



# NEWS & UPDATE

*December 2020*

## 2020: LET ME REFLECT

I distinctly remember talking to MFPA's Board of Director's, at about this time last year, and providing my crystal ball projections for 2020. At that time, I was feeling optimistic about the future and hopeful for an end to the trade war and anticipating an uptick in lumber markets. Shortly after bringing in the new year we started hearing about a scary new disease in China and we all began to pray that it would stay in the far east. But in March 2020, we got the bad news that someone in Washington state had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Reactions to the spread of the coronavirus to the United States were varied, but I remember telling my kids "don't worry, this can't spread in the U.S. like it has in China, we just won't let that happen". Of course, I was wrong, and from that point in March we all have been living a nightmare. It seems that every single facet of my life, both personally and professionally, is to some extent being driven by the pandemic.

I want to take this opportunity to compliment and congratulate my members for your response and resiliency to this pandemic. I had the opportunity to work very closely with many of you during the beginning stages of the pandemic and I was amazed at how determined you were to keep your people safe and employed even though the short-term future was completely unknown. Most everyone I spoke to from March to May had the same answer to my "how you doing" question: "I have no idea, but we are at work and hoping for the best". In the marketplace, statistically speaking, the forest products industry is fairing reasonably well given the tremendous uncertainty that the pandemic, coupled with a presidential election, has brought to the world. I am looking forward to a great and prosperous 2021 for our members and the forest products industry.

One of the most significant impacts of the pandemic to me personally has been the necessity (or government mandate) to isolate ourselves and our immediate family to reduce the threat of contracting COVID-19. Just about every meeting has gone virtual or cancelled and I will never get used to fist or elbow bumps. I will admit that virtual, commonly referred to as Zoom, meetings provide occasional hilarious moments when participants forget they are on camera! I really hope that we will celebrate the end of the pandemic together, FACE TO FACE, at MFPA's Summer Meeting the weekend of July 23-24, 2021. I pray every day for this to end, what we all considered "normal" in the past never looked so good!

## GOODBYE TO BEVERLY!

This is the last newsletter I will write with Bev sitting down the hall from me in her office. I hired Bev 10 years ago and she has done a great job for MFPA and I sincerely appreciate her service and dedication to the Association. She now says it is time to retire and I wish her and Lee a happy and healthy retirement!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Brian Brookshire, Executive Director

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# CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



Earlier this month, at the MFPA Executive Board Meeting, Executive Director Brian Brookshire presented a check for \$30,000 to Kristen Fritschie. Kristen is

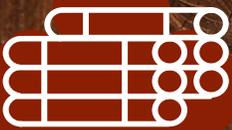


the liaison between MFPA/Missouri Logging Council and the Children's Miracle Network. According to Brian, we present a check for Log A Load to Kristen every Summer Meeting, but there was no Summer Meeting this year. "We all know how hard our industry has been hurt this year," Brian said, "but the kids are still needing help". In the past, money from Log A Load has gone to beds, warmers, and vein finders. There are rooms we sponsored on the Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care units. Kristen says this donation will go to equipment for the NICU. "This donation brings the total to \$220,000," said Kristen.

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# MFPA Wishes Beverly a Happy Retirement!

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# BLUNT ON COVID-19 VACCINE

December 8, 2020 By Julie Harker Filed Under: 2020 Events, COVID-19, News

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, who chairs a key committee getting COVID-19 vaccines developed and funded, says food processing workers are going to be at a high level to receive them. He says all Americans can expect access to begin in early spring, "I think we might have as much as 50% of the entire population would have had the vaccine available to them by the month of March and in April ALL Americans will start getting access."

Pfizer and Moderna are preparing their COVID-19 vaccines for distribution, "About six of the eight vaccines that we've partnered with are going to make it. They're going to be available. They're going to be produced at a half a dozen different places and millions of those doses are going to be available early in the year."

Blunt addressed Missouri Farm Bureau members during their annual meeting saying it's been a tough year for our country, "I appreciate your dedication to ensuring that our ag industry and our rural communities continue to feed the world and fuel the world and serve as a great place for people to live."

In Missouri, 10 hospital and lab sites have been designated to help with delivery.

Senator Blunt is Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Today, FDA scientists endorsed the efficacy and safety of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines which could lead to emergency authorization soon.

## 2021 MFPA Winter Meeting & Legislative Breakfast

### POSTPONED

Due to COVID restrictions at the Missouri Capitol MFPA has postponed the Winter Meeting. Look for email and newsletter updates for a Winter Meeting after the new year.

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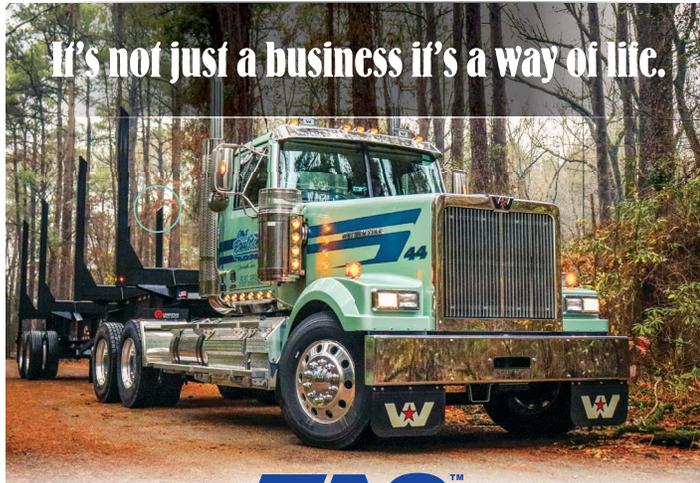
# 2021 Scheduled PTH Core Curriculum Sessions

(note classes are not all in chronological order)

Location	Level 1 & 2	Level 3 & 4	Forest Management
Chillicothe	January 4-5	January 25-26	January 12
Farmington	February 8-9	March 1-2	February 18
Hannibal	February 11-12	March 4-5	February 25
Cape Girardeau	March 8-9	March 29-30	March 23
West Plains	March 11-12	April 5-6	March 23
Columbia	August 30-31	September 13-14	September 8
Doniphan	October 18-19	November 4-5	October 28
Springfield	November 8-9	November 29-30	November 22

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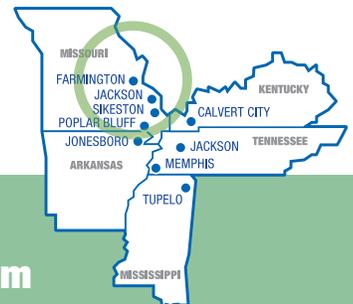
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