

Maine Forest Notes

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January 25, 2007

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

Maine's 123rd Legislature:

Joint Standing Committees Appointed - Legislative Committee appointments can be viewed at <http://janus.state.me.us/house/jtcomlst.htm>. We were surprised and disappointed that Abby Holman was not appointed to the ACF Committee, despite being one of the most qualified legislators for a position on this committee.

Legislators to consider almost 2,400 bills - Legislators are about to tackle more than 2,200 bills. That's in addition to 180 or so bills submitted by state agencies and Gov. John Baldacci's administration. The list of proposed legislation is under review by MFPC Executive Director Patrick Strauch and MFPC lobbyist Michele Maclean. A summary of issues affecting our industry will be available soon. Contact Patrick if you would like more information. To see a list of legislative titles go to: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/lis/publications.htm>

E&T Species Listing Recommendations - After a 14 month review process, Maine's Commissioner of IF&W is recommending to the legislature to add 14 new species to Maine's list of Endangered and Threatened Species. IF&W is also recommending that one species be removed from the list and another be downlisted from Endangered to Threatened status. The Legislature has the sole authority to amend the list of E&T species, but only upon the recommendation of the Commissioner.

Barry Burgason, Huber Forest Resources, and MFPC Wildlife Committee Chair, has reviewed the proposed list and feels that forest management activities should not be significantly impacted by the proposed changes, as most of the habitats are associated with wetlands or waterways that foresters typically buffer and avoid.

To review the proposal, visit the IF&W website: <http://www.state.me.us/ifw/pdf/etlisthandout.pdf>. For more information contact: George J. Matula, E&T Species Coordinator and Wildlife Planner, Me. IF&W, george.matula@maine.gov

Henderson Brook Bridge Study Commission Report Available

The Final Report of the Commission to Study Henderson Brook Bridge on the Allagash Wilderness waterway is now available. The report will be posted on the web by Friday, Jan. 26th at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/reportsnew.htm>

Mechanical Harvesting Training Planned for July

Northern Maine Community College (NMCC), in cooperation with the Western Maine Forest Resources Training Consortium (WMFRTC) plans to offer a three week mechanical harvesting training course in July at Oxford Hills Technical School in Norway, Maine.

The training is designed to build on regional vocational high school forestry/ wood harvesting programs and to give graduates the skills and knowledge they need to be further trained by logging contractors. The NMCC training is not, however, limited to vocational high school

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graduates. New adult employees and other high school graduates will also be eligible. Present employees of logging contractors wishing to learn more about mechanical harvesting are also encouraged to apply. For more information go to: <http://wmfrtc.org/content/view/103/1/> or contact Ryan Bushey, NMCC, nrbushey@nmcc.edu.

Insect Pest Update – From Dave Struble, MFS State Entomologist

Pine Shoot Beetle - The PSB quarantine area has been finalized as proposed. All Maine counties **except Aroostook and Washington** are in the quarantine area, allowing free movement of raw material to almost everybody (and state compliance agreements for the few outliers). ***If there are any folks that need PSB Compliance Agreements, call the Entomology Lab at 287-2431 to assure compliance before the March 31 blackout date.***

Gypsy Moth - Following recovery in recent years of gypsy moths in additional townships outside the existing regulated area, the MFS and APHIS are adding the following towns to the intrastate regulated area:

Aroostook County: Glenwood Plantation; Houlton; New Limerick; Orient

Piscataquis County: Shirley; Elliottsville Twp; T7R9 NWP; Katahdin Iron Works Twp; TBR11 WELS; TBR10 WELS; TAR11 WELS; TAR10 WELS; Veazie Gore; T1R11 WELS; T1R10 WELS; T2R10 WELS

Somerset County: East Moxie Twp.

Official notification will be sent out to MFPC members and others, including all current harvest operations in those townships.

As an additional heads-up; there are some more edge towns where Gypsy Moth were found this fall/winter. They haven't cleared the APHIS confirmation process but members can expect that all of southern Aroostook from Houlton, New Limerick, Oakfield and Smyrna, and points south, as well as Patten, Greenville, and Eustis will be proposed for inclusion some time in the near future.

If you have questions or concerns contact Dave Struble, 287-4981, dave.struble@maine.gov

Aerial Spraying Rule Challenged

In the last issue of Forest Notes, we reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its final regulations regarding the application of pesticides to control pests present over and near water. In its regulations, the EPA ruled that, provided such pesticides are applied consistent with FIFRA Act requirements, such applications do not constitute a "pollutant" under the Clean Water Act and thus does not require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

A number of challenges to the November 2006 rules have been consolidated into one case styled *National Cotton Council of America v. Environmental Protection Agency* being heard before the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati. AF&PA had moved to intervene in those individual challenges where the petitioners seemed interested in establishing a permit requirement, including the First Circuit, filed by ***Environment Maine and Toxics Action Center***. AF&PA was joined by the American Farm Bureau Federation on these motions. The motions were pending at the time these cases, and the other challenges, were consolidated in the Sixth Circuit. For more information, contact Chip Murray at AF&PA, 202-463-2782, chip_murray@afandpa.org.

Beginning With Habitat

The Maine Department of IF&W's Beginning with Habitat (BwH) program is a voluntary, habitat-based landscape approach to assessing wildlife and plant conservation needs and opportunities. The goal of the program is to maintain sufficient habitat to support all native plant and animal species currently breeding in Maine by providing each Maine town with a collection of maps and accompanying information depicting and describing various habitats of statewide and national significance found in the town. These maps provide communities with information that can help guide conservation of valuable habitats.

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Although the primary focus has been on organized towns where development activities can impact habitat, IF&W has begun looking at BwH as a way of promoting landscape scale habitat planning in eastern and northern Maine where forestry is the dominant land use.

The BwH Steering Committee is hosting a BwH Partners Workshop on Feb. 9 for municipal, state, and federal partners to present recent program accomplishments, discuss the next steps for BwH and to learn how BwH has proven to be useful and how the program can be improved to achieve better results in terms of local implementation.

For further information contact: Steve Walker, Beginning with Habitat Program Coordinator, Maine IF&W, 287-5254, steve.walker@maine.gov or go to: <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/index.html>

Member News

Stratton Lumber ensures strong future through management buyout - Jean-Paul Fontaine, President of Stratton Lumber Inc., recently sold a majority ownership interest in Stratton Lumber to a group of managers within the current Stratton organization. The new majority owners are: Petr Smetanka, current General Manager of Stratton Lumber, Pierre Gariepy, General Manager of Fontaine Inc. sawmills, and Nicolas Fontaine, Sales Manager.

Stratton Lumber has grown its production by 80% over the past two years, and has created a number of additional quality jobs with excellent working conditions. Presently, the company is implementing a number of improvement projects that complete a \$2.5M investment plan over the past 18 months. The company created 25 new jobs last year, for a total of 75 employees, making Stratton Lumber one of the largest year round employers in Northern Franklin County.

Stratton Lumber is a state-of-the-art sawmill that relies on its 75 employees to manufacture and market 90 million board feet of softwood lumber dedicated to the eastern US home construction market. Stratton Lumber is part of the Fontaine Group, which comprises also Fontaine Inc., a softwood sawmill on the Quebec – Maine border, and Timber Resource Group Inc., a wood products procurement, marketing and timberland services company operating in New England, which is located in Farmington.

For information contact: Petr Smetanka, General Manager, Stratton Lumber, 207-246-4500
smetanka@fontaine-lumber.com

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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

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|-----|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 5:30pm – 8:00pm | FRA Forest Forum | Brewer, Jeff's Catering |
| 7 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm | WMFRTC | Augusta, MFPC |
| 8 | 9:00am – 12 noon | MFPC Exec. Committee | Augusta, MFPC |
| TBD | | Legislative Reception | Augusta, MFPC |

MARCH

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|-------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 5:30pm – 8:00pm | FRA Forest Forum | Brewer, Jeff's Catering |
| 8 | 9:00am – 12 noon | MFPC Exec. Committee | Augusta, MFPC |
| 8 | 1:00pm – 4:00pm | MFPC BOD/BOA | Augusta, MFPC |
| 12-13 | | NER.COFE Workshop | University of Maine |

APRIL

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|-------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 5 | | FRA Equipment Maint. Workshop | Brewer, Jeff's Catering |
| 11-12 | | UMaine Pulp & Paper Foundation Open House | University of Maine |
| 12 | 9:00am – 12 noon | MFPC Exec. Committee | Augusta, MFPC |

MAY

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|----|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 10 | 9:00am – 12 noon | MFPC Exec. Committee | Augusta, MFPC |
| 10 | 1:00pm – 4:00pm | MFPC BOD/BOA | Augusta, MFPC |

JUNE

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

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|----|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 12 | 9:00am – 12 noon | MFPC Exec. Committee | Augusta, MFPC |
| 12 | 1:00 pm | MFPC Summer Golf Tournament | Bangor |

AUGUST

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

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