

FOREST PRODUCTS NEWS

2011 Annual Meeting

**By Patrick Strauch
Executive Director**



On September 11th and 12th the members of the Maine Forest Products Council gathered for their annual meeting at Saddleback Mountain in Rangeley, Maine. This year's meeting featured guest speakers including Department of Conservation Commissioner Beardsley, and Dave Tenny of the National Alliance of Forest Owners. The Meeting also

recognized individuals and groups who have excelled at working in and promot-

ing the forest industry.

The two day event began with a golf tournament at Mingo Springs for some friendly competition between MFPC members and guests. The tournament was followed by a reception at the Saddleback Ski Lodge where awards were presented to the winners of the golf tourna-



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Remembering Steve Carl Coleman

By Patrick Strauch



I first met Steve Coleman when I was an impressionable freshman at the University of Maine in 1976 and joined the Woodsmen's Team. I was thrown into a cast of characters with blue shirts and red suspenders that epitomized youthful adventure and a calling for the woods. Steve was the Captain of "A" Team and his Vermont accent, west coast logging boots and stride to match, and his woodsmen's skills made me feel like I was joining a group of authentic individuals. It was fun and Steve was a great coach.

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ment. Members then enjoyed a social hour followed by a BBQ dinner allowing them an opportunity to



Gross Team Winners

John Gray, Rich Smith, Jason Brochu and Chris Brochu

catch up with each other on events of the past year.

The following morning the group reconvened bright and early for a hearty breakfast before gathering for a full days agenda. The annual membership meeting was called to order and MFPC president Don White welcomed membership from around Maine and Canada. Members were then nominated for the board of directors and all were accepted by the group as a whole. The board of directors meeting began next and with the election of officers, executive committee, and board of advisors. Treasurer John Gray then presented the budget report, President Don White guided the group through committee reports, Executive



Net Golf Team Winners

Kenny Fergusson, Scott Morrison, David Stearns and Bob Libby

Director Patrick Strauch reviewed the legislative agenda and Communications Director Jon Metrick discussed new and ongoing projects.

One of the most notable events during the meeting was a motion by Jim Robbins of Robbins Lumber to oppose the National Park initiative being pushed by landowner Roxanne Quimby. Members voted almost unanimously, with one abstention, to oppose an effort to turn any land over to the federal government for any purpose, be it a national park or national forest.



Dave Tenny

Dave Tenny of the National Alliance of Forest Owners then gave a presentation on the

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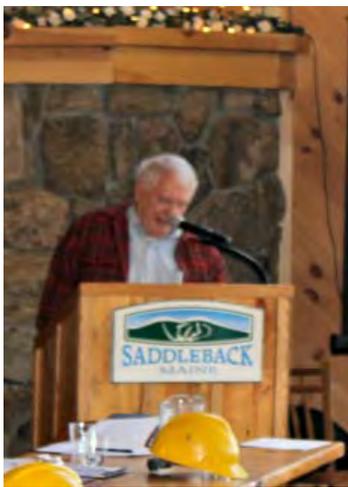
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Annual Meeting (Cont. from page 1)

threat to the forest industry by a recent 9th circuit court ruling that would require new highly restrictive EPA permitting of private forest logging roads. Members were educated on the difference between point and non-point sources of pollution as designated by the Clean Water Act. Efforts being taken by a national coalition of industry associations, including congressional legislation and a Supreme Court challenge, were presented and members voiced support to aid in achieving a practical solution.



Commissioner Bill Beardsley

Commissioner Bill Beardsley of the Dept. of Conservation gave an inspiring speech to membership in which he described new prerogatives for the state to work with the forest industry to achieve common sense solutions to a wide array of issues.

Member response was overwhelmingly positive as it became clear that the DOC will now be a partner and not a roadblock to economic growth in the forest industry.

Following the adjournment of the meeting members enjoyed a box lunch while heading to



Stratton Lumber for a tour of the mill. Members split into groups to see the entire milling process from wood procurement to finishing and shipping.



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Stewardship For Your Timberland Investment

Annual Meeting.....(Cont. from page 3)

The next stop on the trip was the Boralex Stratton Energy Facility where members were educated on the use of biomass and its importance to providing a carbon neutral energy sources to power mills throughout the state.

Members reconvened later in the evening for the annual auction and awards dinner. Another successful auction was hosted by the animated veteran auctioneer Steve Coleman. As members enjoyed delicious blueberry deserts the awards ceremony commenced with several presenters honoring some of the more outstanding contributors to the forest products industry.



Maine’s Outstanding Logger Award - Brian Bouchard of Comstock Woodlands. In recognition of exemplary performance on the ground and a commitment to meeting the management objectives of multiple land-owners, through innovation, sound business management and the ability to adapt to and embrace change in one of the most challenging regions of Maine.

Mark Doty and Ted Shina

Maine’s Outstanding Forester Award

Ted Shina – Huber Resources. For his 35 years of exemplary service as a self-described “dirt forester” and his leadership



through active participation in multiple forestry organizations for the greater benefit of Maine’s forest products industry.

This years award winners were as follows:

Ralph Ouellette, Brian Bouchard, Kevin Dow and Don White



Maine’s Outstanding Trucker Award - John McKenney - McKenney Trucking provided outstanding trucking services for landowners, land managers and logging contractors, during unprecedented challenging times.

Scott Barnes and John McKenney



Outstanding Manufacturer -
 Charles Lumbert -
 Moose River Lumber Co.
 For outstanding achievements in manufacturing innovation, safety, utilization, community involvement and environmental stewardship.

Mark Doty and Charles Lumbert

Nancy Chadbourne, Robert Chadbourne, David Stearns and Nancy Stearns



Albert D. Nutting Award - Bob Chadbourne....Bob was presented a placque made from the black locust tree that was cut down on Al Nuttings homestead in Otisfield. The Maine Forest Products Council established the Albert D. Nutting Award in 1990, to commemorate the many contributions to Maine Forestry that Al Nutting

was instrumental in creating. He was, of course, the Director of the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine, Maine Commissioner of Forestry, and, incidentally, one of the Founders of the Maine Forest Products Council. This award has been presented annually since 1990, to a remarkable group of individuals, each one of them truly unique, but with a common commitment to Maine and it's forest industry. Bob was presented this award for his leadership, integrity and commitment as a strong voice for the forest products industry, stewardship by growing high quality pine trees, and advocacy in championing landowner rights.

An advertisement for BerryDunn. At the top right is the BerryDunn logo. Below it, the text reads: "Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker is now BerryDunn". Further down, a short paragraph describes their services as CFAs and consultants. The central image shows a black leather riding boot on top of a silver motorcycle. Large white text across the motorcycle reads "ROLL WITH CONFIDENCE". At the bottom, a tagline states: "BerryDunn. Expertise, good judgment, personalized service, spirited personalities, and community service — all rolled into one great new name." A red banner at the very bottom contains the text: "Learn more. Visit us at berrydunn.com or call 800-432-7262".

Annual Meeting(Cont. from page 5)



Patrick Strauch Carol Woodcock and Don White

Abby Holman Public Service Award - Carol Woodcock - Sen. Collins State Office Representative. The Abby Holman Public Service Award is an annual award given to an individual (or individuals) in recognition of outstanding public service on behalf of Maine’s forest products industry. The criterion for this award is simple. The recipients must demonstrate a level of passion, loyalty, and dedication to Maine’s forest products industry, to good government, and a robust economy much the same way that our former Executive Director and friend Abigail “Abby” Holman did. Carol received this award for her outstanding public service and tireless efforts advocating for landowners, contractors, and manufacturers in the forest products industry.

A Special thank you to all our members and sponsors for making this another successful Maine Forest Products Council Annual Event and we look forward to seeing you next year!

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Governor LePage and Jim Robbins

Jim Robbins Honored with Austin Wilkins Award

Fourth generation lumber mill owner and Maine icon Jim Robbins was awarded the Austin Wilkins Award for Stewardship by Governor LePage on August eighth. Jim's family has been operating Robbins Lumber in Searsmont since 1881 when his great grandfather began milling eastern white pine. Since then the mill has been in continuous operation providing quality board lumber as well as other unique value added products ranging from old fashion ice cream buckets to children's toys and board games. The Searsmont mill currently employs around 110 workers, some of which are second and third generation; a testament to the values of the Robbins family.

The Robbins family have been pioneers in establishing the conservation easement model of forest stewardship. This model has allowed for the sustainable growth of the eastern white pine that has been the hallmark of Robbins Lumber; success. Jim's family has consistently set the highest of standards and we wish them continued success for generations to come.

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MFPC Calendar

Oct. 13 9am-12pm Exec. Committee
 Oct. 24-25 (see MFPC website for more details)
 Legislative Woods Tour

Lure Reform Committee Meetings

10 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, Town Offices, Solon;
 Public Listening Sessions, 2:30-4 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.

- 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, Maine Department of Conservation Field Office, Ashland; Public Listening Sessions, 2:30-4 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.;
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, Washington County Community College, Calais; Public Listening Session, 2:30-4 p.m.;
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, venue to be announced, Greenville;
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1, venue and location to be announced.

Roxanne Quimby Meeting

On August eighth the MFPC Executive Committee hosted a meeting with Roxanne Quimby and Representatives from the J. W. Sewall Company. The meeting was requested by Ms. Quimby following an editorial by Executive Director Patrick Strauch in the Bangor Daily News which detailed MFPC opposition to the creation of a national Park in Maine's north woods.

Ms. Quimby described her desire to create a 70,000 acre national park east of Baxter State Park with the hopes of preserving a sizeable plot of forest for increased tourism. Her plan is to use the national park brand to offer increased economic diversity to the region. She also noted that she would be willing to procure an additional 70,000 acres to experiment with intensive silviculture in order to supplement the loss of the national park land from the working forests.

The executive committee voiced serious concerns with this model while highlighting the traditional multiple use relationship between landowners and the public. Concerns about the proposal center on the federal governments poor land management practices. It is the council's position that these practices make timber harvesting impossible on federal land due to excessive environmental litigation while increasing the risk of fire, insect infestation, and disease.

Another issue of great concern is the "creep" effect that takes place on private lands surrounding national parks. This "creep" creates a zone around national parks where development and economic activity such as timber harvesting become restricted because of their perceived negative environmental and aesthetic effects. The land almost becomes an unofficial part of the park and the landowner has little recourse as it takes an act of congress to establish and change park boundaries.

Access to the north woods has been a longstanding tradition here in Maine the MFPC sees no benefit to the national park model. It represents a threat to Maine's working woods and we will continue to voice our opposition as the debate evolves.

Adopt A Legislator Program Connects MFPC Members and Legislators

The MFPC's newly launched adopt a legislator program has begun with several legislators touring members businesses and operations. The goal of the "adopt a legislator" program is to have MFPC members directly educating policy makers on their area of expertise. Establishing this constituent relationship is critical to promoting the interests of the forest industry in Augusta. While the forest industry is one of the leading drivers in Maine's economy, many representatives and senators have little or no knowledge of its operations.

Several legislators have met with members and we look forward to helping schedule future trips. Mark Doty has hosted Rep. Larry Dunphy on a tour of Plum Creek's operations and will be heading out to the woods again with Minority Leader Emily Cain, Assistant Minority Leader Rep. Terry Hayes, and Rep. Jeff McCabe at the end of November. Jim Robbins of Robbins Lumber has hosted Assistant Majority Leader Rep. Andre Cushing and Rep. Ryan Harmon on a tour of his mill in Searsmont. Bill Cohen of Verso Paper in Bucksport led Assistant Minority Leader Rep. Terry Hayes on a tour of their mill which Rep. Hayes indicated was extremely educational on the topics of wood supply and energy investments.

We look forward to facilitating future tours and would like to encourage members to become involved. If you would like to showcase your business please don't hesitate to contact Jon Metrick at the MFPC office.

Stephen Coleman(Cont. from page 1)

Steve was the auctioneer for many of the MFPC annual meetings. Just last month, outfitted in his vest, hat and cattle-cane, he served the Council well in entertaining guests while coaxing them out of their cash. Somehow he knew I wanted to start the bidding out at \$40 before I even had the chance to move a finger.

Recently Steve joined the Executive Committee of the Council and we worked on many issues together. He always represented his clients well and participated in the collaborative process with enthusiasm. He was concerned about the Counties having more control of LURC, but I can't help but think he was hedging his bets by running for County Commissioner!

As I look over Steve's campaign pamphlet he stated that he was "Committed to Leadership, Community and Involvement" and I'm reminded that I received the "Student Involvement Award" at UMO sponsored in-part by Steve Coleman. He believed that students who got involved and made contributions to the school community deserved recognition, and I'm sure his thoughtfulness encouraged many future community leaders.

It is so very fitting that Sarah and the boys have set up a scholarship in Steve's name. We will miss him, but I'm grateful to have had Steve as a friend and a colleague.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted towards a scholarship to benefit local students, aspiring pilots and the Jackman region in general. Please send donations to: Steve Coleman Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o SAD 12/RSU 82, 606 Main St., Jackman, ME 04945.

Voluntary Classification Settlement Program

Article from Lee Chick of BerryDunn

IRS [Announcement 2011-64](#) offers a new voluntary compliance program that allows employers to prospectively reclassify, as employees, those workers that may have erroneously been treated as independent contractors. The Program carries generous settlement terms and provides audit relief for previous years, and is open to businesses, tax-exempt organizations, and government entities. Download full document at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/a-11-64.pdf>

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- Consistently have treated the past workers as nonemployees,
- Have filed all required Forms 1099 for the workers for the previous three years,
- And not currently be under audit by the IRS, the Department of Labor, or a state agency concerning the classification of these workers.

Interested employers can apply for the Program by filing [Form 8952](#), *Application for Voluntary Classification Settlement Program*, at least 60 days before they want to begin treating the workers as employees.

Fall Legislative Tour

On October 24th and 25th the MFPC is pleased to announce we will be hosting a legislative bus tour in an effort to provide lawmakers with a greater understanding of the forest industry. Several forest industry and conservation groups will be participating to offer different perspectives and to promote the sustainable working forest model.

The tour will begin with a visit to the Pleasant River Lumber Mill in Dover-Foxcroft where the Brochu family operates one of the most modern mills in the state. The group will then head to Millinocket while SWOAM Executive Director Tom Doak discusses issues of public uses of private lands with legislators. After a brief stop for lunch the tour continues on the “Golden Road” north to view active timber harvesting on Prentiss & Carlisle managed lands to highlight the successful silvaculture practices that are the cornerstone of the sustainable forestry model.

The bus tour will conclude back in Millinocket at the modern New England Outdoor Center where our guests will enjoy a social hour and dinner at the River Driver’s Inn. After dinner, the Keeping Maine’s Forest group will host a panel discussion about the groups two year history of working to find new ways to strengthen Maine’s forest resources and economy. The group includes members of The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Maine Tree Foundation, and Sierra club to name a few. The tour will wrap up in the morning with a breakfast at the Pelletier Loggers Restaurant.

We would like to encourage our members to participate in the tour as this is a valuable opportunity to meet legislators from round the state. We can work to fit more programming into our schedule so don’t hesitate to contact Jon Metrick at the MFPC office and we’ll fit you in the agenda. We look forward to a successful tour and we’ll see you in the woods!

Download the invitation at
http://www.maineforest.org/docs/legislation_2011/Invitation-to-Fall-Tour2.pdf

Sponsors Needed: If you would like to sponsor the Fall Legislative Tour please contact Sue McCarthy at 622-9288 or email her at smccarthy@maineforest.org



Millinocket Mill to Restart in October

In a period in Maine where public perception leans toward the attitude that the forest products industry is in decline, we can applaud the efforts of those who worked diligently to secure new ownership of the mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket. The Cate Street investment firm recently purchased both mills and has given the Katahdin region new hope as it plans to reopen the mill doors to begin filling new orders for paper products and start shipping by October 30th. The Millinocket region has been suffering crippling unemployment of over 20% and the new Great Northern Paper mills will provide much needed employment opportunities. The restarting of these mills and the proposed infrastructure investments, including a new natural gas line, promise to create two hundred fifty jobs in the immediate future and as many as one thousand once both mills are fully online and the surrounding community begins to recover. The forest products industry is indeed alive and is now on track produce more paper products than ever.