



## WINTER MEETING 2023 GOOD STUFF AND A GREAT TIME

The annual MFPA Winter Meeting is held in Jefferson City for a targeted purpose, it is about acknowledging the importance of informing elected officials about Missouri's forest products industries and how we contribute to the states economy. This year's meeting was a tremendous acknowledgement by elected officials on their recognition of the forest products industry. Governor Parson, Lt. Governor Kehoe, and Speaker of the House of Representatives Dean Plocher all made personal appearances during our meeting and took time to publicly thank our membership for what we do for Missouri and how we help drive the states economy. We also had over 75 elected officials attend one or more of our meetings during the two-day affair, another testament to the importance of our industry to Missouri's elected officials.

Governor Parson wanted to attend the Winter Meeting dinner and personally thank our membership for helping him pass HB 1720 during the special session. He indicated to our membership very frankly, that without our help, particularly that of Nancy Giddens and Shannon Cooper's, that the bill would not have passed, and he was very grateful for our support. We were very proud to have the Governor address our membership and we feel confident that he will continue to strongly support our industry during the rest of his tenure as Governor. Lt. Governor Kehoe addressed the membership during the legislative breakfast to thank MFPA once again for our endorsement for his run for Governor and reinforced his commitment to our industry. I received a call from MFPA member Darwin Murray following the meeting that I hope summed up the attitude of the membership. "I just wanted to thank you for a great meeting and providing an opportunity to personally interact with Governor Parson, Lt. Governor Kehoe and so many elected officials from throughout Missouri. Attending this meeting was a valuable use of mine and Justin Rutledge's time and we appreciate the good work that MFPA is doing for our industry. Keep up the good work and I have no idea how you will top this meeting next year!"



### FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE TAKES ACTION ON CARBON AT WINTER MEETING

The Forest Health Committee voted in favor (with one abstention) to instruct me to begin drafting a white paper on the potential implications of the federal governments interest in further developing a carbon economy for forests in the United States. Trees, and how they are collectively managed in the forest, are being considered a new opportunity by the public and private sector to capture and store carbon. MFPA's Forest Health Committee feels that it is appropriate to develop a position paper that can be considered by our Board of Directors that can be used to guide our response on carbon management in the future. I commend their action and look forward to developing the paper.

## In this issue.....

page 1

- Winter Meeting 2023

page 2

- It's Time to Renew!

page 3

- 2023 MFPA Legislative Breakfast

page 4

- 2023 Winter Meeting Sponsors - Thank You!

page 5

- Certification & Education

page 6

- MFPA Hosts FFA Forestry Contest

## *It's Time To Renew!*

Membership renewal forms have been mailed and it's time to renew your membership to continue receiving all the benefits of MFPA!

In your envelope you will find your membership dues invoice and the current contact information we have listed for your company. When returning your membership form please notify us of any changes to your contact information or any products and services you offer.

Please return your dues and information promptly as we have started assembling the 2023-2024 Membership Directory...



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# 2023 MFPA Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast, held in the third floor Rotunda of the Capitol, created a real opportunity for about 40 members of MFPA to interact directly with Missouri elected officials. Members did an excellent job of promoting MFPA's legislative agenda along with informing House and Senate members of the importance of the forest products industry to their legislative district and the state of Missouri.

## Thanks To All Who Attended The 2023 Legislative Breakfast!



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# CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



There is always something to learn at an MFPA Meeting. During the Annual Winter Meeting, held earlier this month, I learned about happiness.. A recent Washington Post article listed loggers and foresters as 2 of the happiest jobs in the United States. I think the most shocked to hear that were the loggers in the room. Let's face it, if you ask loggers about their job, you can expect to hear about markets, the weather, the high cost of fuel and a laundry list of issues they deal with. If you ask a logger why they don't quit, almost every one of them I have asked says the same thing...they love what they do. That's part of what the article alludes to. It's an interesting read, even if they continually reference loggers as lumberjacks. According to the article, the biggest factors in determining happiness include stress level and the level of meaning the study participants see in their job. Loggers see themselves as having a meaningful career. Providing a needed service. Isn't this the same job that is perennially listed as one of the most dangerous jobs? Another factor in happiness is where you do your work. For loggers...and foresters...it's the great outdoors. It's where everyone wants to work. Walking through the woods is considered therapy for some. The solitude and peace in the forest are sought after by recreational users. People strive to have a home surrounded by trees and are willing to pay high dollar for it. But, is all of that enough to overcome the laundry list of issues? It must be. I am reminded by an old quote that has been paraphrased for centuries. It has been attributed to Confucius...but the message really is more important than the messenger. "If you choose a job you love, you will never work a day in your life". OK....I get it now.

Check out the Washington Post article by going to the link, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/01/06/happiest-jobs-on-earth/>

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# MFPA Hosts FFA Forestry Contest

MFPA collaborated with Missouri FFA to host the Fall Public Speaking Competition. This state level competition was new to the MFPA Annual Winter Meeting. The winning students from each FFA District presented their speeches on January 10<sup>th</sup> to a group of judges, including Luke Brookshire from Madison County Wood Products; Shelby Jones, forestry consultant; and Hank Stelzer from University of Missouri-School of Natural Resources. MFPA judges found all the students speeches to be excellent! The winner of the competition was MFPA's own Leah Thompson, daughter of Dmitri and Amy Thompson, owners of Cedar Creek Hardwoods, Inc!

***Congratulations Leah!!!***

MFPA will be reaching out to MFPA members to serve as judges in next year's District and State level competitions. If you are interested in judging next year's district competition, let us know by emailing [laura@moforest.org](mailto:laura@moforest.org) or calling the MFPA office at 573-634-3252.



FFA Students in the State Fall Public Speaking Competition



Winner Leah Thompson being congratulated by Governor Parson

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