



Items of interest to Maine's Forestry Community Brought to you by the [Maine Forest Products Council](#)

Maine Legislative Update

MFPC's Executive Director Patrick Strauch and lobbyist Michele Maclean, with support from members, have spent most of the last four months at the state house actively representing members' interests on a wide variety of proposed legislation.

A few of the key issues among the over 200 bills being tracked include proposals to amend the tree growth tax law, LURC's permitting and planning processes, energy policy issues, public recreational use and access issues, and trucking regulations.

This week LD 1376 - An Act to Preserve Farmland and Timberland will be introduced. This is a MFPC bill that seeks to eliminate estate taxes on productive forest and agricultural lands.

Looming over the whole session are the debates over the state budget and proposals to consolidate school administrative districts. It appears likely that this legislative session will extend in to June.

For more information or to find out how to participate in the weekly MFPC Technical Committee and Manufacturing Committee legislative conference calls, contact Patrick or Sue McCarthy at the MFPC office

Natural Resources Network

The Natural Resources Network is now fully engaged and Patrick meets on a weekly basis with colleagues from SAM, SWOAM, Aquaculture, Potato, Blueberry, Dairy, Snowmobilers, Bow Hunters and Trappers to review legislative issues. The group's synergy has been very strong and we continue to assist one another on important issues.

A legislative reception hosted by the Network member groups and their boards is scheduled for May 22. Information will be forthcoming.

Maine Trucking Interests Plan Washington DC Fly-in

Members of the MFPC and Maine Motor Transport Association plan to travel to Washington, DC on May 22 - 23 to lobby the Maine Congressional delegation and others on trucking issues.

Potential agenda topics include:

- Seeking a 100,000 lb weight limit exemption on Maine's entire interstate system.
- The Federal Highway Reauthorization Bill.
- Regulatory issues, including hours-of-service and electronic on-board recorders.
- Tolls / Fuel Taxes / Privatization.
- Boutique Fuels / Alternative Fuel Mandates.

For more information contact Pat Sirois at the MFPC, 622-9288, psirois@maineforest.org

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MFPC in the news:

[LURC can't ignore landowners' rights](#) - Portland Press Herald, April 3
Patrick Strauch makes the case for support of the MFPC's position on LDs 472 and 473, legislation to assure landowner's interests are fairly represented in LURC's planning processes.

[Landowners deserve equal treatment](#) - Bangor Daily News, April 18
MFPC President Peter Triandafillou sets the record straight in response to an op-ed which opposed the same LURC bills.

[MaineWatch - What Climate Change Means for Maine](#) - Maine Public Radio, April 20
MFPC President Peter Triandafillou shares his views on the possible effects of climate change on Maine's forest products community.

Maine Forestry Direct Link Program

The Maine Forest Service (MFS), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) have teamed up to offer a mechanism to provide incentive financing to loggers that reduces non-point source pollution risk on timber harvests in Maine. The program provides low-interest rate financing for a variety of equipment and water crossing materials that will improve implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs).

To learn more visit the web site: [Maine Forest Service: Maine Forestry Direct Link Loan Program](#) or contact Chris Martin, Senior Planner/Water Resources Forester, Maine Forest Service, 287-1073, chris.martin@maine.gov

Northern Forest Survey

The Universities of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Cornell are conducting a study to better understand changes in land tenure and access to private lands throughout the Northern Forest. After the study is completed, workshops will be held in the region to share findings and develop recommendations. The first step in collecting data is a web survey for landowners and users of private land.

If you are concerned about development and access to private lands in the Northern Forest, and you own land, recreate on private land, or care about the future of the Northern Forest, your input is needed! Visit www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/survey.htm to share your concerns and suggestions. If you have questions about the study, contact Shawn Geoffrey at the Vermont Tourism Data Center, 802- 656-0623, tourismresearch@uvm.edu, or Lisa Chase at the University of Vermont Extension 802-257-7967 x21, lisa.chase@uvm.edu

Mechanical Harvesting Training Program Planned for July

A three week mechanical harvesting training program has been developed by the Northern Maine Community College and the Western Maine Forest Resources Training Consortium. The training will focus on giving graduates the basic skills so that they can be further trained by logging contractors using mechanized harvesting equipment.

The training is scheduled to start July 9 2007, and will be offered at Oxford Hills Technical School in Norway, ME. Some of the topics to be covered in the training program to be covered are: basic business skills, forest management and silviculture, training on a harvesting simulator, product quality and sorting as well as basic field maintenance on hydraulic, fuel, electrical, and engine systems. Team building and organizational exercises will also be offered. Graduates of the

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training will also be eligible for CLP Mechanical Harvester Certification. The training is open to adults and graduates of vocational high school forestry and wood harvesting programs.

For questions, contact Ryan Bushey at Northern Maine Community College at (207) 768-2845, nrbushet@nmcc.edu or Al Schaeffer at (207) 743-7756 x 2207, aschaeffer@sad17.k12.me.us. A brochure further describing the training is also available at www.wmfrtc.org.

Upcoming Events

MAY

10	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
10	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	MFPC BOD/BOA	Augusta, MFPC
15	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC BOA	Augusta, MFPC
22	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Natural Resources Network Legislative Reception	Augusta, SAM Conference Center
22-23		Maine Trucking Fly-in	Washington, DC

JUNE

14	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
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JULY

9-27		Mechanical Harvesting Training Program	Norway, Oxford Hills Technical School
10-13		2007 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour Rangeley Lakes and Western Mountains	
12	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Bangor
12	1:00 pm	MFPC Summer Golf Tournament	Bangor
17-20		2007 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour Central Maine's Penobscot-Hancock Highlands	

AUGUST

9	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
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SEPTEMBER

14		Log-a-Load Golf Tournament	Lincoln, JATO Highlands
23-24		MFPC Annual Meeting	Caribou

OCTOBER

10-12	Wood Products Mfg. Assoc. Annual Meeting For more info. e-mail: woodprod@wpma.org	Lancaster, PA
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You can read Forest Notes online at the [Maine Forest Products Council](http://www.maine-forest-products-council.org) website.