

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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M F A Welcomes Two New Board Members

Two new board members took office January 1.

Keith Abrahamson of Eaton Rapids owns and manages a 100-acre farm in Eaton County and also has a forest tract in Gladwin County. He has been a member of MFA for about 5 years.

Ned Caveney is returning to the board after a several-year break. Ned is a professional forester, now retired from the Department of Natural Resources, who is currently managing his own forest land near Lupton, where he resides.

Both these individuals have a keen interest in forest management and in sharing that interest with others.

M F A President Publishes Letter in Ann Arbor News

MFA President **Collin Burnett** of Ann Arbor could not resist writing to the Ann Arbor News in response to an article detailing a plan to heat the Washtenaw County Jail with wood. And the News published the letter on the op-ed page. President Burnett is a student of wood energy systems and so he was primed to quickly put his thoughts on paper. He began with a reference to the past use of wood for heat and noted how we have come full circle after favoring coal, oil and electricity. Bringing the readers up-to-date on technology, he wrote: "Advances in wood-burning equipment, such as gasification technology, have increased the efficiency and emissions control of wood usage to rival that of increasingly scarce and expensive natural gas. A wood chip boiler room of today is highly automated and reliable. Wood boiler heat can even drive with ease the air-conditioning chillers that cool large buildings."

He went on to comment on the advantages of wood heat from an environmental point of view, discussed urban supplies of usable wood from tree maintenance activities and other waste, then commented on the use of wood from a forest management point of view: "Michigan's woody resources are growing far faster than they are being removed. In the past century our forests have restocked and expanded and now cover over 19 million acres and more than half of our land..."

"Land owners and consulting foresters, practicing sound forest management to maintain or improve the health of their forests, frequently must remove diseased trees, invasives and poor quality trees in overly dense stands to practice science-based forestry. Those practices are often too costly to accomplish when there is no economical use for those removals. Wood chipping would be a great aid in the fight against woody invasives in both the urban and forest environment."

Good letter. Collin tells us the responses have been positive.

Michigan Master Logger Ranks Increased to 22

The Great Lakes Regional Michigan Master Logger Certifying Board recently announced the certification of 14 new Master Loggers in Michigan, bringing the total to 22. Applicants must undergo comprehensive field inspections of current and completed logging jobs and must agree to follow these seven areas of responsibility: 1. Protecting water quality and soils. 2. Compliance with government regulations appropriate to a logging business. 3. Compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards. 4. Provide and participate in an on-going training regimen. 5. Aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable. 6. Following a management plan that is site specific and agreed to by the landowner. 7. Sound business management techniques are employed.

Here's the list. Several of these are MFA members.

Western U.P. Hilberg Logging, Inc., J. Carey Logging, Inc., M.V.A. Enterprises, Inc., Minerick Logging, Inc., Piwarski Bros. **Central U.P.** Cain Brothers Logging, Inc., Dillon Forest Products, LLC, Dugree Trucking and Forest Products, Inc., Gudwer Forest Products, Inc., Kanerva Forest Products, Inc., Marvin Nelson Forest Products, Mike Leckson & Son Trucking, Nick & Brien Thoney Farm & Forest, Norm Plourde & Son Forest Products, St. John Forest Products, Inc., Suchovsky Logging, Inc. **Eastern U.P.** Duberville Logging, Furlong Forest Products Company, L. Bosanic and Sons Timber, Northland Harvesting. **Northern L.P.** Elenz Logging, Will Zoscsak Logging & Trucking Inc.

Additional information is available from program coordinator Don Peterson at 877-284-3882.

Thanks

Thanks to the following members for special **gifts** in November and December to **Michigan Forest Foundation**:

Allen Adam
Robert Beebe
Ron Bullen
James A. Fish
Richard Cooper

Arnot Heller
Herman Miller
David Olson
John Santeiu
John Skosnik.

And thanks to these members for **gifts to MFA**: Garden Club of Michigan and John VanDyke

Thanks also to the many members who **renewed their membership**. If you received a notice in November and haven't renewed, your early attention will be appreciated.

Woody Biomass Website

The Forest Service's Woody Biomass Utilization Team promotes and facilitates the planning and delivery of an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the recovery and utilization of woody biomass from ecological restoration and hazardous fuels reduction efforts. The team recent released its new website, which is available on the agency's website.

Go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodybiomass/index.shtml>

SAF

Carbon Credits Website

The Delta Institute has launched a website where you can find information on measuring and reducing your carbon "footprint". It also includes information on carbon credits and carbon credit exchange. Go to

www.deltacarbon.org.

\$5 Million for Conservation

Michigan has earmarked \$5 million from the new Michigan business tax to be used for conservation projects. Four million will go to the game and fish fund for fish stocking and conservation officers; one million will go to conservation districts for forestry programs.

WLNS TV 6

Interesting Meetings

Jan 11, MUCC conference room, Lansing. Conference on private woodlands. Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has received a grant to study ways to enhance management on private forest lands.

Jan. 16, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing. The Nature Conservancy will host "The Future of Conservation: Expanding Impact through Collaboration"

June 23 -25, Madison, Wis. Crisis or Opportunity? Sustaining and Strengthening Forest-Based Industries in the Great Lakes Region.

MFA has been invited to participate in these sessions. We will report on what happens.

For a more thorough list of upcoming events, visit <http://www.miforestpathways.net/1-calendar.htm>.