



ELECTION 2024

I want to personally thank all of the MFPA members that worked very hard to elect Mike Kehoe as Missouri's 58th Governor on November 5, 2024. MFPA's board of directors voted to endorse Governor-elect Kehoe very early in his campaign and were one of the first Missouri associations to take that bold step. Mike Kehoe will continue to be a champion of our industry during his administration, and he has worked very hard to educate himself on the forest products industry and its importance to the Missouri economy. Congratulations to Governor-elect Kehoe and we look forward to working with him and his team for the next eight years.

By about 11:30 PM Tuesday evening November 5th it started to become apparent that President Trump was going to be elected again as President. Depending on the polls you tracked, or the tea leaves you read, you may or may not have thought that another Trump presidency was a potential reality. We all know now the results of the red wave and it looks like the Republicans will have control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. So, change is rapidly occurring, and political appointments are being made daily, if not hourly. One thing we know for sure is that change is going to happen in a drastic fashion, but what we don't know is how it will end up impacting our industry. We are all hoping for a drastically different political environment for President Trump during his second term. I for one, would love to see a Trump administration being able to govern for four years without constantly being threatened with lawsuits and impeachments. Who knows what the attitude will be of the minority party, but it would be great to see some semblance of dedication to governing and working for the people rather than constantly fighting, suing and impeaching. President Trump, only having the ability to serve four years should soften the desire to sue and impeach during his second administration. It will be very interesting to see President Trump focused on governing without distractions, there is no telling what type of change we will see.

The appointment of Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy as co-directors of the new Department of Government Efficiency will be fascinating to watch. The initial explanation of their mission suggests that federal government agencies could change drastically depending on if congress allows their recommendations to be implemented. At the very least, the days of government bureaucracy growing, will likely be over for at least four years, and will likely shrink substantially.

Cabinet positions are very important to the forest products industry, particularly regarding the management of the national forest system and the regulations that impact our businesses. I would speculate that the Trump administration will implement favorable domestic policies for our industry, both in terms of forest management implementation on the national forest and eliminating unnecessary regulations that impact our manufacturing operations. However, we will closely watch the international policies that could negatively impact our ability to export forest products. Tariffs were a constant theme in President Trump's campaign, and we don't know if agriculture products, specifically lumber, will be impacted. To date, Rep. Lee Zeldin from New York has been appointed EPA administrator and the USDA position is still open. It seems that the new USDA administrator may not be a politician but rather a farmer that has shown strong support during the campaign. Change is in the air and we will be tracking everything as closely as possible.

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Our Mission

Missouri Forest Products Association is dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry of Missouri. Founded in 1970, MFPA has over 300 members representing primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, loggers and landowners. MFPA advocates sustainable management and sound stewardship of Missouri's forests to benefit current and future generations.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Board of Directors

December 6th, Jefferson City, MO

MO Logging Council Area Meeting

December 17th, Chillicothe, MO

2025 Winter Meeting

January 14 - 15th, Jefferson City, MO

****REMINDER****

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USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant Announcement

The USDA announced it is making nearly \$34 million in Forest Service funding available through its Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grant programs. The Forest Service is seeking proposals that support crucial links between resilient, healthy forests, strong rural economies, and jobs in the forestry sector. Made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, this funding will spark innovation, create new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy, and expand processing capacity.

The Forest Service is requesting proposals from eligible entities in the private, non-profit, and government sectors including tribes, local and state governments, businesses and for-profit entities, institutions of higher education, as well as public utility, fire, conservation, and school districts, among others.

The news release is located at [USDA Forest Service announces open grant opportunity to strengthen forest products economy and forest sector jobs as part of Biden-Harris Investing in America agenda | USDA](#).

For more information on this funding announcement, visit the Forest Service [Wood Innovations webpage](#). Regional Forest Service Wood Innovations specialist are listed at [Wood Innovations Contacts | US Forest Service](#), the first line for applicants.

There are several new stories and video on wood products and markets available featuring the Wood Innovations program.

- [Feature Story - Wood is good: Wood products build the way to healthy forests of the future](#)
- [How Healthy Markets Sustain Forests - Into The Outdoors](#)

Trees, Please! School Educational Materials Sponsored by MFPA

MFPA has educational materials available to schools! Please contact a teacher or principal from schools in your neighborhood and provide them with the information on the opportunities available to them from the flyer below. The Marvgeulous Magical Tree Show will entertain students while they learn about trees; Truth About Trees Kits provide tools to add to teachers' daily lesson plans; Giant Jenga is a fun game and a way for students to educate themselves on all things trees in Missouri. A part of MFPA's promotional plan for the industry is to provide accurate information about our industry, how we use wood everyday, and tree biology and carbon storage to our teachers so students can learn the facts. Feel free to email or print and hand out the flyer below to teachers or principals you know.

Send anyone from the MFPA office a name and email (or phone number) of an interested educator or school and MFPA will take care of the rest....simple!

MFPA office: 573-634-3252

Email: laura@moforest.org or melissa@moforest.org

TREES, PLEASE!

MISSOURI FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- The Marvelous Magical Tree Show*
K-5th Grade
The Marvelous Tree Show dives into the fascinating realm of trees as renewable resources! Using hilarious antics and amazing tricks, Elliot the Entertainer showcases how trees transform into everyday products, emphasizing their renewable nature. Audiences of up to 250 kids will enjoy this unique show, and each participating school receives Giant Jenga set.
- Truth about Trees*
Elementary
We developed these interactive teaching kits designed to provide creative ideas and tools you can add to your daily lesson plans. These kits make learning about the forest and trees exciting for elementary-aged students.
- Giant Jenga*
All Ages
As an educational tool, MFPA created their own version of the classic game, Jenga! Using giant wooden blocks made from Missouri-based wood, they designed each block with a tree fact on a specific piece of wood.

REQUEST YOUR PROGRAM TODAY

laura@moforest.org
+1 573-634-3252
www.moforest.org

CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



Let me start by saying “Thank You.” For those that attended the Summer Meeting, I promise that most of what you are reading is only slightly like what I said at the Banquet. This will be my last column for the newsletter. I am officially retiring at the end of November. I DO find it interesting that no one has said I look too young to retire...ah, but I digress. Working for Brian has been a wonderful trip. I think most of us consider it a good thing when we learn, and Brian provided me a lot of learning opportunities. As MFPA members, you are extremely lucky. You would be hard pressed to find a better Executive Director than Brian Brookshire. He is dedicated, smart, and cares passionately for the membership, AND the industry. Laura and Melissa are the embodiment of “I have your back”. They are smart, cheerful and always willing to lend a hand, or 4. It’s a great office to work in. I wish everyone was as lucky as I have been for the past 10 years. MFPA is a great place to work. It’s also a great place to work FOR. I have been lucky enough to have spent time with most of you. I am constantly amazed at our members. You are smart, great business skills, and welcoming. You have made this “odd duck” feel a part of everything. I am also thankful for the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Children’s Miracle Network. Mike and Kristen have made my life easier, and a lot of fun. I am blessed to call some of you my good friends...enough that I could fill the newsletter. You know who you are, but I would be remiss if I didn’t talk about Shannon Jarvis and Travis Yake. I appreciate your time you gave me to help further my education. Thank you. Thanks also to all of you that have made this journey a great adventure. From torn rotator cuff to understanding a bit of the business a little better, it has been a great ride. As I saddle up, I would also like to thank Chris Lohmann. He will be taking over some of the duties...especially PTH and Master Logger...the programs I have come to love. Most of you already know Chris. He’s a great guy. I think you’ll all enjoy working with him. I guess that’s it. I’d say more...but I have some packing to do. See you down the road....

2025 PTH Class Schedule

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Level 1 & 2</u> | <u>Level 3 & 4</u> | <u>Forest Management</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Farmington | January 6-7 | January 27-28 | January 16 |
| Doniphan | January 29-30 | February 24-25 | February 13 |
| Houston | February 26-27 | March 10-11 | March 5 |
| Chillicothe | March 12-13 | March 27-28 | March 18 |
| Kirksville | September 8-9 | September 29-30 | September 16 |
| Camdenton | October 7-8 | October 20-21 | October 14 |
| Bolivar | October 22-23 | November 10-11 | November 5 |

Winter Meeting 2025

January 14-15

RESERVE YOUR LODGING

Lodging is **not included** in the meeting registration fee. Hotel reservations are made directly with the Courtyard Jefferson City by calling Marriott reservations at (800) 321-2211 or (573) 761-1400 and ask for the special rate of \$ 145+tax for MFPA.

Please reserve your room by December 13th to receive MFPA rate.

THE HOTEL IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE CAPITOL.

REGISTER by January 7th

NAME _____
COMPANY NAME _____
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL _____

Total Attending:

_____ WINTER MEETING RECEPTION & DINNER # _____ LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST (STATE CAPITOL)
REGISTRATION FEE: \$120.00 PER PERSON HOSTED BY THE MFP PAC

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM & PAYMENT BY MAIL, FAX, EMAIL, OR PHONE TO:

Missouri Forest Products Association
505 East State Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573-634-3252
Fax: 573-636-2591
Email: laura@moforest.org

Credit card: _____
Number: _____
Expiration: _____ Zip Code _____
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Name on Card: _____

Thank you!

Winter Meeting & Legislative Breakfast January 14-15

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This event that we prepare for our members is important to our industry and serves as an opportunity to exchange information, build partnerships, gain awareness on matters facing the industry, and promote our industry legislatively. We are most effective in these efforts through your support and sponsorships. Please consider supporting the Winter Meeting by sponsoring an event outlined below.

Sponsors will be recognized in the agenda, at the meeting, and in the January Newsletter

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Return to MFPA via fax at 573-636-2591 or email to laura@moforest.org or call 573-634-3252

Thank you!



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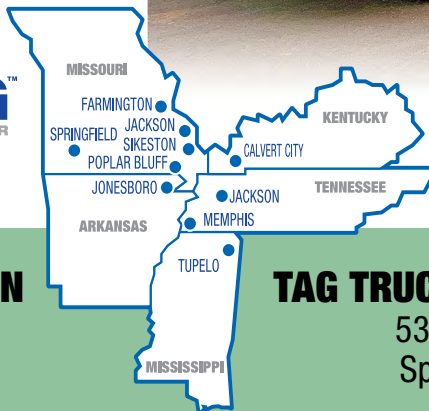
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