

DECEMBER 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Maine Forest Products Council



Dedicated to the memory of Fred Huntress

Message from the Executive Director

PAT STRAUCH

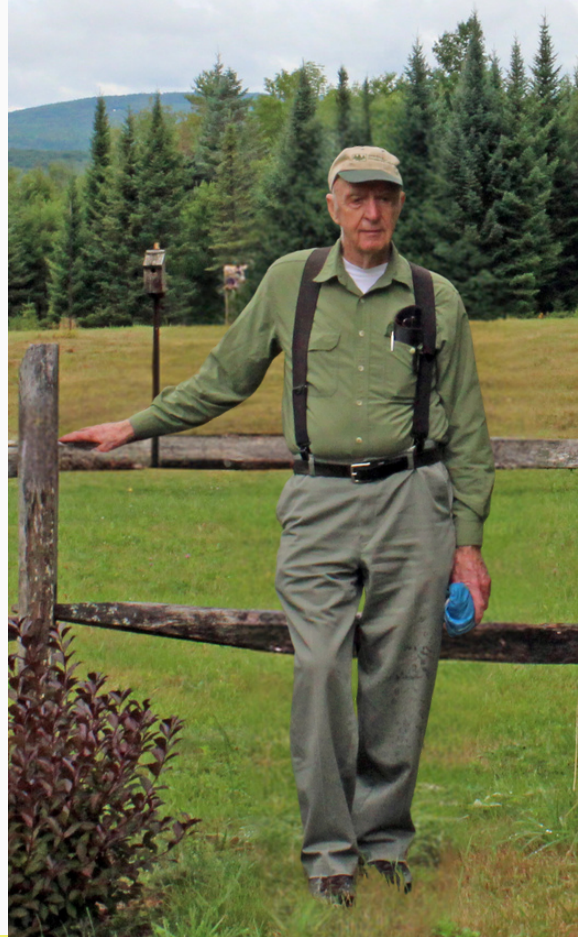
It is with great sadness that we share that, just before Thanksgiving, our good friend and longtime MFPC member Fred Huntress, passed away at the age of 90. Fred will be remembered for his many contributions to our organization, and to the industry as a whole. A licensed forester, land surveyor, real estate appraiser and real estate broker, Fred was a man of many talents, and we all benefitted tremendously from his dedication, advocacy and his knowledge.

In 2010, the Council presented Fred with our prestigious Albert D. Nutting Award. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership, integrity and a commitment to Maine's forest industry. A member of the Council for nearly six decades, Fred served as President of the Board from 1983-1985 and had the distinction of being the longest serving member of our Board of Directors.

Determined to establish his favorite tree, the white oak, across the state, Fred donated a sapling each year to the auction at our annual meeting. These saplings became a coveted item, with his final donated sapling fetching an impressive \$400 for the cause. I consider myself fortunate to have one of Fred's saplings planted at my family's farm in Exeter.

In 2015, MFPC's Roberta Scruggs interviewed Fred, and a few of his professional acquaintances, for a piece that was featured on our website.

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Executive Director message (cont.)

We have republished this article in memory of Fred and have included part of it in this newsletter to honor his memory. Fred's obituary can be found here.

Throughout my tenure at the Council, I grew accustomed to receiving in the mail (Fred was not a fan of the internet) written notes expressing his opinion on the various policy positions the Council put forward. He was an independent thinker who never compromised his beliefs in what was the right thing to do in support of good forest management. He will be missed.

Patrick

Meet our new Office Manager: Annabelle Kidson



Our most recent addition, Annabelle has moved back to the area after 10+ years in Vermont. After managing an acupuncture clinic for five years and her most recent experience as Supplier Relations Coordinator at the Vermont Wine Merchants Co., she has an array of administrative experience and we're happy to entrust the care of our office to her. Annabelle is a proud resident of Fairfield, Maine, and is currently taking

courses to hone her knowledge of finance within the Forest Industry. In her spare time, you'll most likely find her at an antique shop or historical village, trudging through backwoods, doing home projects or renovations, or in the kitchen cooking up a storm.

Annabelle can be reached at admin@maineforest.org or 207-622-9288.

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SENATOR ANGUS KING
ASKS FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO
CONSIDER MASS
TIMBER IN
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS



'ECONOMICS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE'
WRAPS THIRD AND
FINAL MEETING

Maine designated as forest bioproducts hub, awarded \$400 planning grant

This fall President Biden's administration designated Maine as one of 31 federal tech hubs as part of the Tech Hubs Program created by the CHIPS and Sciences Act. This program was created to make strategic investments that advance climate solutions and strengthen rural economies while placing American businesses on the cutting edge of modern technology. Maine, designated as the Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub, was selected from 198 applicants around the country, thanks to the work of a coalition of more than 30 public and private partners lead by the Mills administration and the Maine Technology Institute.

As Governor Mills said, "This exciting designation signifies to the world that Maine is a global leader in developing and manufacturing climate-friendly, sustainable products that create jobs and strengthen the U.S. supply chain."

This designation comes with \$500,000 in planning grant funds to be used to apply for phase two of the program, which will include five to 10 highly competitive awards of \$50-\$75 million.

Maine's tech hub will focus on research and development of wood fiber bioproducts and polymers that can be used to replace plastics and toxic chemicals while sequestering carbon and strengthening supply chain resilience.

The Maine Forest Products Council is proud to be a part of the coalition, through our leadership of FOR/Maine. With new forest industry businesses making key investments to grow and expand new markets in Maine (Tanbark, TimberHP, Standard Biocarbon, Wholetrees Structures, etc), the groundwork is being laid for further development of markets that diversify and stabilize Maine's heritage forest industry while providing sustainable solutions for some of the most pressing challenges of the day.

Executive Director Patrick Strauch looks forward to working closely with the Tech Hubs coalition to compile a compelling and competitive application for the next round of grant funds.

Maine Forest Products Council presents TimberHP with Maine Children's Alliance's 2023 Business Award



On Tuesday, November 14, Krysta West, Deputy Director of the Maine Forest Products Council, presented Maine Children's Alliance's 2023 Business Award to Sarah King on behalf of TimberHP at the annual Champions for Children Giraffe Awards Celebration at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. This award is presented annually to a business that "sticks it's neck out for children." TimberHP was nominated for this award by the Maine Forest Products Council in recognition of the company's policy to provide \$5,000 in Flexible Spending Accounts to employees in need of childcare to offset the cost for working families.

In presenting the award, Krysta West said, "Maine's forest products industry is, in many ways, evolving to keep up with the times, and TimberHP is very much a symbol of that movement. They may be brand new to our industry, but they are forward-thinking problem solvers, and their determination to succeed, and to support the community in which they operate is evident. TimberHP's generosity will make a tremendous difference in childcare affordability for their employees. This cost sharing arrangement means that it will make good financial sense for more of their employees, particularly women, to participate in the workforce if that is what's right for their families. Congratulations to TimberHP, and thanks for your work to make gainful employment attainable for families within your community."

Josh Henry, co-founder and CEO of TimberHP said, "Community is one of our company's core values. We view contributions to the care and education of our Team Members' children as a meaningful demonstration of our commitment to bettering our community and an important opportunity to support our team and their families. These initiatives undoubtedly support our ability to recruit and retain top talent."

Stephanie Eglinton, Executive Director of the Maine Children's Alliance said, "We all want children and families to thrive, and so all of us have to work together toward that vision. TimberHP is a leader in figuring out a way for employers to address the challenge of childcare for their employees. We deeply appreciate their work to support the families of their employees, which has a positive ripple effect across the community, and sets an example we are hopeful other businesses can take up to support more working families across our state."



Maine Climate Council begins work on 2024 report

In 2019, the Maine Forest Products Council had the important opportunity to serve as the voice of the forest products industry on Governor Janet Mills' Maine Climate Council. As a result, the 2020 plan, Maine Won't Wait, recognized the importance of Maine's privately-owned forest resources in combatting climate change. For example, Strategy B, goal number four is to advance the design and promotion of climate-friendly building products, including mass timber and wood fiber insulation. The report also highlights the use of modern high-efficiency wood heat as a renewable, Maine-grown heat source to replace oil and propane systems.

Embedded throughout the report are examples of the importance of developing and enhancing Maine's forest bioeconomy to store carbon and offset emissions, as well as replace carbon intensive petroleum-based products. The report looks to our industry with optimism, with an eye to the future as we all work to meet the challenges of today and the demands of tomorrow.

Four years later, Patrick has been reappointed to the Climate Council and is again engaged as they work to prepare the next report, which is due in 2024. As laid out in the recent progress report, our industry has made some encouraging progress since the initial 2020 report:

- \$20 million in funds have been awarded from the Forestry Recovery Initiative to support Maine's forest products industry with the development of climate-friendly building materials.
- The 130th Legislature established the Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Program, which directs the PUC to procure renewable energy from high efficiency CHP projects. This year, the 131st Legislature adjusted the program to broaden eligibility.
- On July 25, TimberHP in Madison launched its first wood fiber construction insulation production line, becoming the first facility to produce this innovative product in North America.
- In October, the Biden Administration designated Maine's Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub as one of 31 federal "Tech Hubs." This designation will accelerate R&D of natural polymers and other wood fiber bioproducts that are climate friendly, and it qualifies Maine to compete for an additional \$50-\$75 million in federal funding.
- Clean Maine Carbon launched a biochar manufacturing plant in Greenville.
- Tanbark launched production of a molded fiber packaging product in Saco that is 100 percent compostable.

The Maine Forest Products Council is thankful to the Mills administration for allowing us a seat at the table again for the formulation of the 2024 report, and we look forward to working collaboratively with public and private partners to further promote the sustainable utilization of our forests.



DEP to begin formal rulemaking process for the Stewardship Program for Packaging

On December 21, 2023, the Department will present the draft rules to the Board of Environmental Protection, commencing the formal rulemaking process. The Department will not be communicating directly with stakeholders via GovDelivery notifications during the formal rulemaking process, but rather will publish updates and important dates on the [Department's rulemaking website](#). To receive notifications relating to the formal rulemaking process for Maine's Stewardship Program for Packaging, you must sign up using this [link](#).

The Department would like to express their appreciation to everyone who has participated in the implementation process of Maine's Stewardship Program for Packaging thus far. Department staff will still be available to answer questions via the MainePackagingEPR@maine.gov email address.

AF&PA and MFPC's public comments on the EPR conceptual draft can be found [here](#), and on the Regulatory Calendar on our website.

From the archives: Fred Huntress

When Fred Huntress looks back on his much-younger self, he just has to laugh. "When I was in high school I wouldn't even talk on the phone," he says. "Gosh, it took me a long time to get out of that shell. Now you can't stop me from talking."

Why would anyone want to stop him? At 82, Huntress has seen much and learned more. He cares deeply, but pulls no punches. You can read his character in his straight back, square shoulders, bright eyes and half-skeptical smile. Compare a photo decades old with one taken yesterday and he's hardly changed.

"There is no guile, there is no ruse," says Ted Johnstone, former executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council. "What you see is what you get. Fred is a very upfront, genuine and honest person – to a fault."

Huntress sometimes complains age has affected his memory, but in truth he's forgotten little, especially where Maine's forests are concerned. His interests are wide-ranging and his home office in Poland is crammed with books, newsletters, magazines, reports and information of every kind. It's easy to believe him when he says he never throws out a thing. When he talks about Maine's forest economy, his memories are so vivid you feel you were there with him, watching its evolution for more than six decades.

View the full article on the MFPC website at maineforest.org/2015/12/14/fred-huntress.

Second Regular Session

Carry Overs		
Bill	Title	Testimony
Appropriations		
<u>LD 416 (SP 197)</u>	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization	<u>click here</u>
<u>LD 460 (SP 214)</u>	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine System	<u>click here</u>
ACF		
<u>LD 993 (HP 628)</u>	An Act To Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy In Maine	<u>click here</u>
<u>LD 1985 (SP 814)</u>	An Act to Authorize Removal of Requirements of Forest Certification Systems from the State's Forest Management Plans	
EUT		
<u>LD 122 (SP 61)</u>	An Act To Authorize The Efficiency Maine Trust To Establish A Program To Support The Uptake Of Medium-duty And Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles By Maine Businesses And To Establish A Medium-duty And Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project	<u>click here</u>
<u>LD 1111 (HP 707)</u>	An Act Concerning Contracts And Agreement For Large-scale Water Extraction	<u>click here</u>
ENR		
<u>LD 928 (HP 575)</u>	Resolution, Proposing An Amendment To The Constitution Of Maine To Establish A Right To A Clean And Healthy Environment	<u>click here</u>

Carry overs (cont.)

LD 1471 (SP 590)	An Act To Amend Provisions Of The Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act	click here
LD 1621 (HP 1046)	An Act Regarding Environmental Justice	click here
JUD		
LD 2007	An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations	
LAH		
LD 949 (HP 596)	An Act To Protect Workers From Employer Surveillance	click here
LD 1190 (SP 486)	An Act To Ensure A Fair Workweek By Requiring Notice Of Work Schedules	click here
LD 1794 (SP 719)	An Act To Enhance The Predictability Of Mandated Overtime For Pulp Or Paper Manufacturing Facility Employees	click here
TAX		
LD 191 (SP 95)	An Act To Amend The Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits	click here
LD 1222 (SP 503)	An Act To Expand Child Care Services Through An Employer-supported Tax Credit	click here
LD 1337 (HP 851)	An Act To Require A Corporation That Files A Tax Return In The State To File A Tax Disclosure Statement	
LD 1475 (SP 595)	An Act To Promote Biomanufacturing And Biotechnology Development By Establishing A Tax Credit	click here
LD 1648 (HP 1060)	An Act to Make Changes to the Farm and Open Space Tax Law	click here
LD 1685 (HP 1084)	An Act To Increase Acreage Eligibility And Change Requirements For Filing Plans Under The Maine Tree Growth Tax Law	click here

New Bill Titles		
Bill	Title	Sponsor
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry		
LR 2660	An Act To Address Identified Gaps in the Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural Resources Protection Act	Department bill
LR 2661	An Act To Clarify Disclosure of Wood Processing Data	Department bill
LR 2943	An Act To Strengthen Maine's Rep. Talbot Ross Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment	
Criminal Justice and Public Safety		
LR 2773	An Act to Reinstate State Police Rural Patrol Services	Sen. Timberlake
Education and Cultural Affairs		
LR 2758	An Act To Update the Statutes Regarding Education in the Unorganized Territory	Department bill
Energy, Utilities and Technology		
LR 2668	An Act To Clarify Liability Under the Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site Law	Department bill
LR 2893	An Act Regarding the Ratepayer Costs and Environmental Effects of Natural Gas	OPA bill
LR 2895	An Act To Clarify the Right to Appeal Certain Public Utilities Commission Decisions	Department bill
LR 2609	An Act To Protect Property Owners Sen. Curry by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	

New Bill Titles (cont.)

LR 2662	An Act Regarding Compliance with Environmental Permit Application Requirements	Department bill
LR 2665	An Act To Streamline Permitting Under the Natural Resources Protection Act	Department bill
Health and Human Services		
LR 2825	An Act To Ensure Sustainable Reimbursement for Child Care Providers and to Support the Expansion of Child Care Services	Sen. Troy Jackson
Labor and Housing		
LR 2617	An Act To Enact a Farm Worker Bill of Rights	Rep. Talbot Ross
LR 2752	An Act To Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	Sen. Daughtry
Taxation		
LR 2848	An Act To Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law	Rep. Terry

Regulatory Calendar

Issue/project	Agency	Website	Comment period deadline
Chapter 526: Cooling Water Intake Structures	Maine DEP	click here	December 14 at 5:00 pm
Canada lynx recovery plan	US FWS	click here	January 30, 2024
PFML	Maine DOL	click here	TBD

Maine Forest Service Launches Adaptive BMP Cooperative (ABC)

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Forest Service is pleased to announce the launch of a new statewide education program, the Adaptive BMP Cooperative (ABC), designed for all those involved in Maine's forest products industry. ABC will make it easier for forestry and logging professionals to find recognized, quality BMP training programs and identify professionals who have participated in those training programs.

ABC endorses forestry training programs that integrate specific adult education principles and practices and meet strict training quality criteria. The program is guided by an advisory panel that includes logging contractors, professional foresters, forest products companies, non-profit organizations, and state agencies.

ABC is currently endorsing trainings on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry. BMPs are voluntary, recommended measures and procedures applied in timber harvesting operations that, when used appropriately, protect water quality and related resources.

For more information, go to maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/abc/index.html.

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