



SPRING FEVER

The Spring equinox officially arrives on Monday, March 20, 2023, in the northern hemisphere, which officially launches the first day of Spring in the United States. The first day of Spring is the only day each year that the sun rises due east and sets due west for everyone living on earth. Springtime is a wonderful time of year, we immediately get an extra hour of daylight in the evening, the forests and fields start to look alive again, the weather begins to warm up, and most importantly, turkeys start to gobble, and crappie start biting. Spring should bring optimism, joy, and anticipation and provide an extra “spring in your step”. I know what you are thinking, “well, I’m sure not as optimistic as he is about the Spring of 2023!”. My goodness, the challenges that we are all experiencing seems relentless, but maybe the onset of Spring will ease some of the tension and allow optimism to creep back into our vocabulary?

The forest products industry, like most others, are experiencing challenges abound and solving those issues seem out of our control. MFPA members are no strangers to challenges and risk, many are in the industry because they thrive on taking risks and are determined to be successful. I have never seen the level of frustration in our industry that I am seeing today, most of which is beyond our control. Every day seems to bring a new set of challenges, so it is MFPA’s job to figure out ways to help our members deal with and be successful in today’s challenging business environment. So, how do we do that?

The number one benefit of being an MFPA member is that we collectively represent a voice that is significant enough to be heard. Whatever the issue may be, we are truly better together than we are apart, that is just a fact. MFPA’s challenge today is to keep our membership strong by making sure that current members stay with us and try to get those that are not with us, to join us. In tough economic and generally challenging times, the power of a collective voice is critically important. The consistency of the issues that we all face in our industry is striking, so working to address them collectively just makes good sense.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

First of all, if you are a current MFPA member and have not yet renewed your 2023 membership, please do so for the sake of the industry, we need you to remain a part of the voice. There remains a lot of opportunity in Missouri to grow MFPA’s membership and I need your help identifying those prospective members. PLEASE take the opportunity to send me an email or give me a call and let me know about a prospective member and I will personally reach out and give them our pitch to join the voice.

HAPPY SPRING!!!

2023 Summer Meeting
Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center
Branson, MO
July 28-29

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If any of the following information for your company has changed over the last year, please let us know by calling the MFPA office at 573-634-3252 or emailing melissa@moforest.org or laura@moforest.org and we will update your information in our member database and website:

- Company Name
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Mark McCarthy



Let me start with a big Thank You. Thank you for all your gracious support for the Log A Load effort during the Summer Meeting. We had a record amount of golfers in the tournament...(despite a toad strangling downpour in the beginning), and we had a great response to the annual Log A Load Auction. Thanks to you, we continue to help the kids through Log A Load in a big way. The Missouri Logging Council voted to enter into a pledge agreement with the University of Missouri Children's Hospital, the recipient organization for our Log A Load donations. The \$150,000 pledge covers a 5 year time frame, and fits into our current level of giving. The pledge also gives us deserved recognition for our giving, and might even include some naming rights. We couldn't do any of it without all your help. Now, I come back and ask again for some support. There is a Sporting Clays shooting match scheduled for Friday, April 28th at Ozarks Shooters located between Springfield and Branson. It is scheduled to start at 9:30am. The cost is \$500 per team of 4, or \$125 for an individual. Lunch will be provided. Let's keep our winning streak for donations going strong. Thanks for all you do!

Professional Timber Harvester 2023 Class Schedule

Location	Cutting 1&2	Cutting 3&4	Forest Management
Columbia	April 3-4	May 8-9	May 3
St. Joseph	April 5-6	May 10-11	April 20
Springfield	August 14-15	August 28-29	August 24
Ava	October 16-17	October 18	November 2-3
Poplar Bluff	November 6-7	December 4-5	November 28

Justin Foster PTH Logger Training Scholarship

The Missouri Logging Council (MLC) is pleased to announce that the Justin Foster Scholarship for Young Loggers is available again this year. The Justin Foster PTH Logger Training Scholarship was established by the Foster family in memory of their son, Justin Eli Foster, who was a graduate, and supporter, of the Professional Timber Harvester training. The annual scholarship provides assistance to a logger 29 or younger by covering PTH training fees and expenses to attend the training. Please contact Mark for an application, mark@moforest.org or 573-634-3252.



Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority Announces Show-Me Entrepreneurial Grants for Agriculture

The deadline to apply for funding is April 28, 2023.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) is accepting applications for funding through its new Show-Me Entrepreneurial Grants for Agriculture (SEGA) program. Missouri entities seeking to add value to agricultural products or provide educational opportunities to those seeking to do so should submit their application by Friday, April 28.

“Missouri has a long-term vision to grow agriculture, our state’s top economic driver, and make Missouri an even bigger player in the food, fiber and forestry markets,” said Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn. “This grant program is a part of the long-term vision that can help farmers and agribusinesses take their ideas to the next level.”

The Show-Me Entrepreneurial Grants for Agriculture program is open to individuals, businesses and institutions of higher education. Grants are funded by an appropriation from the Missouri General Assembly to encourage value-added agriculture innovation in the state.

This grant program was developed to address recommendations of the Missouri Food, Beverage, and Forest Products Manufacturing Task Force, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe in 2019. Lt. Governor Kehoe continues to provide leadership for the state’s value-added agricultural initiatives.

“We are committed to increasing resources and value-added opportunities for Missouri agriculture producers and entrepreneurs,” said Lieutenant Governor Kehoe. “This grant program will have an incredible impact on our state’s economy by providing innovative solutions to expand Missouri’s agricultural production.”

The SEGA program consists of five separate parts:

- Innovation Grant Program: provides grants for the development of Missouri businesses that add value to agricultural products.
- Technical Assistance Grant Program: provides reimbursement of expenses to producers or businesses for technical assistance related to the creation and expansion of Missouri businesses that add value to agriculture products.
- Workforce Development Grant Program: provides reimbursement of expenses to Missouri producers or businesses associated with hiring, training and certifying new and/or current employees of an entity that is adding value to an agriculture product.
- Institutional Grant Program: provides grants to Missouri institutions of higher education for the creation and implementation of unique learning opportunities for Missouri producers and businesses interested in increasing value-added agriculture.
- Fee Offset Program: provides cost offsets to Missouri value-added agricultural enterprises associated with food processing and food safety laboratory services, including nutritional facts labeling, pH, water activity, microbiological services, and process authority review.

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Show-Me Entrepreneurial Grants for Agriculture continued...

The individual programs are limited to the following maximum awards:

- Innovation Grant Program: up to \$250,000 for any value-added agricultural business or service concept, with a 25 percent cash match.
- Technical Assistance Grant Program: up to \$7,500 for an eligible technical assistance program, with a 25 percent cash match.
- Workforce Development Grant Program: up to \$5,000 for any agricultural business workforce development concept, with a 25 percent cash match.
- Institutional Grant Program: up to \$100,000 to any Missouri institution of higher education and \$250,000 maximum for projects submitted jointly by more than one Missouri institution of higher education with a 25 percent in-kind or cash match.
- Fee Offset Program: up to \$250 in fee offsets per operation.

MASBDA is administering the SEGA program. Numerous industry and academic partners are engaged, including with the newly formed Missouri Agriculture, Food and Forestry Innovation Center (MAFFIC). MAFFIC offers resources and technical assistance to help Missouri agricultural producers successfully pursue value-added agricultural production and marketing.

Applications must be submitted to MASBDA by 5 p.m. Friday, April 28. Grant program application forms and evaluation criteria are available online at www.masbda.com.

For questions about the Show-Me Entrepreneurial Grants for Agriculture program and financial assistance offered by the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority, please visit www.masbda.com or contact the MASBDA team by email at masbda@mda.mo.gov or by phone at (573) 751-2129.



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Hardwood Industry Leaders Come Together to Educate on Consumer Safety and the Environment

Hardwood industry leaders have issued statements touting the benefits of real wood products over highly processed, wood-look alternatives. The statements come in response to the recent train derailment and chemical spill that took place in East Palestine, Ohio. The unfortunate incident raised questions about the effects of chemicals—and the products made from them—in relation to our health and environment.

Did you know hardwood floors and surfaces are hypoallergenic? It's true, and your family can breathe easy! They won't harbor allergens, microorganisms, or harmful pesticides that can be tracked in from outside. They also minimize the accumulation of dust, dirt, mold, and animal dander, which improves the indoor air quality in your home. And because Real American Hardwood products are all natural, they won't emit VOCs and other chemicals that can impact your family's health.

When a train carrying hazardous materials derailed on February 3, toxic chemicals were released, including vinyl chloride, which has been linked to cancer of the liver, brain, lungs, and blood. While residents living near the derailment had no choice about their exposure, millions of homeowners unknowingly put their families at risk when they bring plastic products into their homes. This is because vinyl chloride is used to make a variety of plastics, including polymer polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a primary component used to make resilient and vinyl flooring, cabinets, doors, window frames, and mouldings, as well as other household items.

"Real wood products do not jeopardize human health or the environment," says Michael Martin, president and CEO of the National Wood Flooring Association. "They are made using natural materials that can be regrown, and that contribute to the overall health of our planet and its residents."

Trees are a natural resource that grow in a factory called a forest, using a renewable source of energy called the sun. "During their growth cycle, trees take in carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen and using the carbon to grow," says Tom Inman, president of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc., "but what many people don't know is that even when trees are harvested, they continue to store carbon in the products made using them. So your real wood floors, real wood cabinets, real wood trim and mouldings, real wood furniture, even your real wood picture frames, continue to store carbon during their entire service life. And you can feel it; about half their weight is stored carbon."

When it comes to harvesting hardwood, responsible forest management is a primary goal. "Hardwood trees are an agricultural crop, just like corn or soy beans," says Dallin Brooks, executive director of the National Hardwood Lumber Association. "They just have a longer growth cycle, typically 40–60 years, and must be harvested before they begin to die." Once that cycle begins, trees no longer produce oxygen, and the lumber becomes unusable, as well as a fire hazard. Clearing the canopy also gives younger trees an opportunity to receive the sunlight they need to grow to maturity. In fact, responsible forest management has led to significant growth of hardwood forests. In the United States, more than two trees are regrown for every one that is harvested.

Linda Jovanovich, executive vice president of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association, states that turning hardwood logs into lumber is an efficient process utilizing every part of a log, including the bark, twigs, branches, and sawdust. "These materials are used to power boilers that help run both the sawmill and the kilns used to dry the lumber, or are manufactured into other items like wood pellets for fuel or animal bedding," she says. In addition, manufacturing lumber uses fewer resources (water, energy, etc.) than other building materials like plastic, steel, or concrete.

If your family's health is a concern, the Environmental Protection Agency finds that hardwood floors improve indoor air quality. Hardwood floors do not harbor microorganisms or pesticides that can be tracked in from outdoors, and they minimize the accumulation of dust, mold, and animal dander. Conversely, plastic floors, carpet, furniture, etc., off-gas toxic chemicals that can be harmful to your family.

To learn more about the health and environmental implications of home product choices, visit [RealAmericanHardwood.com](https://www.RealAmericanHardwood.com).

Please read the release and watch the video here, <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hardwood-industry-leaders-come-together-to-educate-on-consumer-safety-and-the-environment-301761328.html>. MFPA encourages you to share this with employees and friends and share on social media.



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