

## MFPC Pursues Waldo-Hancock Bridge Weight Increase



In response to an MFPC request for action, a group of five independent engineers working with the Maine Department of Transportation on the Waldo-Hancock Bridge has offered a favorable recommendation on the possibility of allowing 100,000 lbs trucks back onto the bridge. The group's recommendation came after it had commissioned an inspection of the underside of the bridge which revealed that no rivets had failed since the overhaul of the bridge 18 months ago. That, coupled with the perfect success of the new cables over the same time period, offered the committee the necessary level of comfort to make its recom-

mendation. The one remaining issue from the committee's perspective is the repair of the bridge deck, which could occur in the next couple of weeks.

For the past 18 months, trucks hauling forest products and related cargo have been unable to cross the bridge with more than 80,000 lbs GVW, down from a previously legal weight of 100,000 lbs GVW.

Since learning of the findings, MFPC has been working with trucking and mill members and DOT to develop a plan of action that would ensure adherence to the 100,000 lb limit should trucks again be allowed to cross  
*(Continued on page 3)*

### Maine Forest Products Council Condemns Attacks

The Maine Forest Products Council recently released a statement condemning a series of attacks on Plum Creek Timber Company and the homes of some of its employees.

"This type of politically inspired violence is absolutely unacceptable," MFPC Executive Director Patrick Strauch said in a statement.

At the beginning of November, vandals attacked the homes of two Plum Creek employees, breaking their home windows and defacing their houses with paint, feces, and animal guts. The attack was only the latest in a string of incidents that have taken place since Plum Creek proposed a long-term land use plan for their ownership around Moosehead Lake.

In July, vandals defaced Plum Creek's Fairfield office in July, and someone reportedly broke into the company's Greenville office a month later.

"Apparently, some people think attacking property and threatening people in their own houses is a legitimate means of expressing an opinion," Strauch continued. "But I think all responsible Maine people should condemn these acts in the strongest terms."

Echoing Strauch's sentiments, MFPC President Joel Swanton said, "Mainers can disagree about policy, and we can have different visions about the future of the Maine woods,

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Janice White practices her putt at the recent MFPC Golf Tournament. . . .*

### IN THE NEWS



*. . . while Don White and Jim Maynard take the more leisurely route.*

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## President's Message: A Call To Action

In our last newsletter I highlighted the changes our industry continues to see, challenges and opportunities we face and what we need to do to be successful and remain effective. At our October Executive Committee meeting, we held a Strategic planning discussion to identify ways that we can increase the effectiveness of the MFPC. One of the findings is concern over the need to increase member participation.



**Joel Swanton**

From the MFPC Strategic Plan Goals:

- ◆ Members will actively participate in and enthusiastically support the Council and understand each other's issues.
- ◆ MFPC membership will grow and enjoy broader grass roots participation.
- ◆ Our membership will be better informed and more active in legislative, regulatory and policy issues

For the MFPC to be effective at representing our interests, members must be active and involved. You are the MFPC. Staff is here to support and coordinate, but cannot represent all of our needs alone.

Here is a partial list of the issues that staff and members are currently involved in:

- √ LURC Comprehensive Land Use Planning review process
- √ Statewide Shoreland Zoning amendments
- √ Public Access and ATV task forces

- √ Truck weight regulation revisions
- √ Proposed electrical energy rate increases
- √ Future Forest Economy Report Recommendations
- √ Forest Certification Initiative
- √ Maine Greenhouse Gas Action Plan
- √ Canadian Labor legislation

There are many ways you can be an active member. Take time to:

- ◆ Keep informed on issues that affect your business and those of others in the forest industry.
- ◆ Attend and participate in MFPC meetings
- ◆ Let people in your local communities know where you stand on issues that are important to you.
- ◆ Be willing to contact your local legislator or regulatory agency on important issues.

A simple phone call, email, or conversation over a cup of coffee can

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Maine Forest Products Council**  
**535 Civic Center Drive**  
**Augusta, Maine 04330**  
**(207) 622-9288**  
**FAX (207) 626-3002**  
**www.maineforest.org**

### 2005-2006 Council Officers

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**First Vice President:** Peter Triandafillou  
**Second Vice President:** Dwain Allen  
**Secretary:** Don Tardie  
**Treasurer:** Don White

### Executive Committee Members:

John Gray            Doug Denico  
 Tony Lyons         Ken Lamond  
 Linda Griffin (Ex-officio)

**Executive Director:** Patrick Strauch  
 pstrauch@maineforest.org

**SFI Coordinator:** Patrick Sirois  
 psirois@maineforest.org

**Office Manager:** Kerry Casey  
 kcasey@maineforest.org

**Administrative Assistant:** Pam Morrill  
 pmorrill@maineforest.org

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## MFPC Supports BPL Harvest Decision

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) was recently challenged by the Friends of Bigelow over its decision to allow a harvest in a late successional forest area in the Bigelow Preserve. The Bureau sees the prescribed harvest at Bigelow as “a model of exemplary land management practices, including ecological, silvicultural, wildlife, and recreation management practices, as a demonstration of state policies governing management of forested lands, all in accordance with the Bureau’s mission, as set forth in its governing statutes.”

At issue in the Bigelow case is the continuing debate over how late successional forests should be managed. While MFPC has been critical of low BPL harvest levels in the past, it has been supportive of BPL efforts to practice more intensive forest management. Moreover, MFPC remains committed to the use of sound scientific research in determining state harvest policy. In response to the concerns raised by the Friends of Bigelow the BPL conducted a tour of the harvest area in September. The tour was designed to allow interested parties an opportunity to meet several of the Department’s resource planners and managers, as well as to learn first-hand how the Bureau planned to conduct harvesting activities on the Preserve.

BPL also issued a Q & A publication that explained in-depth the Bureau’s late successional forestland policy, as well as addressing several of the most frequently asked questions regarding BPL’s land management policy. That document can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/bigelow.html>. MFPC will continue to monitor the situation.

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## Truck Weights . . . (Continued from page 1)

the bridge at this weight. This is a unique emergency situation that requires diligence by everyone involved.

As for next steps, DOT’s Chief Engineer needs to approve the recommendation, followed by the approval of DOT Commissioner David Cole. MFPC will continue to do whatever possible to influence this issue positively. Clearly, it is encouraging that a team of independent engineers has signed off on the safety issues related to this proposal. When DOT decides to allow the increased weight, some outreach work will be necessary with the affected communities in order to assure the public that these decisions are in fact prudent. The towns of Brewer and Bangor will be positively impacted as the number of trucks traveling through town will be reduced by an estimated 100 trips/day.

If the 100,000 lbs limit is reinstated to the bridge, the DOT will likely monitor compliance with weigh-in-motion scales at each end of the bridge. Signs will display the weight of the truck a camera will take a photo of the event.

MFPC will continue to keep members apprised of any additional developments as they occur.

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## Portland Hosts National SFI Meeting

*from the SFI National Newsletter*

Record attendance levels and beautiful weather helped make the 2005 SFI Annual Conference in Portland an unqualified success. The more than 200 attendees came from across the U.S. and Canada (and from as far away as the U.K. and China) to take part in three days of meetings and networking.

The conference opened Tuesday with the annual SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) Regional Meetings, where representatives of each SIC were able to share activities and experiences, and discuss common challenges and problems they are facing in the states and provinces (see story on p. 2). Later Tuesday afternoon saw the SFB Open House (see "SFB Update"). Tuesday night's welcome reception took place under clearing skies on DiMillo's Floating Restaurant in Portland Harbor.

Wednesday morning's general session focused primarily on the Maine Governor's Forest Certification Initiative, with comments from owners, environmental organizations and the Maine Forest Service. This discussion was bolstered by a luncheon keynote speech by David Refkin, Director of Sustainability with Time Inc., who looked at the Maine initiative from a customer's prospective.

Wednesday afternoon's first panel on Marketplace Issues looked at Green Building —featuring perspectives from the Green Building Institute, the U.S. Green Building Council as well as a fascinating look at green building in China. The second panel focused primarily on procurement policies, both here in the U.S. as well as in Europe. Wednesday evening's reception and dinner was a cruise of Portland harbor, followed by a lobsterbake on Peak's Island.

The conference closed on high note Thursday morning with an address by Maine Governor John Baldacci, as well as a look back at the progress the program has made and the challenges that lie ahead.



## LURC Land Use Plan Revision Underway

As part of a regular 10-year review, LURC is currently revising its Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The new plan is scheduled to be released in 2007, and the Commission has already held several public meetings to hear from stakeholders concerning the range of issues that will need to be considered in the years ahead.

Having heard from several groups whose focus is on resource conservation and public use, the Commission will turn to forestry issues in December and would like 2-4 forest products experts offer their perspectives on what needs to happen in order to maintain forest productivity.

Some of the questions the commissioners would like answered include:

- What are the industry trends? What should we expect in the next ten years?
- What industry needs have not been met in the current CLUP or may evolve in the future?
- What are projections for future land sales and the impact of new owners on the jurisdiction?
- What are the goals of the landowners?
- What are the current and future roles for conservation easements?
- How should the Commission address changes in development patterns?

The MFPC Landowner and Technical Committees will be working on this presentation and will keep members posted.

### Calendar of Events

- ◆ Certification Leadership Committee: November 7
- ◆ MFPC Landowner Committee to talk with IF&W and members of the Maine Leaseholders Association: Nov 17
- ◆ MFPC Economic Development Committee to discuss priorities of FFE project and Biodeisel Fuel opportunities: Nov 8
- ◆ Executive Committee meeting: Nov 10
- ◆ BOD & BOA meeting: in addition to the regular meeting, to discuss Administration's BETR and repeal of business personal property tax initiatives with DECD Commissioner Jack Cashman. Nov 10
- ◆ SFI Workshops- Intro to Harvest Planning: Nov.11
- ◆ SIC Meeting: December 7th

## Hanington Brothers Earns Logging Award

In recognition of its contributions to the logging profession, Timber Harvesting magazine recently named MFPC member Hanington Bros., Inc., its 2005 Logging Business of the Year. Hanington Bros. is the first company in New England to receive this distinguished award, presented each September at the annual meeting of the American Loggers Council (ALC).

According to Steve Hanington, owner and President of Hanington Bros., Inc. (HBI), the company operates eight harvesting sides, two road construction crews and one fuelwood chipping operation, producing about 250,000 tons of logs and fiber annually. In the last decade, it has shifted from a mostly "cut and haul" business to a diversified enterprise with a procurement program that supplies about half of its annual cut.

In 1999, Hanington organized companion company STEaD Timberlands to purchase timberland or stumpage and provide management services for private landowners. (The acronym is drawn from family members - Steve, wife Teresa, and children Eric and Danielle.) Currently STEaD owns 23,000 acres that are managed for long-term investment and sustainable forestry.

HBI has developed and continues to refine an exemplary safety program that earned safety awards from his workers' comp insurance carrier, Maine Motor Transportation Assn., in 1991-92, Fraser Papers Maine Timberlands in 1998-99, American Pulpwood Assn. Northeastern Technical Div. in 1999, Forest Resources Assn. in 2000, and Maine Safety Council and Acadia Insurance Co in 2002.

Hanington is a charter member and current board member of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC), organized in 1994, and served as president from 1999 to 2004. Recognizing that training without implementa-

tion is of little value, the group took it to the next level. In 2000, they implemented the nation's first third party-audited, fourth party-certified Master Logger Certification® program, later endorsed by ALC for voluntary state participation. The accountability program measures on-the-ground performance. Today there are more than 100 Certified Master Loggers in Maine. Several more states are in various stages of developing and implementing their own programs that use the Master Logger Certification® template.

## MFPC Economic Development Committee Proposed

At a recent meeting of the MFPC Board of Directors, Bruce Bornstein proposed the creation of an ad hoc committee that will serve to coordinate efforts to establish biomass refineries in Maine. According to Bornstein, this emerging technology has significant implications and opportunities for the Maine forest products industry, and he pointed out the importance of MFPC taking a leadership role in its development.

At the meeting concerns were voiced about the past boom and bust cycle of the biomass energy business, but one member noted that inventory predictions have demonstrated the growing need for markets of spruce/fir stands that will require thinning, and, therefore, a need for biomass markets. It was pointed out that current energy concerns also bring this opportunity into prominence.

MFPC Executive Director Patrick Strauch suggested that this opportunity be combined with an analysis of the MFS Future Forest Economy Report, and the Board agreed to form a committee on economic development issues, naming Bruce Bornstein as chair.

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**President's Message . . . .** (Continued from page 2)

make a huge difference.

- ◆ Offer to testify at legislative hearings, agency meetings-

We are fortunate to have a legislative process that is open to citizen participation. Individual members sharing their views can have a great deal of influence with members of the legislature. It's not that hard. Patrick can help you.

- ◆ Participate in MFPC Committee activities-

The MFPC has active committees dealing with Technical, Trucking, Taxation, Landowner, Economic Development, Communications, and Membership issues. If you can't be there, let Board members know what your thoughts are.

- ◆ Recruit new members who benefit from MFPC activities.

The world is run by those who show up. Don't underestimate the power of your voice.

**Moving On, But not too far...**

Speaking of change, by now you may have heard, I will be moving on. In early November, I will be leaving IP to accept a position with the Forest Resources Association (FRA) as their Northeast Region Manager, Division Forester for the FRA's Northeast Technical Division, beginning after Thanksgiving.

The position will be based out of the Maine Forest Products Council headquarters in Augusta, although I will be on the road quite a bit and occasionally working from home.

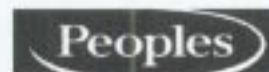
As a result, I will be stepping down as President of the MFPC in late November. Peter Triandafilou, our First Vice President, has graciously agreed to assume the role of President. Please give Peter, the Board and staff your continued support and involvement. I plan to continue active participation in the MFPC as FRA's representative.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to represent you in my short term as President. And I thank the members and staff for their support. The friendships we have and opportunities we've had to work together over the years are very important to me. I look forward to being able to continue working with many of you in my new role.

The Baldacci administration recently unveiled a series of recommendations designed to enhance Maine's rural economies through the expansion of so-called "nature-based" tourism opportunities. Part of a report produced by Fermata, Inc., a nationally-known consulting company, the recommendations include a series of steps designed to enhance Maine's position in one of the fastest growing niches in the travel industry. The Fermata recommendations are the result of a year-long study focused on the cultural, historical, and nature-based assets of three pilot project regions: the Western Mountains, the Highlands, and Downeast. The regions will be utilized as models for implementation throughout rural Maine.

In the report, Fermata made two recommendations that could potentially impact forest landowners. First, given that part of the administration's goal is to increase visitation to Maine's rural regions, the report recommends further study of the possibility of landowners being compensated by tourism operators for use of their lands. Second, the report recommends that the state explore the feasibility of having at least part of the Maine Woods designated a national heritage area. While such designation is intended as a "branding" effort and does not involve any federal ownership or control of forest lands, MFPC's leadership has already voiced serious concerns to the administration about any steps being taken toward such designation. The Council will continue to monitor developments on this issue.

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## Canada Lynx Ruling May Impact Landowners

At a meeting in late October, the Sportsmen Forest Landowners Alliance (SFLA) received an update from Mark McCollough, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), concerning a recent court order requiring USFWS to complete final critical habitat designation for the Canada Lynx.

As a result of a lawsuit from Defenders of Wildlife and other groups, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required by the federal courts to designate Critical Habitat for the Canada lynx. To meet the court order, the Service will complete a proposal for Critical Habitat on November 1, 2005, and a final rule will be completed by November 1, 2006. Areas in Maine, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington will be proposed for this designation.

The Critical Habitat proposal will contain maps of the proposed areas, a description of the primary habitats of concern, and the science behind the designation. Critical Habitat requires that projects funded, authorized, or carried out by the federal government be reviewed by the Service. The Service has reviewed federal projects in northern Maine since the lynx was listed in 2000 as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. Non-federal activities

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Plum Creek . . . (Continued from page 1)

but acts like this amount to eco-terrorism. They're a blatant attempt to scare people into changing directions. From the beginning, the folks at Plum Creek have been willing and forthright participants in an open and public process to review their proposal and encourage public input. The same can obviously not be said for the people who committed these violent acts."

Following the most recent attack, Maine State Police assigned two investigators to work with local police officials, some of whom said they also had been contacted by the FBI in connection with past incidents.

Also, MFPC added its name to a statement issued by Gov. John Baldacci, and joined by a number of state leaders, which condemned the crimes. "We believe that there is no room, whatsoever, for people to destroy property, damage homes or cause harm as a means to express their views," the statement said. "It is illegal, and it is abhorrent to the Maine way of life."

## Biomass Provisions in the 2005 Energy Bill

Innovative Natural Resource Solutions (INRS) recently released the following review of provisions in the 2005 federal Energy Bill that have implications for forest products companies involved in some aspect of biomass generation:

### Production Tax Credit for Renewable Electricity Generation

Section 1301- This provision extends the existing tax credit for electricity generation for "open-loop" biomass (wood or other biomass derived from forestry, logging, land clearing) for two years; facilities should now be placed in service (operating) by December 31, 2007 in order to qualify for the tax credit. The tax credit is for \$0.0075 per kWh in 1993 dollars, or roughly \$0.0090 in today's dollars. New facilities may utilize the tax credit for ten years; though facilities in operation prior to Oct. 22, 2004 may use the tax credit for only five years. Facilities co-firing with fossil fuels are not eligible for this tax credit.

Other renewables such as wind, closed-loop biomass (dedicated energy crops), geothermal facilities, small irrigation, and landfill gas also qualify for this tax credit. The rate for these other facilities is \$0.015 per kWh in 1993 dollars.

*(Continued on back page)*

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**Jim Maynard, CPA Principal** ■ [jmaynard@bdmp.com](mailto:jmaynard@bdmp.com)

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## Industry Mourns Two Longtime Friends

MFPC notes with sadness the passing of two longtime friends of the Maine forest products industry, Cliff Swenson and Austin Wilkins. Cliff began his career as a forester for the State of Maine, and in December, 1958, he was hired by Seven Islands Land Company as a forester for their Rangeley District. In 1980, he became the company's president, retiring in 1995 while continuing to serve as the chair of the Seven Islands Board.

"Cliff was a steadfast, loyal leader and supporter of the forest products industry," Seven Islands' John Cashwell stated when hearing of Swenson's passing. "He brought the Pingree ownership through the budworm era and public land trades. His contributions to Seven Islands are longstanding and embedded in our corporate culture."

In addition to his tenure with Seven Islands, Cliff was a steadfast supporter of the University of Maine's Cooperative Forestry Research Unit.

According to retired Professor Max McCormack, "for many years Cliff was my 'personal contact' among the cooperators in the CFRU. He didn't say much unless it was a terse, absolute challenge to keep us in the 'real world' as we executed our projects, or an expression of unequivocal support for CFRU. Cliff had a way of always being there to extend a helping hand and to promote the interests of CFRU."

Cliff was a member of SWOAM and the Maine State Tree Farm organizations. He was the first state chair of the Forestry Licensing Board and a former member of SAF and APA. In 1987, Cliff received the Distinguished Service Award from the New England Society of American Foresters, and in 2003, Cliff received MFPC's Albert D. Nutting Award for Public Service.

### Al Austin

As for Austin Wilkins, he graduated from the University of Maine in 1926 and joined the Maine Forest Service in 1928. He went on to serve as deputy Commissioner for 10 years under Al Nutting and was Commissioner of Forestry from 1958 to 1972. Austin served 13 Governors of both political parties. Austin was a close friend of Governor Percival Baxter and assisted Baxter in the creation of Baxter State Park.

In 2004, Austin was recognized by the Baldacci Administration with the award which bears his name, the Austin Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award. This award is given periodically by the Department of Conservation and the Maine Tree Foundation to recognize an individual, group, organization or company that stands out as demonstrating a continuous commitment to the culture, heritage and future of the Maine forest.

In addition to his years of distinguished public service, Austin was also responsible for two major documentary books: "*Ten Million Acres of Timber*", and "*In the Public Interest, The Civilian Conservation Corps in Maine*".



*John Sinclair congratulates Austin Wilkins in 2004.*

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## Lynx . . . (Continued from page 7)

(i.e. the day-to-day activities of most private landowners) are not affected if no federal funds are being used or federal permits required, nor does the designation create special management areas, refuges, or sanctuaries. MFPC will continue to monitor developments, as there are potential implications for landowners who have been involved in programs, such as conservation easements, which involve federal funding.

The USFWS is soliciting comments and information on the proposed Critical Habitat. A Federal Register notice with the proposed rule will be published about November 8, 2005. A public hearing will be held in Old Town, Maine in mid-December. Biologists at the Maine Field Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Old Town are willing to answer questions and provide additional information.

For more information, please contact Mark McCollough at 207 827-5938 ext. 12 or [mark\\_mccollough@fws.gov](mailto:mark_mccollough@fws.gov).





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## MFPC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

November 8, 2005

Dear Maine Forest Products Council Member:

A major goal of the Maine Forest Products Council is to keep you well informed of legislative and regulatory developments, educational and outreach programs, industry news and other member services. With this goal in mind, please take a moment to answer a few questions that will help us better understand how we can best communicate with our members.

We are particularly interested in knowing the effectiveness of our website, [www.maineforest.org](http://www.maineforest.org), and the means by which you wish to continue receiving MFPC communications. If you do not have, or do not utilize the Internet, please check off or write in N/A (not applicable) as needed.

Do you have Internet access?                    \_\_\_ Yes                    \_\_\_ No                    \_\_\_ N/A

Have you visited the MFPC website?                    \_\_\_ Yes                    \_\_\_ No                    \_\_\_ N/A

If yes, how often do you visit the website?

\_\_\_ /week                    \_\_\_ /month                    \_\_\_ /periodically                    \_\_\_ rarely                    \_\_\_ N/A

What are your reasons for accessing the website?

Do you find the website easy to read and useful in content? What other information would you like to see there? Please offer your comments below.

Are you more likely to read MFPC publications via mail, E-mail or fax?

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How would you prefer to receive the following MFPC publications?

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Legislative Alerts (Calls for action)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax

Based on survey feedback, the MFPC staff will evaluate the frequency of the newsletter publication schedule (e.g. monthly, quarterly, etc.), content and size (page length). As with the newsletter, Legislative Updates would be published on a consistent schedule (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly) while the more time-sensitive Alerts would be published on an as-needed basis.

Regarding newsletter content, what kinds of articles or content would you like to see appear in the *Forest Products News*? (E.g. legislative summaries, industry news, member profiles, photos, etc.)

What other kinds of information/publications would you like to receive from the MFPC on a regular basis? Please specify.

**Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.  
Please detach and mail or fax back to:**

**Maine Forest Products Council  
535 Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
FAX (207) 626-3002**

**A summary of the results will appear in the next newsletter.**

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# Membership News



## MFPC Hosts Open House and Golf Tournament

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, MFPC hosted a grand opening reception at its new headquarters. Following a three-year capital campaign, the association recently completed construction of a building at 535 Civic Center Drive in Augusta. Nearly 100 people attended the reception, which consisted of a reception and pig roast.



The new building was entirely funded through donations from MFPC's nearly 500 members. Moreover, several members donated materials to ensure that the building represented the finest in Maine forest products craftsmanship.

"It has been very heartening to see the response that our members have made throughout this effort," Patrick Strauch, MFPC Executive Director said in his remarks. "Members of all sizes, from single operator loggers to our largest landowners, have stepped up and showed their dedication to this industry. For some, this is a way of commemorating the efforts that their families have put into building and sustaining local businesses for over 100 years."

In addition to the pig roast, donated items for the open house included photos from Plum Creek and Seven Islands.

### Annual Golf Tournament

Prior to the reception, MFPC hosted its annual members golf tournament at Kennebec Heights Country Club in Farmingdale, Maine.

37 golfers turned out for the event, and the following

teams and individuals won awards:

#### First Place for Gross Score:

Don & Janice White, Mike O'Connor and Jim Maynard

#### Second Place for Gross Score:

Terry Moore, Rich Smith, Allan Ryder and Winn Robinson

#### Third Place for Gross Score:

Steve Schley, John Cashwell, Ken Lamond, Jason Brochu



*Seven Islands' John Cashwell and MFPC's Michele Maclean make their way to the links.*

Woman "Closest to the Pin": Linda Caprara at 23' 1"

Women "Longest Drive": Michele Maclean.

Man "Closest to the Pin": Jim Maynard at 3' 6"

Man "Longest Drive": Steve Schley

The staff would like to thank Key Bank's Brian Flewelling, and Dwain Allen, of Moosehead Manufacturing, for their hard work before and during the tournament. Also, many thanks to the following sponsors:

First Place Sponsor: Plum Creek

Second Place Sponsor: The Oliver Store

Third Place Sponsor: Hancock Land Company



The Maine Forest Products Council  
535 Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330

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**Biomass . . .** (Continued from page 7)

**Biomass Research and Development**

Section 941-The purpose of this act is to facilitate the research and development of bio-based fuels and bio-products that are competitive with fossil fuels. The authorization amount is increased from \$54 million to \$200 million; this is subject to future appropriations. (Congress can authorize a fund at a certain level but actually provide significantly less money for the task. An authorization should be considered a funding ceiling.)

**Conversion Assistance for Cellulosic Biomass, Waste-Derived Ethanol and Approved Renewable Fuels**

Section 942. Grants are provided under this provision for the building of facilities that produce renewable fuels using cellulosic ethanol (for example, wood or mill-residue based ethanol) or other biofuels. The bill authorized \$250 million in grants over three years; this is subject to future appropriations.

**Grants to improve the commercial value of forest biomass for electric energy, useful heat, transporta-**

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**tion fuels, and other commercial purposes**

Section 210 – This section establishes two programs, one for commercial use and one for research and development. These programs have a combined annual authorization of \$50 million for ten years, subject to appropriations.

Biomass Commercial Use Grant. Grants are provided in this section to offset a facility’s cost of purchasing biomass, up to \$20 per green ton. There is no limit on the amount any facility can receive. Important restrictions apply, including:

-Only for non-merchantable biomass (in other words, wood that could not be used for a higher value product) or pre-commercial thinnings that are used to reduce fuel load, reduce or contain an insect and disease infestation, or restore forest health.

-For use in “preferred communities”, located in or near federal (or tribal) land with serious fire or forest health concerns and with populations of less than 5,000.