

## MFPC Welcomes 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature

By **Patrick Strauch**  
MFPC Executive Director



With this issue of *Forest Products News*, on behalf of the members of the Maine Forest Products Council, I'd like to welcome the members of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature and spend some time introducing you to our organization. Obviously, to our members little of this information will be new, but, given our mission, I trust they will understand and appreciate the time spent explaining who we are and what we do to the policy makers who can have such an impact on our industry.

MFPC is a statewide trade association that represents the full breadth of Maine's forest products

industry. Our membership includes loggers, truckers, sawmills, secondary processors, forest landowners, pulp and paper mills, and the financial and other service institutions that are a part of the forest products economy.

### Communication

There are two primary pieces to our organization's mission. The first is to communicate to Maine citizens and policymakers the traditional and continuing role that the forest products industry plays in Maine's communities and economy.

Maine is the most heavily forested state in the country, and our state's

vast forest resource plays a multi-faceted role. It is home to an important industry and, consequently, both a foundation of Maine's economy and the lifeblood of many rural Maine communities.

Given Maine's tradition of open access to private forestlands, the forests also provide the landscape upon which folks from both Maine and away participate in a broad range of recreational activities. Finally, in a time when many are concerned about the loss of open space, Maine's forests

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Sustaining Maine's Forest Resource

The economic figures presented in our lead story (*See "MFPC Welcomes 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature", page 1*) describe the forest products industry's contribution to Maine's economy and communities. But a review of other data available through the Maine Forest Service (<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/index.shtml>), as well as a glimpse at the range of forest protection programs Maine has in place, offers a more comprehensive look at the steps being taken to protect both Maine's forests and the role they play in defining our state's landscape.

- ◆ With 17.8 million acres of forestland, *90% of Maine is forested*, making it the most heavily forested state in the nation even after 200 years of harvest.
- ◆ The acreage of Maine timberland *has been essentially stable* for the last several decades, and the majority of land (58%) originally forested in Maine is still in forest.

The volume of timber present on Maine's forests is *now close to double* what it was in 1950.

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**Forest Sustainability:**

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## MFPC Joins with Natural Resource Allies

December 4<sup>th</sup> was a day of celebration for those of us in natural resource based industries, including forest products, farming, fishing and traditional recreation. In the Hall of Flags at the State House, the Natural Resource Network publicly launched itself with a press conference. Representatives of each group were on hand to talk jointly about our plans to work together to promote our businesses and drive public policy in the right direction.

Forming the coalition took a lot of work, and Don Tardie, Patrick Strauch, Dean Bruce Wiersma and people from all our related industries deserve credit and thanks for making it come together.

***There are many things to celebrate in the forest industry.***

The Coalition has published a policy statement and meets on a regular basis to discuss items of common concern. We will have a much stronger voice in Augusta working collectively than alone.

The Coalition doesn't replace or supersede any organizations, nor does it have a director or dues structure. Instead, it acts as a mechanism for a variety of groups to stay in touch and work together.

As your president, I made some comments on behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council at the press conference. They are reprinted here:

It is my great pleasure to be here with my colleagues in the Natural Resource Sector. We have come together to strengthen our connection with each other and the Maine public. I am heartened by the fact



**Peter Triandafillou**

that the Maine public supports the forest industry and considers it important. Our goal is to emphasize the importance of our industry to the State and our role as stewards of many resources.

There are many things to celebrate in the forest industry:

- It adds over \$6 billion/year directly and \$10 billion/year in total to Maine's GDP. Including indirect jobs (equipment dealers, service centers, etc) 1 in 16 jobs in Maine is connected to our industry.
- Our timber inventory is growing and is nearly twice what it was in the 50's.
- Maine has the largest percentage of certified timberland in the nation
- Lumber production has more than doubled since the 70's and Maine remains the #2 paper producer in the nation.

There are problems: our mills are on average older and smaller than in other states or the world. The global economy has created new and intense competitive pressures on all sectors of the economy, including our own. Part

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The Maine Forest Products Council is a proud supporter of:



**ED Report**.....(Continued from page 1)

are a symbol of our state's traditional and continuing connection to our natural landscape.

Because these issues are complex, MFPC is committed to providing clear, accurate information regarding the many roles of the forest products industry and the sustainability of the forest resource itself. On these matters there is much good news to report, and we have included an article (Please see "Sustaining Maine's Forest Resource", page 1) that provides many facts that policymakers should understand.

### Advocacy

At the same time as MFPC works to educate policymakers and citizens alike about the role of Maine's forest products industry, it also advocates on behalf of the industry in Maine's regulatory and policy forums. MFPC is a membership-driven organization, and it is the elected leaders of the membership (See BOD and BOA lists, page 11) who determine the issues that are of primary concern to the membership and, in conjunction with MFPC staff, decide what positions the organization needs to take on a broad range of issues, as well as what steps should be taken to promote those positions.

In many respects, MFPC's most important role is to provide in-depth information to policymakers so that they understand the complexity of the issues before them as they work to develop effective policies. For example, one issue that has received a lot of attention from policymakers and the press has been the shift in landownership patterns in the Maine Woods in recent years. What usually gets reported is the fact that a large parcel of forestland has changed hands, but what doesn't get reported is the fact that, usually, that land has merely shifted ownership between members of the forest products industry. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of land sales in recent years have involved just that sort of shift.

A related issue has been the public concern over the continued availability of access to private forestlands as ownership patterns change. First of all, the public and policymakers alike should remember that access to private property is a privilege and not a right. But moreover, it is important to note that access policies have not changed to nearly the extent that one might suspect given all the press and discussion the issue has received.

In fact, a recent survey of MFPC members who own more than 50,000 acres of forestland demonstrated

quite clearly that for those members, who together own approximately 8 million acres of forestland, there has been no change to access policies for the last several years.

### Consistency under Pressure

While perceived changes in Maine's forest landscape are commonly the most visible headlines in the paper, the news that is consistently good tends to get overlooked. For example, Maine policymakers need to know that, despite a challenging global economy, Maine has maintained its position as the #2 paper producing state in the U.S, and the state's lumber production from over 200 sawmills has more than doubled since the mid-1970's.

Moreover, Maine produces over 1/2 of the wood output of the four-state region that includes New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York, and our forest products industry accounts for 40% of the value of shipments in this same region.

Finally our industry's total annual contribution to the Maine economy amounts to \$11.5 billion, and from 1997-2002 our productivity increased by 23% and the average industry wage increased by 20%.

At the same time, it has become significantly more difficult to maintain our industry's position in the face of escalating energy costs and skyrocketing health care costs.

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**ED Report** ..... (Continued from page 3)

Moreover, an ever-increasing regulatory burden has resulted in some investors becoming reluctant to commit critical resources to the industry, and in the coming session we will be working hard to move the Maine Legislature to compare the regulations applied to our industry at the state level with those applied at the federal level to ensure that we are not being put a competitive disadvantage.

**MFPC: Supporting a Vision for Rural Maine**

There are, of course, a number of other issues on which we will be engaging the Legislature in the months ahead. For new legislators in particular, however, it might be best if, as part of this introduction to our organization, I try to offer a broader perspective by which our industry can be viewed.

It has become commonplace for Maine policymakers, the general public, and the media, to view the Maine economy has one that is changing rapidly in order to keep up with the ever-developing global economy. This is in large part true, and no industry understands the challenges involved in that effort better than ours.

At the same time, however, what gets forgotten is the fact that, despite many changes, the forest products industry remains the lifeblood for scores of communities and thousands of families across rural Maine. Given that reality, policymakers should understand that policies affecting the forest products industry have the potential to impact much more than simply the bottom line of forest products companies. They also have the potential to impact communities and families who have relied on our industry for support for hundreds of years.

Consequently, whether through the state agencies, the Land Use Regulation Commission, or the Maine Legislature, policymakers should understand that policy discussions concerning taxes, regulations, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the sustainability of the forest resource, and many other issues, are actually about more than just resolving the specific issue at hand. They are also about building and maintaining a vision for the future of the Maine Woods and the people who live and work there.

At the Maine Forest Products Council, our vision is of a strong, vibrant forest products industry that continues its role as a foundation of the Maine economy, that provides jobs and support for thousands of families in communities across rural Maine, and that sustains the forest resource for future generations.

On behalf of our members, I look forward to working with the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature to make that vision a reality.

## Maine Forest Service Advocates for Carbon Payments to Landowners

By R. Alec Giffen, Director

**Editor's Note:** *The issue of support for the RGGI initiative is complicated for our membership. In many ways we are an important player and have opportunities to demonstrate our global contribution to managing greenhouse gasses both with the work we do to grow trees and by the long-term sequestration of carbon in durable wood manufactured goods. However, we will need to carefully assess the costs of the RGGI program to our industry, because if our short-term competitive position is threatened by further increases in electrical costs, our long-term contributions to a global effort will be eliminated. MFPC will be working to present you with an analysis of the various economic models used to evaluate the RGGI program.*

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has held three meetings to get public comment on its proposal for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Participation in the RGGI program has been approved by 8 states, while several other states—including Pennsylvania, California, Montana, and New Mexico — have expressed interest in either participating in or establishing a relationship between programs in their states and RGGI.

RGGI would establish a regional cap and trade program for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electrical generating facilities greater than 25 megawatts of capacity. In Maine, this includes six power plants, including two at Maine pulp & paper mills. A cap-and-trade program would establish a limit for emissions from these six plants. If the plants want to increase production they would either have to 1) change to a different technology with lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; 2) install equipment to capture CO<sub>2</sub>; 3) pay someone else to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at another facility; or 4) pay someone else (e.g., a forest landowner) to store more carbon than they would otherwise.

These last two types of projects are called carbon offset projects because they allow the generating facili-

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**RGGI** .....(Continued from page 4)

ties covered by the program to “offset” a portion of their emissions through projects that either store carbon or reduce emissions from other sources. Under the proposal currently under consideration, the only type of forestry offset project recognized is the planting of trees on nonforest land. The proposal does, however, leave open the possibility of broadening the list of eligible forestry offset projects in the future. At the DEP’s public meetings, the Maine Forest Service (MFS) advocated for including projects that would increase carbon storage in existing forests as eligible for carbon offset payments under RGGI.

Further, the MFS suggested that, in addition to receiving credit for storing additional carbon onsite, one or more mechanisms should be found to give landowners credit for the production of forest products that displace other materials that have higher “embedded” energies (the energy needed to produce them). In short, if we are to be successful in creating incentives for forest management regimes that increase the storage of carbon or displace other materials with higher carbon emissions, it is critical that the financial benefits from the carbon markets flow through to landowners.

The Maine Forest Service has been actively involved in working to understand the role that forests can play in reducing atmospheric greenhouse gas levels. The agency’s interests include:

- ◆ Contributing to the State of Maine’s efforts to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases;

- ◆ Benefiting the forest resource; and
- ◆ Making good forestry more profitable, thereby increasing the incentives for landowners to practice good forestry and retain forests as forests.

In this regard, forests have significant potential to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas levels. This potential goes far beyond the “afforestation” currently considered acceptable under the RGGI model rule. In fact, the biggest contribution that forests can make to reducing atmospheric greenhouse gas levels is through active management and the production of wood products, which can displace other materials with higher embedded energies.

For example, it takes approximately ten times the amount of energy to produce a steel stud as it does to produce one from wood. In addition to the benefits for atmospheric greenhouse gas levels, it was noted in the MFS presentation that actively managed forests also provide a variety of other benefits – clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and places to recreate.

For all of these reasons, the MFS believes that it is important to expand the types of projects allowed under the forestry offset category under the RGGI program to capture the real benefits that forests can provide in reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases. This broadening will present challenge, but the opportunities for the atmosphere, Maine’s forests, and landowners are simply too important to ignore.



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**Sustaining .....** (Continued from page 1)

- ◆ Growth and harvest from Maine’s forest are essentially equal at roughly 0.33 cords/acre/year, and *growth is expected to exceed removals* as regeneration in areas harvested in order to salvage timber damaged during the spruce budworm epidemic reaches merchantable sizes.

**Forest Protection:**

- ◆ Maine has some of the most comprehensive programs in the nation designed to protect the forest environment. This includes:
  - *A statewide Forest Practices Act* that regulates clearcutting and regeneration of forests after harvest;
  - *Regulation of timber harvests in all shorelands statewide* (these rules generally limit harvests to 40% or less of the timber);
  - *Regulations designed to protect important wildlife habitats and wetlands;* and

*The Land Use Regulation Commission* ([www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/index.shtml)) controls and focuses development in the half of the state known as the unorganized territories.

- ◆ Maine also has an active law enforcement program designed to ensure compliance with natural resource laws. On average, *72% of harvest sites are inspected each year* to ensure compliance with natural resource, timber theft, and trespass laws.
- ◆ Maine has *one of the most fully developed systems of ecological reserves and passively managed areas in the northeast*. Approximately 77,000 acres are managed as ecological reserves. Another 65,000 acres are passively managed in state parks, of which 15,300 acres have been identified as potential reserves. The acreage of Baxter State Park outside the SFMA is another 175,000 acres.

**Natural Area and Wildlife Protection:**

- ◆ Maine has an active Natural Areas program ([www.mainenaturalareas.org](http://www.mainenaturalareas.org)) which has catalogued the occurrence of *370 rare species in Maine (1,908 sites), and 98 rare or exemplary natural communities (857 sites)*. The program works with landowners, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to protect these features and has been very successful.

Maine has abundant populations of wildlife, from threatened and endangered species to those which are more common. For example:

- Maine has nearly 300 nesting pairs of bald eagles (in contrast, there are only 10 in New Hampshire and there are 0 in Vermont).
- Peregrine falcons have been reestablished and are now nesting in 16 places in Maine.
- At approximately 23,000 animals, Maine has one of the largest populations of black bears in the northeast.
- Maine has approximately 29,000 moose and the herd is stable.
- Maine has reestablished wild turkeys, which are now estimated to number in excess of 25,000.
- Maine has a thriving population of white-tailed deer estimated at approximately 250,000.
- Maine’s forests are home to 1,432 plant, 198 bird, 54 mammalian, 34 reptile and amphibian, 52 fish, and more than 15,000 documented insect species. Of these, 41 plants and 20 animals associated with forested habitats are considered threatened or endangered in Maine.



## MFPC Participates in Natural Resource Forum

As part of the new Natural Resources Network (NRN), MFPC recently participated in a forum at the Maine Agricultural Trade show that was designed to introduce the NRN to a broad array of policymakers and stakeholders. The Trade show was held at the Augusta Civic Center.

MFPC Executive Director Patrick Strauch introduced the Network to the audience as “a coalition of rural and natural resource sector stakeholders who share common ideas and goals regarding the future of Maine’s economy and rural communities.” He went on to explain that members of the Network would be collaborating throughout the Legislative session to advocate more effectively on behalf of those groups who have traditionally formed the core of Maine’s economy.

Also speaking on behalf of the Network were Tim Hobbs, from the Maine Potato Board; Bob Meyers, from the Maine Snowmobile Association; and Tom Doak, from the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine.

In response to questions from the audience, the speakers identified a number of issues which the Network

will be focusing on in the months ahead, including developing ways of encouraging long-term ownership of timberland, issues surrounding public use of private land, and legislative developments related to the recently released Brookings Report.



### **Pres. Report.....** (Continued from Page 2)

of our mission is to ensure that Maine’s business climate remains competitive and allows our businesses to be competitive in global markets.

As we all know, taxation is a major issue. We made great progress last year in the reform of the tax on business equipment. We will work on additional tax reforms, including the estate tax that impacts many owners of small woodlots.

Progress has been made in the relationship between Maine’s regulatory agencies and our businesses. We will work to streamline the regulatory progress. Most importantly, we will work to ensure that new or altered regulations receive a thorough economic review and analysis.

We will continue to support R&D in the state by funding organizations like the CFRU.

Our businesses like being in Maine and want to stay and grow. Our mission is to work together on common issues to improve Maine’s business climate and enable us to compete and grow, providing economic benefits to the state and our rural communities.

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## An Introduction to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative

With more than 90% of Maine covered by forests, it is no surprise that the citizens of Maine want to know that the people who own and work in the Maine woods are managing them with an eye toward keeping them productive for the present and sustained for future generations. That's where forest certification comes in.

Forest certification is a market-based, voluntary, non-regulatory approach to sustainable forestry. With nearly 7 million acres of certified forests, or 37% of the state's productive forestlands, Maine is the national leader in forest certification. Of the three certification systems active in Maine – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) – approximately 6 million acres have been certified to the SFI standard.

Created in 1994, SFI has been charged with the task of providing the public with the assurances they deserve that Maine's woods are being well managed, both now and for the future. Through the development of comprehensive forest management standards and the use of independent, third party audits to ensure that participating companies have understood and implemented those standards, SFI has provided the public and policymakers with the opportunity to ask tough questions of forest professionals.

Moreover, the public can be assured that an independent credible response will be forthcoming from people knowledgeable in the intimate operations forest management.

### **SFI: Promoting Continual Improvement**

In many ways, creating forest management standards and a certification process is only the beginning of SFI's commitment to sustainable forest management. Unlike the other certification systems, SFI is actually a program with an implementation structure that delivers training and continuing education designed to help practitioners achieve the SFI performance-based standards. This involves practical, hands on training that promotes continuous improvement and enables forest professionals to develop and enhance the practices necessary to support certification standards.

In short, SFI fosters continuous improvement in forest management by requiring forest professionals – including landowners, loggers, and mill owners – to commit to ongoing research, continuing professional education, and consistent communication with the general public concerning developments within the SFI Program.

### **The SIC: Programs and Oversight**

The Maine SFI Program is run by a Maine SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) comprised of representatives from various stakeholder groups, including the Maine Forest Service, an array of associations with interests in forest management and forest sustainability, and SFI members.

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***Unlike the other certification systems, SFI is actually a program with an implementation structure that delivers training and continuing education***

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The Maine SIC works at the local level to promote the SFI Standard as a means to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry and ensure on-the-ground progress. These resource professionals volunteer a significant amount of time to assure that national SFI program objectives are consistently implemented and adapted to region-specific needs.

In particular, among other initiatives, SFI oversees logger training programs, develops and implements a range of forest professional training programs, and maintains a public outreach program designed to maintain sustainable forestry practices throughout the Maine Woods. Since SFI's inception, the forest products industry in Maine has invested over one million dollars to fund the operations of SFI Implementation Committee.

### **Logger Training**

In Maine, there are two programs which deliver SFI approved logger training. The first is the Maine Certified

*(Continued on page 9)*

**SFI.....** (Continued from page 8)

Logging Professional Program (CLP). CLP, established in 1991, reached a milestone in 2006, having trained in excess of 5200 individuals to the SFI Standard. To this point the forest products industry has invested nearly 13 million dollars in training via the CLP program. The second SFI approved logger training program is the Maine Qualified Logging Professional Program (QLP, which is located at the southern Aroostook County Vocational Technical School and serves local loggers through the school's adult education system.

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**To this point the forest products industry has invested nearly 13 million dollars in training via the CLP program.**

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The Maine SIC also places a great deal of emphasis on continuing education through its SFI Education Committee. Although the entire burden of initial logger training rests squarely on the two SFI approved logger training programs, the Maine SIC plays a critical role when it comes to offering a range of continuing education courses for loggers, foresters and landowners. Currently Maine SFI Education Committee offers training in the following programs:

- Introduction to Best Management Practices (BMPs) BMP Level II (BMP systems assessment and remediation)
- Introduction to Harvesting Aesthetics
- Introduction to Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity
- Introduction to Harvest Planning
- Wooden Mat Construction for Stream Crossings
- Introduction to GPS

Maine's SFI training programs are delivered using a team approach, with each team ideally consisting of a logger and a forester. This promotes a model of collaboration between the two professions and enhances the ability to reach the audience from more than one perspective. This is important as most of the audiences are a mix of

loggers, landowners and foresters. As of this past spring, over 3500 forest resource professionals had completed SFI's training programs

**SFI GOAL- Program Integrity**

In 1997, Maine's SIC was the first to initiate a toll-free number, 1-888 SFI GOAL, for the public to call with questions or concerns about forest and harvesting practices they may encounter. In 1998, the service was expanded in order to provide New Hampshire residents with similar opportunities. Since the introduction of the toll-free number, the SIC has fielded roughly 20 calls annually.

SFI GOAL is not an enforcement program. It is a commitment to practice responsible forestry, to recognize responsible wood harvesters, and to educate and inform people about good forest practices. It represents a partnership between loggers, foresters, landowners, and wood buyers. The focus of this program is to address concerns so that responsible forestry can continue.

In recent years, the SIC has taken significant steps to publicize the SFI GOAL number. Steps have included the development of a brochure that has been distributed to town managers and code enforcement officers for all 502 Maine communities, and the posting of the SFI GOAL number at North Maine Woods gates. Since its inception, SFI has undertaken three major campaigns to promote the SFI GOAL number.

For more information on  
**Maine's Sustainable Forestry Initiative**

Contact:  
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## MFPC Comments on Allagash Wilderness Waterway Debate

MFPC recently submitted extensive remarks to the Governor's Allagash Working Group regarding proposed changes to the management of the Waterway. In MFPC's view, current proposed changes to the AWW's governance seek to limit local control and create a governance structure more easily affected by the political process and less accountable to the citizens of Maine.

In the remarks, MFPC Executive Director Patrick Strauch argued that a recently proposed agreement between the State of Maine and the Army Corps of Engineers had "created the opportunity for special interest organizations to forward a vision of the AWW that became more exclusive of traditional uses and questioned the ongoing coexistence of the working forest with the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW)."

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### MFPC believes that the current governance proposal is unacceptable and will lead to further confrontation.

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He went on to articulate "the concern landowners have with the revised management plan that challenged bridge locations and repairs, and in the cultural clash created by those forwarding a vision to manage the AWW to a 'maximum wilderness character' at the expense of the original legal terms established by the landowners, State and the federal government. Less interpretation of undefined phrases and a greater reliance on historic fact and law would have guided the Bureau of Public Lands Directors and Department of Conservation Commissioners in defining the parameters for governance on the AWW."

In short, MFPC believes that the current governance proposal is unacceptable and will lead to further confrontation. Instead, MFPC proposes that the only viable solution is for continued DOC management and continued participation of an advisory committee. Focus should be placed on establishing guidelines for the advisory committee and in establishing rules of engagement. It is important to focus on membership that can recognize *the value of all user groups and respect the importance of multiple uses* and of historic and cultural heritage sites along the River. We also believe it will be important to ensure that

the legislature approves the management plan for the AWW, to ensure a broad representation of interests.

MFPC will keep members apprised of developments moving forward.




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## The Faces Representing the Maine Forest Products Council



### Executive Director

Patrick Strauch received his BS degree in Forest management and his MS in Silviculture from the University of Maine. He began his career as a forester for St. Regis Paper Co. and U.S. Gypsum Company in Maine.

In the 90's Patrick migrated from the woods to the recycling industry where he eventually became the vice president and director of a regional recycling organization.

In 2001, he returned to the forest industry as the Director of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

In January of 2004 Patrick became the Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council representing over 450 members and advocating for issues relating to the working forests of Maine.

He resides on a farm in Exeter, Maine with his wife Nancy and their three children.

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### Director, Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Patrick Sirois grew up in a logging and sawmill family. Upon graduation from the Bath Iron Works Apprenticeship Program in 1983, he was called back to the woods to begin a logging career that

lasted until 1997, when he was recruited to become the first Director of Maine's Sustainable Forestry Initiative. In 2001, he went to work for the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine to assist in the development of the Master Logger Program.

In 2004, Patrick re-joined the Council staff to return as the SFI Director.

Patrick and his wife Bethany live in Litchfield, Maine with their three children.

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## Communications Coordinator

Joel Swanton brings over 30 years of involvement in the forest products community with experience in forest operations, forest certification, forest policy and communications. A University of Maine forestry graduate, Joel is past President of the Maine Forest Products Council and former Chair of the Maine SFI State Implementation Committee. In addition to supporting the MFPC's communications needs, Joel is the Northeast Region Manager for the Forest Resources Association, working with landowners, loggers and forest products manufacturers across the Northeast.

Joel and his wife Audrey live in Holden.

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## Council Lobbyist

Michele Maclean is a contract lobbyist to the Maine Forest Products Council. She founded Capitol Strategies, a lobbying firm based in Gardiner, Maine, in 1994 after several years with a local law firm. Michele has had a long history working with and representing the forest products industry, starting in 1994 with Champion International Corporation until the company's acquisition by International paper and then with the Maine Forest Products Council.

Michele and her husband Andy live with their two children in Gardner, Maine.

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

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

Technical Committee calls will be starting, if interested please call the MFPC office

### FEBRUARY

1	5:30pm – 8:00pm	FRA Forest Forum	Brewer, Jeff's Catering
7	3:00pm – 5:00pm	WMFRTC	Augusta, MFPC
8	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
	TBD	Legislative Reception	Augusta, MFPC

### MARCH

1	5:30pm – 8:00pm	FRA Forest Forum	Brewer, Jeff's Catering
8	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
8	1:00pm – 4:00pm	MFPC BOD Committee	Augusta, MFPC
12-13		NER.COFE Workshop	University of Maine

### APRIL

5		FRA Equipment Maint. Workshop	Brewer, Jeff's Catering
11-12		UMaine P&P Found. Open House	University of Maine
12	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC

### MAY

10	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	
10	1:00pm – 4:00pm	MFPC BOD Committee	Augusta, MFPC

### JUNE

14	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
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### JULY

12	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
12	1:00pm – ???	Summer Golf Tournament	Bangor Municipal

### AUGUST

9	9:00am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	
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### SEPTEMBER

14		Log-a-Load Golf Tournament	
23-24		<b>MFPC ANNUAL MEETING IN CARIBOU (Hope to see you all there!!!!)</b>	



*Photo Courtesy of Wit Kosinski, Brewer, Maine.*

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