



WINTER MEETING 2026 IT'S A WRAP

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members that made the trip to Jefferson City to attend and participate in the 2026 Winter Membership Meeting. Again, this year we had great attendance and good opportunities to interact with elected officials. For the second year in a row, we competed against the Governor's prayer breakfast at the Capital, so attendance was disappointingly low at our breakfast event. We have learned our lesson on competing with the Lord and will move our event next year.

All MFPA committees met and covered numerous topics important to the industry. The Governmental Affairs committee discussed numerous topics important to the industry. HB 3004 has been filed by Rep. Tony Harbison that if passed, would eliminate false marketing of fake wood products sold in Missouri. If the term "wood" or species of wood, like "oak" for example, is used in marketing products it must at least possess a solid wood decorative layer on the surface of the product. We will also continue to lobby for funding the Wood Energy Tax Credit and Hardwood Promotion Fund. We received updates from our partners with the Mark Twain, MDC and Pioneer Forest during the Forest Health committee and remain impressed with the management work they are conducting throughout Missouri. Millions of board feet of timber are being harvested from these lands and are critical to the forest products industry in Missouri. We appreciate the opportunity to have dialogue with these groups and work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forest resource.

Governor Kehoe announced during the State of the State address that he intends to eliminate the state income tax. This issue will be a major discussion point in the Capital this session and it is not necessarily a partisan issue. Both parties are eager to receive the details of the plan to begin analyzing the potential impact on their constituents. At this time, we are not aware of any specifics but will forward to the membership when it is available.

MFPA sponsors an FFA forestry speaking contest for participating students across Missouri each Fall. This effort is led by Amy Thompson, Cedar Creek Hardwoods, who does a great job of administering and organizing the program on behalf of MFPA. The topic this year was "Why should you use real wood versus fake wood?" and the winner was Freshman Chet Causey from Hermann, MO. Chet was kind enough to make his presentation at the Winter Meeting evening reception and did an outstanding job.

Hope that you are making the best of the dog days of winter!!



MFPA FFA State Competition Judges Lacey Schmidt from Gastineau Log Homes; Gerald Ross, retired State Forester; and Mark McCarthy, retired MFPA Education Manager with winner Chet Causey from Herman High School.



Brian and FFA Forestry Speaking Competition Champ, Chet Causey



Brian with FFA State Competition participants
Back Row: Chet Causey, Trever Entsminger, Brody Baker
Front Row: Allie Young, Chloe Anderson, Maesyn Jones

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WELCOME NEW MFPA MEMBERS

Company: Rolling Acres Logging

Contact: Joni Petersheim

Phone: (660) 373-1399

County: Harrison

Company: Zeller Technologies

Contact: Tom Rudloff

Phone: (314) 638-9641

Email: trudloff@zellertechnologies.com

Website: www.zellertechnologies.com

County: Saint Louis

2026 Summer Meeting

July 17-18th

*Margaritaville Lake Resort
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IN SHARPENING IS THERE A RIGHT OR WRONG

Before I tackle that subject, I hope we all had a very good Holiday season! We had a good season back in Indiana with family and friends. Good eats and everybody got along.

Seriously though, I believe being able to sharpen your chain is a critical skill to have as a sawyer. So, "in sharpening, is there a right or wrong?" My answer is NO there is not! But remember, in certain cases, OSHA may not agree with us. If OSHA steps in when one of the crew gets hurt severely or dies, the logger may have to pay some steep fines. Sadly, that's not the worst thing in a case like that. Knowing that a friend and crew member has been injured or died is a hard burden to bare. If an accident has occurred, likely the sawyer or an equipment operator is involved. Almost all accidents have a human cause; in other words, we often hurt ourselves. Since I'm talking about sharpening, let's discuss kickbacks. Most of the time kickbacks come from a too aggressive saw chain and likely using the top corner of the bar tip at the same time. Now most loggers can handle that situation but what if you filed someone's chainsaw aggressively, exactly how you like it, and they have a kickback that hits them in the face and they die. A man would feel very terrible for a long time!

Going further, we have your way, my way, the manufacture's way, and a couple of dangerous ways of filing. Now, none of these ways are really wrong, unless someone gets hurt or the saw doesn't cut right and you can't get anything done. Both of those results come from a saw chain that has problems because of the way the saw chain cuts.

A saw chain can be sharpened so that it cuts too aggressively leading to more of a chance of uncontrollable kickback and also excessive vibration. The saw chain can be sharpened so that it will not cut aggressively enough to do the required work, forcing the sawyer to push on the chainsaw more than normal which is dangerous and tiring. Both of these issues come from the saw chain alone or the saw chain and the sawyer together.

So now, let's look deeper into why and how a chainsaw can be too aggressive. The aggression comes from the way the saw chain is filed or possibly from the sawyer being too aggressive themselves, while operating the chain saw. That means the sawyer is operating the chainsaw wildly, by beating and banging around, like they are killing snakes and for some people that would be too fast and too aggressive. Some people are just naturally fast paced and some of us work at a slower pace, like me. Whatever a person's pace is, fast or slow, smooth and steady is the safest way and often the most productive way for a sawyer to work. The key is smooth and steady together. A sawyer or machine operator cannot over run their highest rate of production efficiently. More next month.

~Joe Glenn, Chainsaw Trainer

MFPA 2026 WINTER MEETING SPONSORS

Thank you!!

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McClain Forest Products LLC - Legislative Breakfast
Royal Oak Enterprises, Inc. - Welcome Reception

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Garnett Company LLC	Rustic Wood Products, Inc.
Gastineau Log Homes, Inc.	The Daniel and Henry Company
Havco Wood Products LLC	Three Oaks Timber LLC
Kingsford Manufacturing Company	TriState Truck Center
Madison County Wood Products, Inc.	



SHOW US YOUR BUCK CONTEST WINNERS



Congratulations!
Derick Marshall

HD Forest Products LLC

Derick harvested a buck of a lifetime on November 23, 2025. This 18 point giant scoring a 202 was taken by rifle during the Firearms Portion of the Missouri Deer Season.



Congratulations!
Landon and Melanie

Southside Lumber Company, Inc.

Landon and Melanie (Twins) harvested two monster bucks on November 1, 2025. Both deer were taken by rifle during the Youth Portion of the Missouri Deer Season.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos!

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2026 MFPA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Legislative Breakfast, held in the 3rd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol, created an opportunity for members of MFPA to interact directly with Missouri elected officials to discuss the MFPA 2026 Legislative Agenda.

The MFPA 2026 legislative agenda includes:

Fund Wood Energy Tax Credit

The Wood Energy Tax Credit (WETC) benefits all of Missouri's forest products industry by adding value and encouraging the use of sawmill by-products. The credit is directly received by Missouri companies that manufacture an energy product and the credit was initially established years ago by Missouri's General Assembly. The WETC is now in statute for the next 5 years but it must be funded to be useful for the industry. We are requesting that the General Assembly fully fund the credit at 6,000,000 for FY 2026.

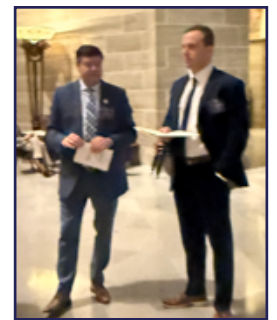
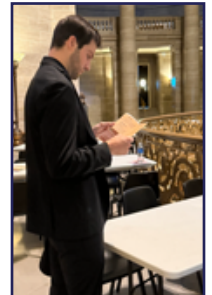
Restore Hardwood Promotion Funding

SB 138 was passed in 2023 to provide a mechanism for Missouri to assist in restoring markets for the Forest Products Industry. For two years, dollars were allocated to fund SB 138, but in 2025 the funding was removed from the budget. We are asking to restore funding at \$1.5 million to continue promotion efforts that were very successful in the prior two years. The Forest Products Industry is critical to Missouri's rural economy, and marketing and promotion are critical to revitalize this industry.

Defining Wood as Wood

Representative Tony Harbison is introducing legislation to prohibit the use of terminology that implies products are wood when they do not originate from a tree. Such legislation is analogous to the "fake wood" legislation and is necessary to prevent consumer confusion about purchasing wood products.

Thanks To All Who Attended The 2026 Legislative Breakfast!



2026 WINTER MEETING ATTENDING COMPANIES

Baker Products
Big River Timber Company
Botkin Lumber Company, Inc.
Brundage Environmental and Ag Law LLC
Burke Timber LLC
C & K Lumber LLC
Cedar Creek Hardwoods, Inc.
D&D Hardwood LLC
D&D Logging
Farrow Lumber Company
Food Export Association of the Midwest
Foster Brothers Wood Products, Inc.
Freedom Products Company, Inc.
Garnett Company LLC
Gastineau Log Homes, Inc.
Haas & Wilkerson, Inc.
Havco Wood Products LLC
Independent Stave Company, Inc.
Madison County Wood Products, Inc.
Mark Twain National Forest

McClain Forest Products LLC
McCoy Construction & Forestry
McGinnis Wood Products, Inc.
Midwest Outsourcing, Inc.
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Fibre Corporation
Missouri Tie LLC
MO-Pac Lumber Company
Mueller Brothers Timber, Inc.
Naeger Forest Products, Inc.
Pioneer Forest
Royal Oak Enterprises, Inc.
Rustic Wood Products, Inc.
Southern Insurance
The Daniel and Henry Company
Three Oaks Timber LLC
TriState Truck Center
University of Missouri - School of Natural Resources
Yoder Hardwoods

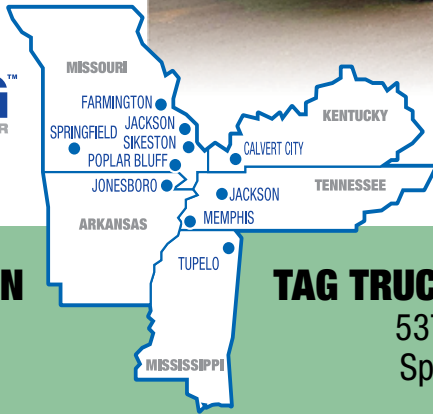
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