



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 2011 (Vol. 33, Issue 1)

Karin E. Miller, Editor

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WORDS TO PONDER

*In seed time learn,
in harvest teach,
in winter enjoy.*

William Blake
1757 – 1827

From the President's Pen

John Jastrzembki



Same Battle – Different Fronts

I have been President of MFA for three months now. It has been exciting and fun! Some of the major events I (MFA) participated in include formulation of the **MFA Forestry Jobs Initiative**, development of four **MFA Policy Statements**, attending the **Governor's Forum on Sustainability** and testifying against the sale of 4,000 forested acres of the **Cumberland City Watershed**. I was also involved in many meetings: phone meetings, dinner meetings, and a few meetings in the woods.

MFA's Legislative Notebook is at the printers as I write this and I think our members will be happy with this document. The **MFA Forestry Jobs Initiative** is available on MFA's blog. You may have read about it in your local paper as a press release was distributed throughout Maryland/DC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that came together to help us develop this document: **Bill Miles (Association of Forest Industries)**, **Gary Allen (Sustainable Forestry Council)**, **Pat More (NewPage Corp.)**, **Steve Koehn (DNR- Forest Service)**, **Steve Castrogiovanni (Maryland Arborist Association)**, **Craig Highfield (Chesapeake Bay Foundation)**, **Tom Wieland (Glatfelter Corp)**, **Jim Bardsley (Forest Conservancy District Boards)** and **Chris Holmgren (Forest Products Operator)**. All these people and the groups they represent ARE our allies and colleagues. **We are fighting the same battle but we are fighting on different fronts!**

I am very pleased that MFA has developed four policy statements which were released in unison with the 2011 Legislative Session. These four policy statements are abridged white papers. They include MFA positions on: Family Forest Ownership, Diversifying Local Economies including the issue of LEED Certification, Bio-Energy, and Bio-Threats. These policy statements can be found in the beginning of our Legislative Notebook. We asked for input from other forestry organizations on these **Policy Statements**. These "sister organizations" helped to strengthen this document. **Remember same battle – different front!**

I found the **Governor's Forum on Sustainability** quite refreshing. The Forum exhibited that most of the 600+/- people in attendance cared about the sustainability of Maryland and Maryland's forest resources. These people may not know a darn thing about forest management, private holdings or the importance of Maryland's \$7 billion forest economy, but they know that forests and trees are important for the health of the Bay. **We are all in the same battle but on different fronts!**

Not everything is great though. I must draw attention to a major issue affecting family forest landowners. Essentially, the **US Green Building Council (USGBC)** certifies "Green Buildings". There are major problems with how this federally endorsed "environmental building certification program" treats forestry. There are more complexities than can be presented here. However, know that the USGBC is anti-family forests and anti-family forest landowners. They have shut **Tree Farmers®** and Stewardship forest out of their business model. The USGBC only permit the use of FSC Certified

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Maryland Forests Association, Inc.
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2011 MFA Officers

Officer		Phone
John Jastrzembki	President	301-784-5309
Dick Stanfield	Treasurer	410-922-5959
Bob Eaton	Past President	301-705-5843

Board of Governors

Central Region

Chris Holmgren	Montgomery	Secondary FPI	2012
Tim Smith	Harford	Forest Industry	2011
Dick Stanfield	Baltimore	Forest Industry	2013
Marikay Wrabel	Carroll	Environ. Consultant	2013

Eastern Region

Jim Culp	Kent	Forest Landowner	2013
Robert Hess	Somerset	Forest Landowner	2012
Kirk Rodgers	Dorchester	Forest Landowner	2011
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
Craig Highfield	Anne Arundel	Ecologist	2013
Brian Knox	Anne Arundel	Consultant Forester	2013
Gene McCandless	Charles	Business Community	2011
Steve McHenry	Anne Arundel	MARBIDCO	2012

Western Region

John Jastrzembki	Allegany	ACM Forestry	2011
Jonathon Kays	Washington	Extension Forester	2013
Pete Miller	Garrett	Forest Industry	2012
Francis Zumbrun	Allegany	Forester—retired	2013

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.

Member to Member

RE: National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA)

The MFA Executive Committee is investigating the feasibility of MFA members becoming affiliate members of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). This will give MFA members more exposure to, and lobbying efforts at, the National Level. This agreement may also ~~assist~~ **assist** MFA with **'Political Persuasion'** should we ask for their assistance on State Issues. NWOA would benefit by having a network of affiliate members in Maryland.



As an affiliate member you (personally) or the MFA would pay no dues to the National Woodland Owners Association. (You would have the ability to join that organization if you wanted to). You would receive two magazines annually from the NWOA highlighting National Concerns.

The risk of affiliated membership is that you might consider joining NWOA and withdraw your membership from MFA.

(Personally, I don't think MFA members are that fickle.)

A copy of a draft MOU can be viewed by going to the MFA website and putting **NWOA MOU** in the search box. Please contact John at jjastrzembki@allegany.edu if you are concerned or have any reservations about MFA forming a relationship with NWOA.

RE: Maryland Tree Farm Program

The MFA Executive committee is also investigating the possibility of forming a closer relationship with Maryland Tree Farmers. Contact Karin at director@mdforests.org if you have any thoughts on the mechanisms that may be needed to do this.



In Sympathy

BIG POOL, Md. — **Russell F. Mizell Jr.**, of Big Pool, Md., died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010 at his home. Born on Sept. 7, 1921, in Gettysburg, Pa., he was the son of the late Russell Sr. and Blanche Weaner Mizell. A life long member of MFA, Russell graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and the University of Maryland. He was a farmer and established the first **certified Tree Farm® in Washington County**. He also worked for State Use Industries at the Maryland Correctional Institution until his retirement.

MFA DUES are DUE

Membership renewal notices for 2011 went out on January 3. Please pay promptly as your continued financial support is what allows MFA to keep working for you!

Educational Opportunities ONLINE

The University of Maryland Extension, Forest Stewardship Education Program, announces the following webinars being offered in February, 2011:



Emerging and Current Forest Threats in Maryland

February 15, 2011; 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., EST

This webinar will focus on emerging and current forest threats in Maryland with a special focus on Thousand Cankers Disease and Emerald Ash Borer. For each of these threats, damage and identification will be discussed as well as what action should be taken if you suspect a forest threat in your woodland. This webinar will be presented by the following University of Maryland Extension Educators and Specialists: Nevin Dawson, Forestry Stewardship Educator; Stanton Gill, Regional Extension Specialist, Nursery & Greenhouse Management; Karen Rane, Director of Plant Clinic & Extension Specialist

There is no charge for participation, but registration is required. Use the URL below to register online. Webinar details and access will be emailed at a later date. A recording will be available shortly after the webinar takes place.

Register Online: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=157>

Options for Converting Lawn to Natural Areas From the Publication, *The Woods in Your Backyard*

February 23, 2011; 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., EST and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., EST.

Stop mowing! Enjoy the benefits of converting lawn to a natural area. By establishing or enlarging a natural area on your property, you can improve wildlife habitat and water quality, reduce noise and air pollution, and create a place to enjoy the outdoors. Spring is around the corner and now is the time to begin planning a natural area on your land. This webinar will be presented by Jonathan Kays, Natural Resource Extension Specialist and author of the publication, *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*. For more information on this publication and educational program go to

www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalWBY.html

There is no charge for participation, but registration is required. Use the URLs below to register online. Webinar details and access will be emailed at a later date. A recording will be available shortly after the webinar takes place.

Register online:

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=156>

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=158>

If you have any problems registering for these webinars, contact Pam Thomas at 301-432-2767 x315 or pthomas@umd.edu.



Years Ago, folks who owned land only worried about drought and fire. A hunter usually just had to ask the landowner. Today, things are more complex.

Now, leasing to hunt clubs and recreational organizations is part of many timber management plans. This raises a new set of liability concerns. Not every insurance company understands these challenges, or will cover them at a reasonable cost.

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DNR Signs Groundbreaking Memorandum Of Understanding Dedicated To Healthy, Keeping Productive Forests

Annapolis, Md. (January 24, 2011) — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding with six other federal and state agencies dedicated to keeping healthy and productive forests throughout the State.

"By improving how our partnerships function, and improving how we plan the delivery of our respective programs, we anticipate the forest landowner will get better service and working landscapes will benefit," said Steve Kohn, State Forester for DNR. *"Better forest management results in more benefits for all Marylanders: healthy forests boost local economies, clean our air, filter our water, regulate temperatures, provide habitat for wildlife and provide pleasant green-scapes for our everyday activities."*

The other partnering agencies include: the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards; the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts; the Maryland Department of Agriculture; the University of Maryland Extension; and the United States Departments of Agriculture - Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Under this agreement, the agencies will work together to be more effective in providing forest owners and managers with technical and financial assistance to improve the health, diversity and production of forests on privately owned lands — 76 percent of all forests in Maryland.

"The Maryland NRCS looks forward to working closely with the Maryland Forest Service and the rest of the cooperating agencies to advance healthy working forests that improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay while helping to build rural wealth," said Jon Hall, State Conservationist for the local NRCS office.

The memorandum identifies four areas to focus immediate attention, including addressing the shortage of technical experts available to meet the demands from the 187,000 private forest owners in Maryland; integrating programming between the agencies to make it easy for forest owners to participate in technical and financial assistance programs; demonstrating that funding on-the-ground forestry and agroforestry projects is a good investment in our future economy and environment; and cross-training the staffs of the respective organizations.

Each of the signatories brings unique and complementary roles to the partnership:

- *DNR's Forest Service has the primary leadership role for all forestry programs in the State.*
- The Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards assists the Forest Service with the promotion of rural forest management and helps assure a supply of wood fiber products through scientific forest management.
- Soil Conservation Districts carry out natural resource management at the local level and are recognized as the delivery system for soil conservation and water quality programs, often acting as a liaison between private landowners and government assistance programs.
- The Maryland Department of Agriculture provides leadership and support regarding agriculture to the citizens of Maryland by conducting regulatory, technical and financial assistance programs, and educational activities that assure consumer confidence, protect the environment, improve conservation and natural resource management and promote agriculture.
- The University of Maryland Extension provides primary leadership in forestry related educational programs, outreach, and applied research and demonstrations for both private landowners and professional natural resource managers. They also provide research and educational support related to conservation and natural resource management on all working lands including agricultural lands.
- The US Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, works cooperatively with other federal, state, local governments; institutions of higher learning; and profit and non-profit organizations to provide forestry leadership, and financial and technical assistance.
- NRCS works in partnership with America's private land owners and managers to conserve and sustain soil, water, and other natural resources.

The full text of the memorandum is available at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/pdfs/MOUwithNRCS.pdf>.

Maryland Forests Association Initiative Promotes Forestry-based Jobs

The Maryland Forests Association (MFA), Maryland's premier forest advocacy membership group, is encouraging state run agencies, other forest advocacy groups, trade associations and the forest products industry to work together to promote economically viable and sustainable forest management.

Managing our trees and forests create jobs and helps makes our state sustainable. This initiative is designed to increase the forest economic impact in Maryland. *"We have a green and renewable resource if it is nurtured and cared for scientifically", stated John Jastrzembki, President of the MFA and Professor of Forestry at Allegany College of Maryland. "Sustainable forests are healthy, vibrant, improve quality of life, and create jobs. All Marylanders benefit from healthy, well managed forests. This is evident with Maryland's Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, the most comprehensive state forestry legislation in the nation," exclaimed Jastrzembki.*

William R. Miles, speaking on behalf of the Association of Forest Industries, stated "The nationally-acclaimed Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009 sets forth statutory strategies intended to promote the retention of privately-owned forest land because of their measurable environmental and economic contributions to the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and rural resource-based communities. In short, this historic Act – a model for national emulation -- makes clear that forestry is the preferred land use within the State of Maryland and that every reasonable policy-related effort should be advanced to promote forest land retention."

"The New Page Luke mill is Maryland's largest forest products company and has a long history of conservation of natural resources, having been established in Allegany County in 1888," stated Pat Moore, Luke Mill Manager. "Our operation currently employs approximately 950 individuals, produces 1,500 tons per day of coated paper, and uses approximately 4,000 tons of wood per day as a raw material. Responsible forest management is critical to ensuring an adequate supply of wood fiber for our papermaking operation, and we applaud Maryland for the great work that they are doing in this area."

Glatfelter is another large employer in the state and primarily situated on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Tom Wieland, Regional Forest Manager of Glatfelter noted that the recession may be technically over but signs that our forest products suppliers and family forest landowners are struggling.

"Our Forests are strategically important", commented State Forester Steve Koehn, who spearheads forestry issues for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is the past president of the National Association of State Foresters. "Our state forests, family owned forests, and industrial partners provide a myriad of benefits for Marylanders. Our forests are important for improving air and water quality, storing carbon, improving quality of life, enhancing wildlife habitat and providing sustainable jobs"

"We want people to understand that forest management includes using forests in a sustainable fashion", said Chris Holmgren, a forest products operator located in Montgomery County. "I love working in the woods and utilizing trees that in many cases are destined for a landfill. I create furniture and other products from these waste materials. It drives me crazy that people think I am destroying forest. I am a conservationist. I represent a portion of Maryland's green industry. I am a small business owner. I am proud to promote sustainable forest management in Maryland."

Maintaining Maryland's forests is crucial in protecting wildlife habitat and imperative in improving the quality of our streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. *"Supporting a vibrant and sustainable forest based economy is an important way to ensure that our forests remain forests by affording landowners a sustainable revenue opportunity as an alternative to development. Growing green forest based jobs can be good for both Maryland's natural resources and it's local economies," exclaimed Craig Highfield, coordinator of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Forestry for the Bay program.*

"The Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards, with "Forestry Boards" in every county encourages local jurisdictions to manage their forested resources wisely. We are losing approximately 7,000 acres of forest annually in Maryland. This simply is not sustainable and we are working at the county level to help conserve Maryland's forests and educate the public about how individuals can help and the many benefits of preserving trees," added Jim Bardsley, Association President, biologist, and Anne Arundel County resident.

"Our forests are critical to Maryland's future and the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, not just ecologically but economically too", said Gary G. Allen, Chairman of the new Sustainable Forestry Council created by the 2009 Act and appointed by the Governor O'Malley to define and lead the effort to sustain Maryland's forest lands into the 21st Century. "Sustainable management of our forest resources will produce sustainable jobs," Allen emphasized.

In Maryland, the forest products industry and associated green industries including arboriculture, urban design, and nursery management produce 37,000 jobs. Managed forest can create more jobs. *"Nurturing our forests and trees nurtures jobs", said Steve Castrogiovanni, President of the Maryland Arborist Association, "a green Maryland benefits everyone."*

"Maryland's forest industry contributes \$7 billion in economic output with 37,000 jobs. There are 130,000 family owned forests in Maryland," states Karin Miller, Executive Director of the Maryland Forests Association. "MFA works to insure that vibrant forests are maintained throughout the State, providing diverse economic and environmental benefits to all Marylanders."

For further information visit MFA's website at <http://mdforests.org> or contact MFA at director@mdforests.org.



John Jastrzembki, Maryland Forests Association President, examines a bow of a hemlock tree infested by the hemlock woolly adelgid. This Asian insect has spread throughout approximately 20 states and is now killing hemlock trees and forests in Maryland. There are many insects and diseases that are wrecking havoc on Maryland's forest ecology and economy.

MFA Workgroups and Priority Actions for 2011

Education and Outreach

MFA Annual Conference and 35th Anniversary Celebration



FIRED UP FOR FORESTRY is the theme for this year's Conference, Friday & Saturday, November 11 & 12, at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Ocean

City. Educational sessions will look at fire, literally and metaphorically, as presenters discuss the topics: Fire as Foe; Fire as Friend; and Fan the Flame ~ On Fire for Forestry. Mark your calendars and plan now to attend. Further details will be posted to <http://mdforests.org/AM2011.html> as they are finalized.

Regional Events

MFA's E&O Committee is also working on a series of regional meetings that will provide educational as well as networking opportunities for MFA members on a more local level. Further information will be sent as details are confirmed.

Chair ~ Brian Knox
forests@earthlink.net

Membership

Retain ~ Recruit ~ Represent



As a member- organization, MFA receives NO subsidies for its operational expenses. Dues and activity fees are the financial framework that fund MFA's wide range of programs for its diverse membership. The more members and member support MFA receives, the more that MFA can do! **Invite your**

friends and associates that share your concerns about Maryland forests and forest community to join you in membership. Help MFA to build on its 35 YEAR HISTORY and its existing efforts to educate, advocate and navigate throughout Maryland on issues that affect you, family-owned forests, public forest resources, the forest products industry.

Download MFA membership applications at http://mdforests.org/sounds/MFA_2011.pdf Or contact MFA office for copies.

Chair ~ Chris Holmgren
woodsurgeon@juno.com

Policy

2011 MD General Assembly Session



In addition to helping to prepare **MFA's Legislative Notebook** (pdf version **available on MFA's website** <http://mdforests.org/advocacy.html>), the Policy Committee reviews and monitors bills that may impact Maryland's forest resources, the environment, landowner rights, and the

forest products industry. When appropriate, the Policy Committee drafts position papers, sends action alerts to our members, prepares testimony and testifies at the bill hearings in Annapolis. You can **follow these efforts on MFA's website at** <http://mdforests.org/bills.html>.

Updates and Action Alerts will be sent to MFA MEMBERS via email. Be sure that you are on MFA's **LISTSERVE** by sending your request to director@mdforests.org

Chair ~ Pete Miller



MARYLAND STATE FORESTER ELECTED TO SFI INC. BOARD ~ Maryland State Forester **Steven W. Koehn** was recently elected to the independent Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.® (SFI®) Board of Directors. Koehn is past president of the National Association of State Foresters, which passed a policy statement in 2008 stating that all forest certification programs make positive contributions to forest sustainability. Koehn is particularly interested in working with the U.S. Green Building Council to open up its LEED certified wood credit to all certification programs. "Limiting the forest certification credit, as the LEED rating tool currently does, denies credit to the vast majority of domestic well-managed forests and certified forests," he said. "This is not good for our forests or our communities." Koehn has been director and state forester with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, for almost 10 years. He played a vital leadership role in the passage of the Maryland Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, which recognizes that an important way to improve the health of Maryland's vast Chesapeake Bay ecosystem is through healthy forests.

The Maryland\Delaware Division of the Society of American Foresters will be holding their Spring meeting on Wednesday, May 25th, 2011 at **Chesapeake College** in **Queen Anne's County**. The topic of the meeting, which will include an afternoon field tour, is **"Wood Energy & Biomass Harvesting"**. If you are interested in receiving registration information please send an email to kpowers@dnr.state.md.us. Registration information will be sent out to the SAF membership by the first of March.

COOPERATIVE FORESTRY
TECHNOLOGY UPDATE
(730) 746-6848 • 1000 N. 10th St., Ames, IA 50010



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region

Updated Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2010 Tax Year
by **Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist**
and **John L. Greene, Research Forester, Southern Research Station**

This bulletin is updated as of Dec. 20, 2010, to include the changes from Public Law 111-312 enacted on Dec. 17, 2010. It provides tax tips for woodland owners and their tax advisors in the preparation of the 2010 individual tax return. Please be aware the information presented here is not legal or accounting advice. Consult your legal and tax advisors for more complete information

This update for forest landowners can be found as a 2-page pdf online at <http://www.timbertax.org/TaxTips2010-Updated12.20.2010.pdf>

Marcellus Shale Natural Gas

In Garrett County, Maryland



The University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County will host a series of lunchtime educational meetings beginning in February 2011. The round table forum will encourage open discussion of issues related to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. The video, *Shale Gas and America's Future*, produced by the [American Clean Skies Foundation](#) (an industry-based foundation), will be viewed and discussed during the February sessions. February's forums are designed for those eager to gain a basic understanding of the potential environmental and economic impacts of the Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling process. Bring your lunch to enjoy while watching the video.

Please contact Mikal Zimmerman at 301-334-6960 by February 18th to reserve a seat at your preferred location. Dates are subject to change due to inclement weather.

UME Brown Bag Lunch Forum

McHenry at Garrett College
February 22, 2011 FROM 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Friendsville at Friendsville Rescue Squad
February 23, 2011 FROM 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Oakland at University of Maryland Extension Office
February 24, 2011 FROM 12:00 - 1:00 pm



GEOCACHING MARYLAND'S BIG TREES

Geocaching, a type of high-tech treasure hunt, is a rapidly growing outdoor activity in which geocachers hide containers of various sorts at locations recorded by GPS coordinates. The location of the container as well as information about its contents and its significance are then uploaded to a website where other geo-cachers can download it to their GPS units and begin the 'hunt'. To promote the Allegany County and Maryland Big Tree Programs, Green Ridge State Forest (GRSF) is developing geocache sites at each of the county and state champion big trees located within GRSF boundaries. The big tree cache series currently consists of 3 champion trees located within GRSF (pignut hickory, cucumbertree, and white ash). Each cache contains a card describing identifying characteristics of its tree, historical and/or commercial values of the species, and information pertinent to the specific big tree. Those who find the cache sign the log book in the container and also log their find on the website. The geocaching program at Green Ridge has seen tremendous feedback in the few short months it has existed, and is expected to grow through spring and summer and as new caches are placed at other big trees. For more information on geocaching, visit www.geocaching.com. To find the big tree caches, search for "Treemendous Trees" in the cache name search box.

FROM PAGE 1

wood in their certification process. They do not recognize Tree Farm® or SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) certification programs. The USGBC (and the Maryland Green Building Council) force the 'green-building' industry to purchase trees from other states and primarily from developing countries rather than our home grown, Maryland certified wood. This is unacceptable. ~~Maryland's family forest landowners should not tolerate this~~ bureaucratic absurdity. The consequences are monumental: sale of family forest land for development; foreclosure of forest products operator; increase import of wood products from other countries; loss of manufacturing jobs in Maryland. It is critical that family forest landowners and the wood products industry fight this battle in unison. Governors from over 15 states are calling for revisions to the Green Building Council certification structure and accounting principles. We are working with other groups to make changes to USGBC current recognition of LEED-only Certification, **Again, same battle – different front.**

I also must let you know that the many other groups with a more National perspective have been looking out for your interest too. Groups including the ~~Forest Landowners' Association~~, the **American Forests Foundation**, and the **National Woodland Owners Association** have succeeded in minimizing the Federal Capital Gains Estate Transfer tax. Interestingly, this did not even make ~~most of the media outlets~~. ~~The President's Tax Bill would have had~~ disastrous impact on the estates of forest landowners. **Fortunately, others were fighting this battle for us. - Different fronts!** Because of the importance of a national perspective, MFA is considering affiliation with **National Woodland Owners Association**. Read more about that in the draft **NWOA-MOU** that can be viewed online. We are also working to create a closer relationship with **Maryland Tree Farm**.

MFA is only as strong as its membership. **Now I ask you to take action in the same battle but on a different front- your front!**
Please help:

Download a copy of our **Legislative Notebook** Read it, and email it to your Maryland Legislators and ask them to support forestry in Maryland. Also, email it to five friends encouraging them to join MFA.

Download a copy of MFA's Forestry Jobs Initiative. Read it, email it to your Maryland Legislators and ask them to support forestry in Maryland. Also, email it to you local newspaper or radio station. (seen also in part on page 5 of this publication) Review our Policy Statement on **LEED Certification**. Send the Governor an email asking him to work to change LEED **Certification requirements for the protection of Maryland's Family Forests.**

Download our **Membership Brochure**. Print it out and give a copy to five friends or colleagues. We need to increase our membership!

Regards, John Jastrzemski

Editor's note: Downloads referenced above can be found on **MFA's Website** and/or **blog** using the search features found there.

on the web at <http://mdforests.org>



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Celebrating 35 Years of Service to Maryland's Forest Community

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

- 9 **MFA Board of Governor's Quarterly Board Meeting**
- 15 U of MD Cooperative Extension Online Webinar (see pg 3)
- 23 U of MD Cooperative Extension Online Webinar (see pg 3)

March

- 23 MFA Executive Committee Conference Call
- 25 Deadline to submit items for the March / April issue of THE CROSSCUT

April

- 6 Maryland Arbor Day ~ MFA Day in Annapolis ~ Plan now to join us. Details to be sent in March.
- 27 MFA Executive Committee Conference Call

May

- 18 **MFA Board of Governor's Quarterly Board Meeting**
- 25 SAF meeting on Wood Energy & Biomass Harvesting (see pg 6)

LOOKING AHEAD

November 11 & 12 ~ MFA Annual Conference & 35th Anniversary Celebration ~ Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, Maryland.

Stay in Touch and Update to Date
between issues of THE CROSSCUT
via MFA'S
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