MFPA’s Winter Meeting was a rousing success, in my humble opinion. The meeting was successful because members came to Jefferson City prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion during committee meetings, the industry summit with MU, and our breakfast at the Capitol. Approximately 85 people attended the meeting representing 46 companies and it seemed that most took advantage of sitting in on committee meetings even if they were not a formal member.

I found the industry summit particularly interesting because it provided the opportunity for us to engage with the University of Missouri like we have never done before, at least during my tenure. Dr. Chris Daubert, the dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) lead a team of four administrators to our meeting in an effort to better understand how MU can play a role with our industry. I have suggested that now is the time for MU and MFPA to investigate new potential partnerships that could benefit Missouri’s $10 billion forest products industry in traditional and non-traditional ways.

The forest products industry is challenged by the lack of technical support of our industry. Many of our members have attended courses at Haywood community college in North Carolina to learn more about specific sawmilling techniques. Haywood has drastically downsized this program and effectively eliminated the only formal sawmill education available in the United States. MU leadership heard about the necessity for industry technical support and the concern for training future generations of professionals in our industry.

I also challenged the MU group to think about how they could help our industry deal with decreased demand for solid hardwood lumber both domestically and internationally. The decreasing demand for hardwood grade lumber domestically, combined with the current trade dispute with China, is causing great concern about the future of grade lumber markets. I feel that Missouri’s land grant university should be a tremendous resource for our industry to begin investigating how to combat decreasing domestic demand and help us develop new and innovative international marketing strategies. We simply must begin educating U.S. consumers on the benefits of using wood, “America’s Natural Resource” because we are losing the market share battle to non-renewable alternatives. I commend the National Wood Flooring Association’s new marketing program “Real Wood. Real Life” which is an effort to educate consumers on the many benefits of selecting real wood floors versus the many non-renewable alternatives. Visit nwfa.org to learn more about their promotional efforts for the hardwood flooring industry. I look forward to reporting our progress with partnering with MU in upcoming newsletters.

-Brian Brookshire, Executive Director
It’s Time To Renew!

Membership renewal forms have been mailed and it’s time to renew your membership to continue receiving all the benefits of MFPA!

In your envelope you will find your membership dues invoice and the current contact information we have listed for your company. When returning your membership form please notify us of any changes to your contact information or any products and services you offer.

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2019 MFPA Legislative Breakfast

The breakfast at the Capitol is a very effective way for our industry to interact with many elected officials in a very short time period. From 7:30 am to 9 am over 100 House and Senate members took the opportunity to come and visit with us in the basement of the Capitol. This is a true testament of the strength of our industry and I really appreciate our member’s willingness to participate in this very important event.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE 2019 WINTER MEETING!!

[Images of people attending the legislative breakfast]

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While we brave the elements of winter, let’s turn our thoughts to golf for a moment. Along with the Annual MFPA Golf tournament held during the Summer Meeting, there will be a couple of other outings this year. There will be 2 golf tournaments held in Crane, a skeet shoot in Ozark, and hopes for another couple of events to help raise funds for good causes. The Summer Meeting tournament raises money for Log A Load for Kids and the PAC. The Skeet Shoot (hosted by Travis Yake) and one of the golf tournaments in Crane (hosted by Kelly and Shelly Burke) will both benefit Log A Load. The other Crane tournament (hosted by Randy and RaShell Burke)...the Inaugural Lumberjack Classic will benefit the MFPA Logging School. Over the next couple of newsletters, we will highlight these opportunities. Let’s start with the Lumberjack Classic. The Spenser Burke Memorial Endowment was established in the name of Randy and RaShell’s son after losing him in a car accident. The Endowment distributes funds to the Logging School for eligible scholarship recipients. It’s an important gift as the logging profession is a critical part of Missouri’s forest industry.

The tournament has a couple of different sponsorship opportunities ranging from the Platinum Team to the Regular Team, as well as hole sponsors, food and beverage sponsors, and actual sponsors for greens fees and cart fees. There will also be some custom made auction items sure to appeal to everyone. Expect a breakfast, a lunch, prizes, and a whole lot of fun. If you are interested in sponsoring or playing...contact the Burke Sawmill in Climax Springs. (660-723-0413, burkesawmill@gmail.com).

“This is something everyone in the industry needs to pay attention to, and help in any way you can,” said RaShell, “this tournament is an excellent way to do your part...even if you don’t golf.” It is RaShell’s hopes that the scholarship recipient will be a Missouri resident and will agree to working in the logging industry for at least 2 years...but will be happy with quality loggers after graduation. Without quality loggers, all areas of the industry will struggle.

The 4 person scramble will be held Saturday, May 18 at the Indian Tree Golf Club in Crane, Missouri. Speaking of the MFPA Logging School. We continue to accept applications for the School. Classes are scheduled to begin May 28 and run through August 3 concluding with a graduation ceremony and Logging Championship. The 10 week program will instruct participants on dendrology, silviculture, map and compass, PTH, and equipment maintenance. There will be field trips to job sites, saw mills, and TAG Truck Center has fantastic classrooms to prepare students for their future. There are still a few slots open. If you...or someone you know is interested in the MFPA Logging School or the Lumberjack Classic contact MFPA (573-634-3252) or mark@moforest.org.
The Professional Timber Harvester (PTH) training is based on a training program which is widely acknowledged as the premier timber harvesting training program in the country, offering hands-on training emphasizing safety and sustainable timber harvesting. The training is offered to professional loggers, foresters, college students, forest landowners, and utility workers. This is not a beginners’ class, some previous chainsaw experience is required. Those without experience are welcome to sit through the class and not participate in the hands-on cutting exercises.

Annual continuing education (CE) is required to maintain the certification. We strive to offer meaningful and interesting continuing education classes. To achieve this we partner with other organizations providing workshops and training related to the logging profession. Topics such as first-aid, forest management, wildlife management, and business skills training are all useful to those in the logging industry. If you want to attend an event that you feel is worthy of CE please contact us beforehand at the MFPA office, 573-634-3252.
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