

# FOREST PRODUCTS NEWS

## MFPC POLICY ISSUES

**By Patrick Strauch  
MFPC Executive Director**



Usually, summer months at the Council seem to move a little slower. This summer, however, seems to have been packed with multiple task forces and policy projects focused on a variety of different issues.

The hectic schedule has not been negative, however. By participating in these task forces, the Council continues to move the forest products industry to the forefront of major policy discussions and decisions.

For this month's issue, I wanted to share the status of these task forces and studies with members and let you know how you can participate in

the discussion. For more information, please always feel free to contact James Cote or myself.

*By participating in these task forces, the Council continues to move the forest products industry to the forefront of major policy discussions and decisions.*

On behalf of everyone at the Council, I would just like to extend our appreciation to those members who work tirelessly on these issues day in and day out. It is with your support that we

continue to be the most effective voice for the forest products industry in Augusta. I hope all of you enjoy the end of summer, and look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting in Bethel on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Natural Resource Agency Task Force

The Natural Resource Agency Task Force is a result of the Governor's proposal to include consolidation of the natural re-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Wildlife in the Forests of Maine

**By Barry Burgason, Wildlife Committee Chair**

Yes, there is wildlife in the forests of Maine, but people have different ideas about how many of each critter we should have. For Noah, it was simple – two of each kind – but for lynx, hares, bald eagles, deer, moose, coyotes, beaver, salamanders, brook trout, Atlantic salmon and freshwater mussels, the numbers are debatable.

Recently, MFPC staff and landowner members have been very involved with major policy discussions (including the CLUP) about wildlife that inhabit our lands. It is good that foresters are involved in these discussions since, more or less,

we do have major influences on habitat and we have factual information to bring to the table -- as well as rights to lose if we do nothing.

For the past several years, MFPC has been involved with very the contentious issues regarding Federal designation of Canada lynx as a threatened species and the proposed designation of Critical Habitat on private lands in Maine. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 decision to not designate Critical Habitat in Maine was challenged and overturned by environmental groups who claimed that undo political influence by a Department of Interior official had tainted

*(Continued on page 7)*

## IN THE NEWS



- Presidents Message.....Page 2
- Annual Meeting Reminders.....Page 2
- Communications Director.....Page 3
- Sirex Wood Wasp Announcement. Page 4
- CLUP Update.....Page 4
- Habitat for Humanity.....Page 5
- Deer Predation Group.....Page 7
- Forest Energy Task Group.....Page 9
- Maine Forest Legacy.....Page 9

## President's Message

It's hard to believe that my term draws to a close. As I said to all of you last year, participating in the working of the Council has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career.

We are all lucky to work in an industry that is made up of genuine, hardworking and good people. My time serving on the Council gave me the chance to meet and work with a number of people that I may not have otherwise, and I'm very grateful for that.

Of course, the past few years have given us a number of policy and legislative frustrations, but the Council's membership formed a good team and I always enjoyed the fight, gallows humor and all.

I get to spend a year as "Past President", a position that appears to be akin to a professor emeritus. As such, I look forward to showing up at executive committee meetings to do some heckling and try to be a bit useful.

Looking forward, I believe that our three major issues remain unchanged: making Maine a more business friendly state, reducing energy costs, and getting state policy better aligned with landowner rights and needs. We will face other brushfires, but if we focus on those three issues I believe we can move the ball forward and make all our businesses more profitable.

Thank you all for a great few years. It's been my honor and pleasure to serve the Council, and I hope I've been useful. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.



*Peter Triandafillou*

## Annual Meeting Reminders:

Send in your registrations as soon as possible. There are still some TEE-Times available for the golf tournament on Sunday.

### Auction Items Needed

We are looking for Auction items for the silent auction and the live auction that will be held at the annual meeting banquet Monday night. If you have anything to contribute, please let us know.

### Award Winning Sponsors Needed.

We will be giving out awards for Logger of the Year, Outstanding Manufacturer, Trucker of the year and also the Nutting and President's award. Looking for sponsors to help pay for their expenses.

### Tour Sponsors Needed

Two sponsors needed for the annual meeting tours of Chadbourne Tree Farm and Hancock Mill.

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Forest Products News is published for members of the Maine Forest Products Council, a not-for-profit association of landowners, loggers, foresters, truckers, wood processors and forest products service firms.

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## Communications Corner

By: James Cote



## October Legislative Breakfast Series

By James Cote

Fall continues to draw closer, and that means election season is now upon us. I'm sure many of you have already had a knock at the door as legislative candidates tour their districts in pursuit of supporters and votes.

Here at the Maine Forest Products Council, we are doing our part by providing members with the opportunity to discuss pressing forest products industry issues with their legislators at our legislative breakfast series being held in Bangor, Greenville, Machias, and Gray in early October.

These events will be important because they will provide both members and staff the ability to preview legislative races and the issues that will arise in the next Legislature, which convenes early in December. Executive Director Patrick Strauch will moderate the forums, and provide all candidates with the brief opportunity to directly address the membership, and members the ability to ask candidates questions. Issues such as land use, energy costs, wildlife management, and taxation are sure to be among the most important issues discussed this year.

As always the breakfasts are complimentary and the discussion is sure to be entertaining and enlightening. As recruitment of new members

will be a strong theme for the coming year at MFPC, we hope that members will invite a guest or potential member to join them at the breakfast.

These meetings may qualify for 2 hours, Category I, Licensed Forester continuing education credits. Formal board approval is pending. Attendance at the meetings will also qualify loggers for CLP credits.

We hope to see a large turnout of MFPC members.

Please register for one of these breakfasts today by contacting Sue McCarthy by email at [smccarthy@maineforest.org](mailto:smccarthy@maineforest.org) or calling her at 622-9288.

*A big thank you goes out to our sponsors who make each of these events possible: Huber Resources, LandVest, Wagner Forest Management, Prentiss & Carlisle, and LaValley Lumber.*

### Legislative Breakfast Series Schedule:

Bangor – Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>-  
Four Points Sheraton (7:00a-9:00a)

-Sponsored by Prentiss & Carlisle  
Greenville, Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>-  
Kelly's Landing (7:00a-9:00a)

-Sponsored by Huber & LandVest  
Machias - Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>-  
Bluebird Ranch Family Restaurant  
(7:00a-9:00a)

-Sponsored by Wagner Forest  
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Gray – Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>- Cole  
Farm (7:00a-9:00a)

-Sponsored by LaValley Lumber

## Policy Issues *(Cont. from page 1)*

source departments into a minimum of two super agencies during the last legislative session. The Maine Forest Products Council and members of the Natural Resources Network testified against this proposal on the basis that it should not be a directive that was a part of the budget process, and that the benefits of a blanket consolidation were doubtful. As a result of this debate a task force was created and has been chaired by both Representative Wendy Pich and Karin Tilberg – a senior advisor to the Governor.

Several meetings have occurred focusing on the current organizational structures with reports by various Commissioners (Ag, Cons, Marine, DEP, IF&W) and I will be participating in a retreat with the group in early September to continue our work.

The role of private industry has been to reinforce the need to both protect the environment, but also to create opportunities for natural resource businesses. Members for the task force include dozens of stakeholders from the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine to Maine Audubon, the Maine Snowmobile Association to the Maine Aquaculture Association. Members should have received notification of the opportunity to provide input on ideas for making these agencies more effective. If not you can visit the task force website at <http://maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/naturalresourcesagency/index.htm> or can email me at [pstrauch@maineforest.org](mailto:pstrauch@maineforest.org) with your suggestions.

We continue to be interested in exploring opportunities that change the paradigm of state government, which continually seeks to further

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Sirex Wood Wasp Announcement:



A joint meeting between Maine Forest Service Entomologist Dave Struble, the Northeast Lumber Manufacturers Association, and members of the Maine Forest Products Council was held at the Council office in Augusta on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Sirex Wood Wasp issues and the implications of infestation and proposed regulation for members who deal with various pine species.

For anyone who was planning on attending the September 10<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting in Concord, New Hampshire to provide comments to the USDA officials handling the Sirex wood- wasp issues, please be aware that this meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

MFPC staff will continue to monitor and work on this issue, and will keep the membership informed on any new developments.

Please contact Pat Sirois or James Cote with any questions.

## Attention Members: Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

LURC staff will give a synopsis of the CLUP public workshops held this spring to the Commissioners on September 10 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. To view a formal agenda for the meeting and the written report drafted by staff, please visit the LURC website at [www.maine.gov/doc/lurc](http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc). MFPC members are encouraged to attend. Staff and Commissioners are expected to have a discussion about how to move forward in the process and what recommendations to make to the current draft of the plan.

An alert will be sent to the membership via email when the report and agenda are posted online. Please contact James Cote if you have any questions.



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## Habitat for Humanity Wall- Raising Event

Even in the rain, SFI Members, along with Pat Sirois, coordinator of the Maine SFI Implementation Committee, joined Gov. John Baldacci and other guests at a



ceremonial wall-raising on Aug. 12 for the SFI-sponsored home and three other Habitat houses.

“This is a fantastic way for SFI member companies to show they are committed to their communities as well as to responsible forest management,” Sirois said. “The outcome will yield benefits for Portland, the environment, youth, the Matiyabo family, and every one of us who has the honor to be part of this effort.”



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity and the Bank of America to sponsor the construction of a house made of sustainable forests products donated by SFI-certified companies.

The Maine project involves SFI volunteers and donated resources — and will be the first Habitat home

certified to the new National Association of Home Builders green building guidelines. The project also involves Portland West Youth Building Alternatives.

Governor Baldacci thanked Sirois for bringing sustainable forestry to the forefront of green home building. “This energy-efficient house meets the long-term goals of providing a family with a home, and one that will be more affordable to maintain,” he said. “This is an important milestone for Habitat and for affordable housing efforts in Maine.”

**Contributors to the Habitat house include Huber Engineered Woods LLC, Louisiana Pacific Corp., Plum Creek Timber Co. Inc., Wagner Forest Management Ltd, Fraser Timber Limited, Seven Islands Land Company, Sappi Fine Papers North America, H.O. Bouchard, Madison Paper and Pierce Atwood.**



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## Deer Predation Group

By Doug Denico

Two years ago, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife passed a resolve directing the Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to form a working group with the task of reviewing existing programs that promote critical deer habitat and that reduce deer predation by coyotes. The working group met several times during 2007 and provided the Joint Standing Committee with a report in January 2008. The report included a list of options that required further review.

Based on the Commissioner's report, the Joint Standing Committee created a new resolve directing the Commissioner to form a "Deer Predation Working Group. The working group was directed to recommend necessary revisions to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's predation control policy. In carrying out the

resolve the working group was directed to consider 5 specific items; (1) Methods of coyote control, (2) Tools and devices to be employed, (3) Protocol used to determine when and where to direct damage control agents, (4) Need and consequences of reducing the bear population to allow deer populations to recover and (5) Appropriate protocol for accomplishing bear reductions, if any, as determined in (4) above.

The working group is fairly small, composed of 8 members representing various interest groups such as guides, trappers, conservation, the forest industry and others. In addition, experts from the IF&W Department are resourcing and staffing the project.

The Deer Predation Working Group (the group) has met three times over the summer and will produce a report by mid fall 2008 in time for review by the 124 Legislature. The group has spent its time, so far, very methodically reviewing and evaluating the various ways to reduce predator numbers. Public opinion and the lynx

*(Continued on page 7)*

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## Predation Group.....(Cont. from page 6)

status have reduced the suite of options available in the past. A number of other challenges face the working group as well such as funding the predator control program, determining the role of animal control agents, selecting areas for implementation and evaluating results. For more detail, James Cote at MFPC has all the published meeting notes from the working group and they are available upon request.

## Wildlife in the Forest. . . . . (Cont. from page 1)

the process. A federal court judge ordered the USFWS to go through the CH process again, beginning in February 2008. Similar to the first CH listing process, a small group of landowners have been meeting with local USFWS biologists to craft an agreement that would demonstrate greater value to lynx conservation than would designation of private lands as critical habitat. The agreement promises to work with USFWS and MEIFW to: 1) assist USFWS with landscape level lynx habitat assessments; 2) support lynx research and monitoring through the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit and access to member's land; 3) provide outreach to the forest industry regarding lynx conservation); and 4) meet annually with USFWS & MEIFW to share information pertinent to lynx conservation. If the USFWS decides to designate any member's land as critical habitat, the entire agreement is void. Locally, USFWS is very supportive of the draft agreement for continuing our cooperative approach to lynx conservation in Maine. However, USFWS anticipates that failure to designate CH will again result in law suits by environmental groups. Following submission of comments and an economic analysis, a final decision is due by February 15, 2009.

Now for some good news: MEIFW has proposed removing the Bald Eagle from the state list of endangered and threatened species. Eagles were removed from the federal list last year and they have greatly exceeded all but one of 5 criteria established in 1989 for delisting in Maine. At the time of listing in 1978, there were 21 active nests in the state. Currently, there are an estimated 477 nests with numbers growing annually. MEIFW cited a variety of reasons for the comeback, including cooperation with landowners, and also outlined protections for the species in the future.

MEIFW held a public meeting on July 31 in Bangor.

With de-listing, Essential Habitat protection under the Natural Resources Protection Act goes away, which elicited negative comments from some members of the public and the Wildlife Alliance of Maine (WAM). MFPC supported MEIFW's recommendation to de-list but said it would be essential for MEIFW and landowners to work together to identify newly established nests so we could avoid any conflicts with forestry activities in the future. A final recommendation from the Commissioner of MEIFW to de-list the Bald Eagle will be presented to the legislature during the next session.

Other wildlife species have committees of various sorts concerned with their welfare. Members of the MFPC wildlife committee will try to cover them to be sure the rights and responsibilities of our industry are considered. One point we have repeatedly made is that landowners would prefer to get away from dealing with "wildlife silos", one species at a time and instead, look at a more integrated approach. There is some sympathy with state

*(Continued on page 8)*

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**Policy Issues. . . . .***(Cont. from page 3)*

regulate the forest industry, to one of recognizing responsible stewardship and providing support for our industry and all others in the natural resources sector.

### Wood to Energy Task Force

The final meeting of the Wood to Energy Task Force took place this week. You can see the final report at [http://maine.gov/doc/initiatives/wood\\_to\\_energy/task\\_force.html](http://maine.gov/doc/initiatives/wood_to_energy/task_force.html).

Les Otten of Maine Energy Systems chaired the task force and a variety of topics concerning wood heat were discussed. Much of my time was spent reconciling the MFS report entitled "The Absolute Supply of Wood is not an Issue" to the current crisis in wood availability. If you carefully read the MFS document numerous qualifications are presented, but there was a tendency by several members of the task force to appeal to the public's desire for energy independence without recognizing the current wood supply constrictions.

The final report focuses a large part of the discussion on the wood pellet markets. Working with John Williams from MPPA, I advocated also for the importance of biomass, pulpwood and saw log businesses. A copy of the final report and testimony received at the public workshops will be available on the MFPC website shortly.

The pending crisis in home heating this winter will have many Mainers looking towards the woods for solutions. While this will be a great opportunity to reconnect people with the value of the working forest, policy makers will need to understand the importance of supporting the health of the entire wood products industry.

### Atlantica BioEnergy Task Force

The MFPC has been a supporter of the Atlantica BioEnergy Task Force Study which is a partnership between the Atlantic Canadian provinces and Maine to investigate current and emerging markets for forest products.

With support from MFPC and the MPPA the Maine Technology Institute elected to contribute \$200,000 to this study as a source of state funding for the project. At a meeting in early August organizational meeting updates

were provided from the Inventory, Policy and Technology committees. I have been tracking the progress of each committee on weekly conference calls and will continue to report on developments.

PricewaterhouseCoopers is the consultant on this project and they have retained Eric Kingsley as their Maine expert on regional issues. Members can participate more actively in the project by contacting Patrick Strauch or by visiting [www.atlanticabioenergy.com](http://www.atlanticabioenergy.com).

This task force is sure to produce much needed new information on markets for forest products in their report.

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### Wildlife in the Forest. . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

agencies for this approach but they (and we) also need to deal with the everyday realities of public groups and legislative demands.

If members have specific questions or comments regarding wildlife issues, feel free to contact wildlife committee chair, Barry Burgason ([b.burgason@huber.com](mailto:b.burgason@huber.com)) or Patrick Strauch

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## Forest Energy Task Group Reconvenes

About thirty people gathered at the Maine Forest Products Council office on July 29<sup>th</sup> to attend the second meeting of the Forest Energy Task Group. The group met to discuss the present concerns of energy consumers and to hear a presentation on a white paper by Eric Kingsley of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC. The event was co-sponsored by the Maine Forest Products Council and the Forest Resources Association. Patrick Strauch, along with Joel Swanton of FRA helped to facilitate the discussion.

Kingsley's presentation, "The ways that forest derived energy impacts individual sectors of the forest industry", included a synopsis of issues surrounding energy policy in Maine. This presentation is available to members upon request.

Kingsley's presentation sparked a lot of discussion. Attendees discussed transmission possibilities, biomass, wind, hydro, and wood energy sources. Perhaps the most interesting discussion revolved around Kingsley's analysis that the industry is now facing a "perfect storm" for wood prices. High diesel costs, round wood diversion into firewood, dramatic drops in home building, and increased biomass are all factors leading into this "perfect storm". As a result of the discussion that took place, staff will prepare a policy platform document for review by the group at their next meeting in October, prior to the legislative session. The purpose of the policy document is to have a proactive tool in the Legislature that identifies the needs of our members in an attempt to influence public energy policy.

For more information, please contact Patrick Strauch or James Cote.

## Maine Forest Legacy PAC- Back in Action!

The Maine Forest Products Council is pleased to announce that we will again this year be supporting pro-forest industry candidates for the Legislature through our political action committee, The Maine Forest Legacy PAC.

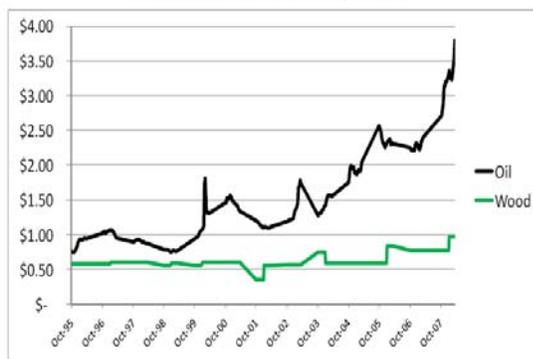
While the upcoming legislative session looks to be one of significant importance to Maine's forest-products industry, we are optimistic that the combination of James Cote's focus on membership communications, Patrick and Michele Maclean's full time lobbying efforts, and a successful political action committee will lead us to a new level of prominence in the Legislature.

The endorsements that we made, and the relationships we have established since the 2006 elections have helped us better serve the interests of the membership. The Maine Forest Legacy PAC is an important tool for us if we wish to continue to be effective in the Augusta, but it cannot exist without your financial help.

We in the forest products industry know the issues-high-energy costs, a cumbersome regulatory environment, high taxes, land rights and the list goes on. We need to make sure that those who are elected to serve us this November realize that the fate of many member companies lies in their hands and in the decisions they make. Any contribution you make to The Maine Forest Legacy PAC be used in support of legislative candidates who support our industry and who will work to preserve and enhance our business opportunities. In 2004 we established the MFL Board that assists in grading candidates and oversees endorsement decisions. Any contributor is welcomed to serve on the MFL Board and participate in the process. Please call 622-9288 for more information.

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Insert: (Figure 1 Oil and Wood Costs 1995-2007 from Eric Kingsley's report)

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#### September

- 2- MFPC Landowner Committee Meeting
- 9- Landowner-Sportsmen Relations Advisory Council
- 10-Land Use Regulation Commission Meeting, Black Bear Inn, Orono
- 17- Quality of Place Council
- 21- Annual Meeting Golf Tournament, Sunday River Golf Course
- 22- Annual Meeting, Bethel

#### October

- 1-LURC Monthly Meeting
- 1-MFPC Legislative Forum Breakfast- Four Points Sheraton, Bangor
- 2-MFPC Legislative Forum Breakfast- Kelly's Landing, Greenville
- 2-Maine Woods Coalition Annual Meeting, DKB'S Catering, Greenville
- 7-MFPC Legislative Forum Breakfast-Bluebird Ranch Family Restaurant, Machias
- 9-MFPC Legislative Forum Breakfast- Cole Farms, Gray

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