

FOREST PRODUCTS NEWS

Bonded Labor Update

By **Patrick Strauch**
MFPC Executive Director



On Wednesday June 16, members of MFPC and FRA and other stakeholders attended a summit on bonded labor issues at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. Meeting participants reviewed the new Maine legislation, the current status of the H2A program, possible solutions to the elimination of unemployment compensation for Canadian workers, and development of the Recruitment Clearinghouse. A subcommittee was appointed to move ahead with the development of the clearinghouse, under the umbrella of the FRA

Forest Employers Committee, with support from MFPC and FRA. Mike St. Peter Selected to Staff Clearinghouse.

The Recruitment Clearinghouse subcommittee has been participating in weekly conference calls to review and design the development of the clearinghouse. On Friday, June 25, the Forest Labor Committee unanimously chose Mike St. Peter, St. Peter Safety Services as the individual who would staff the Recruitment Clearinghouse. Mike has been working with MFPC to

develop a formal proposal and fee structure.

Mike's proposal begins with a retainer of \$8,200 (\$6000 startup program design and minimum billing on hourly rates, plus \$2,200 for Communications and supplies (i.e. toll free number)). Beyond the minimum retainer, the hourly rates for services are listed along with quotes for conducting two job fairs (suggested by the MEDOL) and estimates on miscellaneous travel expenses.

(Continued on page 2)

Tread Lightly!® In Maine

By Steve Salisbury

Tread Lightly! has a message that's relevant to all outdoorsmen and



women and particularly appropriate to land use discussions going on right

now in Maine. Despite the organizations 20 year history in its current form, its existence has been little known, and it's agenda all but unknown here in state. Through an energetic group of volunteers, Tread Lightly's originally public land focused message is being heard here in mostly privately-owned Maine. Tread Lightly! was started in 1985 as a program within the US Forest Service as a way to encourage off highway vehicle (OHV) users to conduct themselves on National Forests in a way
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Mike has been very flexible in designing a proposal that will meet the unpredictable demands of a new venture. Mike's reputation and association with the CLP program and Maine TREE Foundation are strong credentials to bring to the program. He is clearly able to help contractors find qualified US workers.

Although funding for this activity needs to ultimately be paid by the contractors using the service and subscriptions by landowners for updated qualified contractor lists, the variability of the participation and unknowns about work load make estimating costs difficult. Between the contractor, landowner and mill community we will need to fund fixed startup costs and rely on Mike's flexibility to charge hourly rates should the workload exceed the base retainer. A funding plan was reviewed by the Clearing House Committee and is included in the attached Recruitment Clearing House Funding Model. Proposed is a \$9-10,000 start-up grant (program development, initial processing, job fairs) to be funded by affected landowners and mills; an annual \$150 contractor fee and a \$50.00 per bond application fee are the responsibility of the contractors along with any time billed beyond the retainer at the posted rates; an annual \$250 landowner subscription fee for landowners and mills to review the qualified contractor list and avoid \$50,000 penalties. Funding for the startup grant will be presented in a letter to the mills and landowners and included in the donation request for legal fees incurred beyond the budgeted amounts. Contractors applying for bonds should anticipate the fees listed in the schedule. Landowners and mills interested in subscribing to the updated list of approved H2B contractors will receive an announcement of the services once the Clearing House is up and running. Start up of the CH is tentatively planned for August 1, 2010, in the interim testing and design of the program will be in process.

Draft Rules for LD 1545 Available for Review

On July 9, the Maine Department of Labor published draft emergency rules for LD 1545, An Act to Protect Maine Workers. The statute and rules took effect on 7/12/10. These are emergency rules and not subject to the usual public hearing/notice/comment processes. MEDOL does, however, want to continue to seek input from as many as possible. While they are emergency rules, they are major, substantive rules, which will be subject to review by the Labor Committee of the 125th Maine Legislature which will convene late this year. Stakeholders are asked to review the rules and share your comments with Joel Swanton, jswan93426@aol.com or Patrick Strauch, pstrauch@maineforest.org as soon as possible. We will summarize and forward comments to MEDOL.

Updates from the Field

During the recruitment process to date there has been very limited interest from US workers in the posted jobs. Currently there are 13 contractors applying for 52 bonds (last year there were 35 contractors applying for 186

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The Maine Forest Products Council is a proud supporter of:



Bonded Labor .. *(Cont. from page 2)*

bonds.) Word in the field is that qualified labor in some areas is in short supply, affecting wood production.

Please contact Patrick or James for more information.



Tread Lightly... *(Cont. from page 1)*

that minimizes trail, and more importantly off-trail, damage. Since then, it's become a government and industry sponsored nonprofit whose message and campaigns have broadened to target all recreationists on both land and water. In 2009 alone the Tread Lightly! message reached 30,000 outdoorsmen and women face to face and 10 million readers in the sporting and popular press nationally.

A June 16th press release notes "Tread Lightly! is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship. Tread Lightly! is the nation's signature ethics message for all outdoor recreationists- especially those using motorized vehicles. The organization also offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them." It went on to announce a formal partnership between Tread Lightly! and the Boy Scouts of America. The partnership will start with pilot programs for personal watercraft, ATV's and shooting sports and include the addition of Tread Lightly! training in the curriculum

for adult Scout leaders. On the ground, Tread Lightly's message is translated into its five TREAD principles; Travel responsibly, Respect the landowner, Educate yourself, Avoid sensitive areas and Do your part. Those principles are easily applied to all manner of outdoor recreation on both public and private land. Tread Lightly! currently offers 'Quick Tip' brochures on 18 outdoor activities including ATV's, camping, fishing, four-wheel drives, geo-caching, hunting, mountain biking, off road motorcycling, personal watercraft, snowmobiling and trail sharing. One of the organizations current campaigns, Respected Access is Open Access (graphic), is perfectly suited to debates on the future of Maine's unique open access tradition. In the recent past that program has targeted the shooting sports. It is currently

being redirected to OHV's. The goal of those promoting Tread Lightly! in Maine is education, primarily to increase awareness among everyone who enjoys the Maine outdoors that no matter how we recreate or who owns the land where we do it, we'd better do so responsibly or risk losing access. As a grass roots organization, that's being done through Tread Lightly's volunteer Tread Trainer program, and media exposure wherever possible. Prior to June 2009 there was a single Tread Lightly! trained trail advocate in Maine. After two Tread Trainer classes conducted by Mainers this year, there are now 26. After eight hours of training, Tread Trainers are expected to help spread the Tread

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Tread Lightly. (Cont. from page 3)

Lightly! message, both formally at organized events and opportunistically while enjoying their own pastimes. Those two classes not only began building a base of volunteers, but also resulted in articles in newspapers and sporting journals statewide and TV coverage in the Bangor and Portland markets. Maine's Tread Trainers include a mountain bike outfitter, ATV and 4 wheel drive club officers, a Professional Maine Guide, an economic development professional, business people in the off road industry and the Maine DOC/IF&W Director of Landowner Relations, Bob Duplessie. Ideally, greater familiarity with Tread Lightly! Principles will encourage multiple use discussions among recreation groups that have viewed each other skeptically at best, impressing upon them that they have more in common than they might readily admit. At a minimum, all want to maintain access for their activity. Unfortunately, that sometimes means broadly painting other user groups as "the problem" instead of promoting appropriate access and working cooperatively. No matter what activity someone takes part in outdoors, they have the potential to leave the landowner or manager dismayed or angry. Either can result in an all-inclusive land closure through which everyone, in some cases even the landowner, loses.

Two Maine projects are underway now to maintain the momentum described above. The first is another Tread Trainer class and the second a Maine focused Tread Lightly! DVD. The Tread Trainer class is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th, tentatively in the Farmington/Skowhegan area. Registration is limited to 25 on a first-come, first-served basis. The DVD will be both educational and entertaining in keeping with one Fieldstone staffers were deeply involved in for the State of Wyoming. It will focus on multiple uses on private land to match on-the-ground realities in Maine. A 2011 production schedule and release are planned.

For more information on the upcoming Tread Trainer class, the DVD project or Tread Lightly! in general, you can contact me at ssalisburyk@hotmai.com or 841-8434. For detailed information on the DVD, contact Kyle or Stephanie at Fieldstone Media at 888-674-9577 or info@fieldstonemedia.com. Finally, you can get the Tread Lightly! story directly from the source at www.treadlightly.org.

The author holds degrees in forest management and business from the University of Maine. He has worked in both the forest products and power sports industries. A lifelong trail hound and Tread Lightly! Master Tread Trainer, he's (been asked to be) a member of Governor Baldacci's Working Group to Consider Laws Regarding ATV Use on Private Property.



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A Note from Bob Duplessie, Maine Director of Recreational Access and Landowner Relations:

Dear Landowner,

The Maine Landowner Relations Program is organizing a regional Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day in September where volunteers from local snowmobile, ATV, sporting, and other groups will spend a few hours collecting trash and other disposed items on designated private land. This is the first year of what we are hoping to expand into an annual event, with intentions of preserving the unique relationship Maine landowners have historically held with recreational users throughout the state. The areas of focus for the first event on September 25th will be in Oxford, Kennebec, York, Penobscot, Somerset and Aroostook counties, where there are a few known problem areas.

We appreciate the opportunities allowed on private lands for various recreational activities such as snowmobiling, four-wheeling, hunting and fishing. This tradition of access to private property for recreation is unique to the State of Maine and we thank you for that tradition. The cleanup day is a way to show appreciation for the use of your land.

We are very concerned about the issue of trash dumping on private land. We are motivated to address this problem on a regional and even state level, and therefore we are experimenting with a regional approach to get more people involved and promote higher awareness of this issue.

The planning committee for this event includes representation from the Maine Departments of Conservation, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and State Planning Office, The Nature Conservancy, Central Maine Power Company, Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine. This project is in cooperation with the Landowner / Sportsmen's Relations Advisory Board. A small grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund will assist with the costs of materials, supplies and equipment needed, and possibly the disposal costs at landfills.

If you would like your land to be included in the cleanup project, please contact Bob Duplessie at 557-9924 or email: robert.duplessie@maine.gov. Our ability to clean up your property will depend on the number of volunteers available.

We appreciate your consideration for this effort and look forward to hearing from you.



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MFPC July Golf Tournament

On behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council we would like to thank all who participated in this years' Annual Summer Golf Tournament. We drew a crowd of 128 golfers and had over 51 sponsors to help make this



the most successful golf tournament ever. Sponsors deserve an enormous amount of thanks for providing equipment showings, hole sponsorships, banner, banquet and prizes sponsorships. The sponsors are listed on the next page.

The Council staff would especially like to extend special thanks to Brian Flewelling of Key Bank and Don White of Prentiss & Carlisle for helping Sue McCarthy with all the planning of the tournament. Also a special thanks goes to Dwain Allen and Kelly Cotiaux for supervising the hole and one contest for the golfers attempt at winning the 2009 GMC Sierra 4WD.



Thanks to Brian Enman from the Bangor Municipal Golf Course for letting us play on a well groomed course



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and also to Tina Murdy for the great food at the reception that was put on by the Fairways Grille. Trophies, money and golf balls were passed out the tournament winners.



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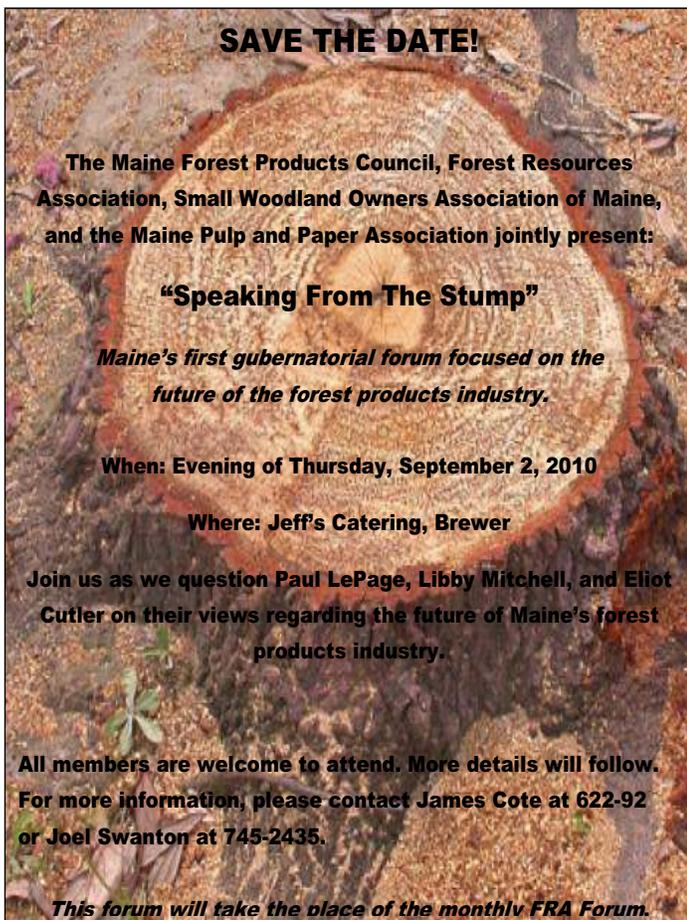
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SAVE THE DATE!

The Maine Forest Products Council, Forest Resources Association, Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine, and the Maine Pulp and Paper Association jointly present:

“Speaking From The Stump”

Maine’s first gubernatorial forum focused on the future of the forest products industry.

When: Evening of Thursday, September 2, 2010

Where: Jeff’s Catering, Brewer

Join us as we question Paul LePage, Libby Mitchell, and Eliot Cutler on their views regarding the future of Maine’s forest products industry.

All members are welcome to attend. More details will follow. For more information, please contact James Cote at 622-92 or Joel Swanton at 745-2435.

This forum will take the place of the monthly FRA Forum.

revise current biomass energy regulations. The Maine Forest Products Council and the Maine Renewable Energy Association are teaming up to produce a collective response on behalf of biomass energy producers and the forest products industry. This response will be available in coming days and will be sent to Commissioner Giudice of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

For more information on this issue, please contact James Cote or Patrick Strauch. A copy of the industry’s joint response with MREA will be posted on our website in coming days, and to read the actual Manomet report, you can visit www.manomet.org/node/322.

MFPC to Assist with Tread Lightly! Video Project

The Maine Forest Products Council is teaming up with Tread Lightly’s! Steve Salisbury of Friend and Friend Motorsports and FieldStone Media to produce an educational landowner relations video. As you will see in this edition of the newsletter, Tread Lightly! is an organization focused on the responsible use of land when it comes to recreational pursuits. Because Tread Lightly! began as an organization focused on the use of public land in the western United States, Tread Lightly! has asked the Maine Forest Products Council to help create specific messaging and develop content about the use of private land in Maine. Details are still being ironed out, but the video will be produced primarily with grant funding. As the video and production process begin to take shape we will continue to inform members about how they can participate. If you have any questions, please contact James Cote.

MFPC Visits Old Town, Lincoln, and Domtar

Patrick and James continue to travel around the state to visit various members, prospective members, and other affiliated industry members. During July, Patrick and James visited the Old Town, Lincoln, and Domtar mills and had great visits discussing issues facing the industry. If you have someone in mind who you think MFPC should talk with about prospective membership, you are encouraged to contact the MFPC office at 622-9288. Patrick and James would be pleased to schedule a visit.

Gunn of Manomet Discusses Recent Biomass Report with MFPC

On Friday, July 16, Dr. John Gunn, Senior Program Leader of the Natural Capital Initiative at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences joined members of the Maine Forest Products Council for a discussion about their recent biomass sustainability report, which has generated a tremendous amount of concern among the forest products and renewable energy industry’s here in Maine. The concern has been born from tremendous oversimplification of Manomet’s findings by environmental organizations and the press, many leading to policy assumptions or headlines that read “wood worse than coal”. Assumptions and perception such as this can have severe policy implications that will affect Maine’s forest products industry due to the energy relationship with Massachusetts and RGGI.

The report was commissioned by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and will be used to

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If you do not want to take a basket or give a donation of money, any item that you have and would like to donate to this auction is welcome. The auction committee would like to thank you in advance of your support – it is greatly appreciated and could not be done with out you!