The mission of 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 LEADERSHIP

Members are represented by a volunteer Board of Governors. An Executive Director serves as the sole staff to MFA. Officers are elected annually from within the Board and are available for your questions and comments:

President Bob Eaton
(301)705-5843 / bob.eaton@suntrust.com

First VP ~ John Jastrzembski
(301)784-5309 / jjastrzembski@allegany.edu

Immediate Past President ~ John Foster
(302) 378-9893 / jfoster34@verizon.net

Treasurer Richard Stanfield
(410)922-5959 / drick@edrichium.net

MFA Executive Director - Karin E. Miller
MFA OFFICE (301) 895-5369
director@mforests.org

Send completed application with payment to:
Maryland Forests Association
P O Box 599
Grantsville, MD 21536

MFA Membership Application

Please complete this form and return to the MFA office with your payment...thank you.

Individual membership:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
County _____

Telephone: _____

() _____ home

() _____ office

() _____ fax

e-mail: _____ @ _____

Group or Business membership:

Company _____
Contact Person: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
County _____

Membership Category (circle one)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Dues (see rates on back panel) \$ _____

Special tax deductible gift \$ _____

Total \$ _____

to pay with VISA or MasterCard:

card number _____
exp date _____ / _____
signature _____

Where your dues dollars go ~ MFA Income and Expenses

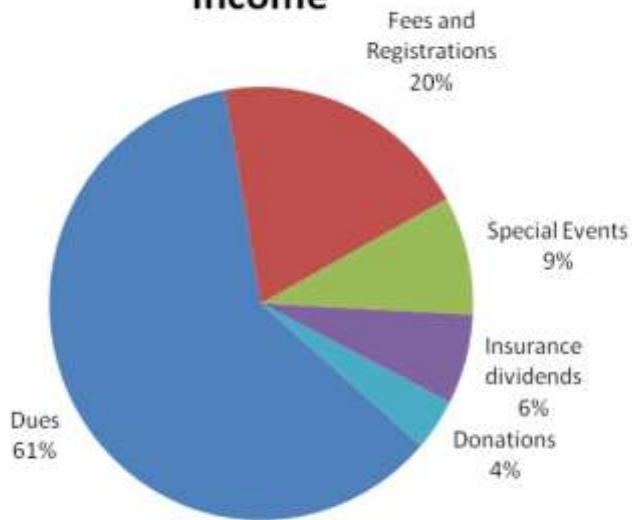
Below you can see the charts showing MFA's income and expense distribution for the past year. Now entering its 34th year, your Maryland Forests Association is still very much a grassroots organization. With an annual operating budget that hovers around \$50,000 and only one, part-time staffer, MFA consistently accomplishes amazing things with this limited amount. This is a testimony to the dedication of our volunteers. However, even with this volunteer support MFA cannot continue to exist without your financial support. MFA's reserves are at an all time low. The effects of losing a Smurfit-Stone as a corporate sponsor back in 2007 and others members through closures or relocation have required dipping into MFA's reserves to meet our budget and not to cut member services.

Dues renewals for 2010 were mailed out in January. We trust that you see the value MFA provides you thought its advocacy, educational and outreach efforts. MFA needs you to renew your membership promptly so that these efforts can continue and money can be saved that would go towards additional mailings.

We also need each of you to reach out to your friends and neighbors who share your concerns for Maryland's forest resources and ask them to join MFA today! Included in this issue of THE CROSSCUT is an MFA membership application.



Income



So, where does it go? As a 501(C)(3), dues and program fees that MFA receives go towards the following operation costs, program, and events:

Membership services

- Office operations
- Regional Dinners / Special Events
- Insurance Programs
- Outreach / Networking

Informational services

- The Crosscut (published 5 times per year)
- Legislative monitoring, review and advocacy
- Website <http://mdforests.org>
- Blog and other internet efforts

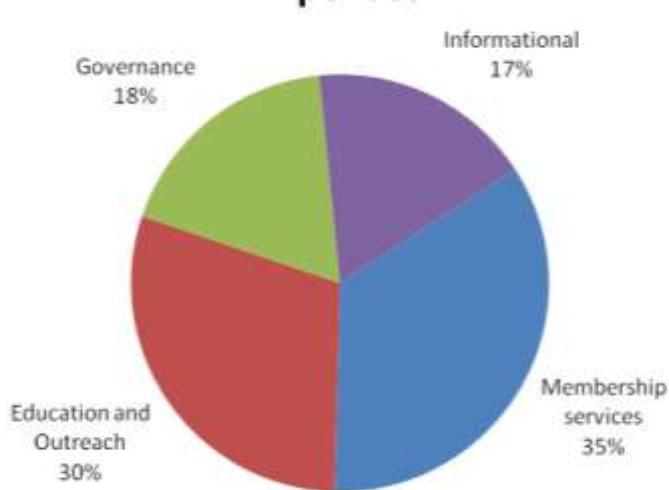
Educational programs

- MFA Annual Meeting
- Other MFA workshops/seminars
- Project Learning Tree
- Maryland Envirothon
- Maryland 4-H
- Natural Resources Careers Conference
- Tom Tyler Scholarship at ACM
- MD/DE Master Logger Program

Governance

- Secretarial support to Board (meets quarterly)
- Secretarial support to MFA committees
- Board Development (Strategic planning)
- Staff Development

Expenses





THE CROSSCUT

Maryland Forests Association
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Grantsville, MD 21536-0599

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Dates to Remember

for further information on any of these items, contact the MFA office unless otherwise noted. For updates and alerts between issues of THE CROSSCUT, sign up for MFA E-news by emailing a request to director@mdforests.org

February

- 17 MFA Board of Governor's First Quarter Meeting ~
Edrich Lumber

March

- 17 MFA Executive Committee Meeting ~ via conference call
19 Deadline to submit items for the next issue of THE CROSSCUT

April

- 12 Sine Die ~ General Assembly 2010 Session ends
21 MFA Executive Committee Meeting ~ via conference call

LOOKING AHEAD

November 5 & 6 ~ *Maryland's Working Woodlands*
MFA's 34th Annual Conference at the Gaylord in National Harbor. See page 3 for detail and bookmark <http://mdforests.org/AM2010.html> where details will be posted as they are confirmed

Annapolis Update

During the 90-day session of the Maryland General Assembly (January 13 through April 12, 2010), bills that may have possible impact to Maryland's forest resources, the environment, landowner rights, forest products industry and other related issues of concern are reviewed and monitored by MFA's Policy Committee. When appropriate, the Policy Committee drafts position papers, sends action alerts to our members, prepares testimony and testifies at the bill hearings in Annapolis. Details on bills of concern are posted to MFA's website at <http://mdforests.org/bills.html> once the reviews are completed and positions established. Action Alerts will be sent to MFA members via email on an as needed basis.

Policy Committee members for 2010 are:
Pete Miller (Chair) John Colton, Chris Holmes, Steve McHenry, Kirk Rodgers and Tom Wieland