WINTER MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
IT’S STILL REALLY IMPORTANT

Our annual Winter Meeting and Legislative breakfast is set for January 14-15, 2020 in Jefferson City. Unfortunately, this meeting is all business; I don’t have a good way to sugarcoat it any differently. We ask you to show up on Tuesday morning January 14 and participate in committee meetings, attend a dinner that evening to listen and discuss more important stuff, and then get up early the next morning and attend a breakfast with elected Missouri officials. This scenario is why I generally begin this annual newsletter with begging and pleading for you to attend, because I know it is hard work to commit your time and resources to this meeting. BUT, it is really important that we do it, for our individual companies and our industry as a whole. SO PLEASE COME!!

All five MFPA standing committees, Governmental and Public Affairs, Forest Health, PAC, Education, and the Logging Council will meet on January 14 to discuss topics that will help set direction for MFPA in 2020. As always, all MFPA attending members are invited to sit in on any committee meeting that they desire. If you are interested in joining a committee, please just let us know.

We are currently reaching out to a couple elected officials regarding their potential for speaking to our group on Tuesday evening. We feel that we are close to confirming a speaker and will announce that as soon as we receive the confirmation. We think you will be pleased!!

Attendance at the legislative breakfast is really, really important for our industry. Traditionally, our breakfasts are well attended by elected officials because they understand the importance of a $10 billion industry in Missouri. Having members available that represent the state geographically is critical because politicians want to speak to their constituents. When they walk in the room the first question is “who is here from my district”? Please understand that we don’t expect you to only show up if you have a problem or concern that you want to express to your local representative or senator. We need all elected officials to understand the magnitude and importance of our industry when they are considering the hundreds of “bills” that will be introduced during the 2020 legislative session. Nancy tells me that over 500 have already been pre-filed! Countless times during the legislative session myself, Shannon, or Nancy are asked “will this impact you guys”? Members of the Missouri General Assembly are aware of our industry because of events like the Breakfast at the Capitol and we need your participation to continue that tradition. AGAIN, PLEASE COME!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

-Brian Brookshire, Executive Director
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2020 MFPA Winter Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, January 15**

**7:30am**  Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol House Hearing Room 7  
Hosted by: *The Missouri Forest Products PAC*

State legislators will be available. Later appointment times will be made for MFPA members to speak on issues of special concern in their districts. Call the MFPA office to let us know if you would like an appointment.

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**Tuesday, January 14**

**10:00-11:00am**  
**Governmental & Public Affairs**  
Sponsored by Botkin Lumber Company, Inc.  
FCS Financial  
Gross & Janes Company  
Husqvarna Group  
Missouri-Pacific Lumber Company  
Norman Lumber Company  
TAG Truck Center

**11:30-12:30pm**  
**Forest Health Committee**  
Sponsored by C&K Lumber LLC  
FCS Financial  
Husqvarna Group  
Madison County Wood Products, Inc.  
McClain Forest Products LLC  
TAG Truck Center

**1:00-2:00pm**  
**Missouri Forest Products PAC**  
Sponsored by FCS Financial  
Holden Pallet Company, Inc.  
Husqvarna Group  
Mueller Brothers Timber, Inc.  
TAG Truck Center

**2:30-3:30pm**  
**Education & Technical Services**  
Sponsored by East Perry Lumber Company, Inc.  
FCS Financial  
Husqvarna Group  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
Pioneer Forest  
TAG Truck Center

**4:00-5:00pm**  
**Missouri Logging Council Board**  
Sponsored by Erb Equipment Company  
FCS Financial  
Garnett Wood Products  
Husqvarna Group  
Naeger Forest Products, Inc.  
TAG Truck Center

**6:00-8:00pm**  
**Welcome Reception**  
Sponsored by Fabick CAT  
FCS Financial  
Husqvarna Group  
TAG Truck Center  
The Daniel and Henry Company

**7:00-9:00pm**  
**Membership Dinner**  
Exclusively Sponsored by  
Independent Stave Company, Inc.

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The American Loggers Council (ALC) and its member state logging associations delivered letters to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue, asking the administration to include unrefined forest products as an agricultural commodity. ALC and its members say aligning timber and agriculture would enable impacted loggers to receive relief as the industry continues to be impacted by retaliatory tariffs.

“The West Virginia forest products industry has been, and continues to be, concerned that federal support for our products is not being treated equally with agricultural products,” wrote Curt Hassler and William Robinson, representing the West Virginia Loggers Council. “While the agricultural sectors have been the primary beneficiaries of tariff relief, we believe it is time for forest products to be included in tariff relief policies. We stand ready to support policy initiatives that ensure all sectors of the forest products industry, including timberland owners, loggers, and mills, are no longer overlooked as a needed, valued, and sustainable industry in our national economy.”

The logging associations noted that unrefined forest products, such as wood fiber and logs, are among the most widely exported commodities to foreign countries. Retaliatory tariffs have had severe impacts on certain sectors of the forest products industry, resulting in the closure of businesses and the loss of jobs.

“Even though the ‘2018 US Agriculture Exports to China” chart ranks forest products as the number two largest industry, the USDA does not list hardwoods on their website as an exported commodity,” wrote Tommy Carroll, Executive Director of the Southeastern Wood Products Association. “As hardwood and other mills adapt to tariffs in their own operations, logging companies are feeling the impact in their operations as well. In addition, many forest landowners who have significant investment in their timberlands are experiencing a lack of demand and lower prices for standing timber.”

The associations also noted that like agricultural commodities, unrefined forest products are also perishable commodities that are sensitive to trade and tariff policies.

“Trade or exporting wood products is vital to Oregon’s forest sector economy,” wrote Rex Storm, Interim Executive Vice President of Associated Oregon Loggers. “During recent trade debates we’ve come to realize the lack of federal government support for forest commodity consideration. Timber products are a perishable commodity susceptible to decay, insects, disease and fire- a perishable commodity that is 40 or more years to grow as a crop. Forest products are not treated equitably with agriculture.”

The associations thank Secretary Perdue and the Trump Administration for its efforts to support the forest products industry on various issues. Aligning timber and agriculture on trade policies would enable logging businesses to weather the impacts of retaliatory tariffs as the administration seeks to resolve trade disputes.

“The timber industry helped build the United States economy as well as agriculture,” wrote David Livingston, Executive Director of the Mississippi Loggers Association. “We need to make them one in the same, for the only difference between agriculture and tree farming is the length of the crop rotation.”

*Offer good while stocks last from authorized Husqvarna Servicing Dealers only. Trade-in offer is applicable to any chainsaw, regardless of brand, model or working condition. Trade-in model must be complete, dismantled units will not be accepted. Trade-in value must be passed on at time of purchase.

*Rebates of $50 on 400 series chainsaw and $75 on any 300/500 series chainsaw. See dealer for details.
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2020 PTH Class Schedule

Remember...because the 2020 class schedule is out, you can’t forget about 2019 just yet. If you have not gotten your Continuing Education Credit to maintain your PTH certification...your name will be taken of the PTH Trained Logger List on January 2, 2020. In the words of a famous comedian...Git Er Done!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Level 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Level 3 &amp; 4</th>
<th>Forest Management</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eminence</td>
<td>January 6-7</td>
<td>January 27-28</td>
<td>January 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>February 10-11</td>
<td>March 2-3</td>
<td>February 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirksville</td>
<td>March 4-5</td>
<td>March 30-31</td>
<td>March 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivar</td>
<td>May 4-5</td>
<td>May 21-22</td>
<td>May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedalia</td>
<td>September 1-2</td>
<td>September 28-29</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perryville</td>
<td>October 5-6</td>
<td>November 2-3</td>
<td>October 19</td>
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