

Charlie Cary - Don't Waste Town Wood

Peggi Clouston - Using local wood for

Cross Laminated Timbers

Noon Lunch & Trade Show

12:30 pm MFA Business meeting

1:30 pm Session Three Programs

MTWP *Woodland Conservation Partnerships* -- Bob O'Connor,
Paul Catanzaro - landowner research

Mt Grace Land Trust

American Chestnut Restoration - Lois Breault - Melican, ACF

3 pm Adjourn

Cost of the meeting and workshops is \$45 for MFA members, \$100 for non-members (which includes a 1 year membership). Licensing credits have been approved for foresters and timber harvesters. The registration deadline is May 21st. After that date, a \$25 late fee is applied.

To register for the meeting, go to either at <https://mfa.memberclicks.net/member-landing-page> or call Annette at 617 455-9818 or email annette@massforestalliance.org

If you want to take part in the morning bird tour at 7 a.m., please email Greg Cox at gcox@crocker.com to get on the tour's signup list by Thursday, June 1st.

Protect Against Lyme Disease

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Lyme and other diseases spread by ticks are a continuing and growing problem, particularly for foresters, loggers and others who work in the woods. Lyme disease can be very debilitating making it impossible to work so take precautions every time you go into the woods

Remember to wear bug repellent and long pants any time you go into the woods. You can also pretreat clothing and boots with permethrin (but do not let it on your skin). Check yourself for ticks and use an adhesive lint roller to catch them when you come out each time.

So take time to brush up on your tick avoidance protocols and remind others working in the landscape about the dangers. Here are some sources of information:

* Check the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) most up-to-date advice on protecting against tick bites.

* Read an article from the ELA Archives: [Reducing Tick-Borne Disease in New England Using Integrated Pest Management](#)

MFA Testifies Before Joint Committee on Revenue

On May 16th of this week MFA testified before the Joint Committee on Revenue in the legislature on several bills that could affect Massachusetts Forest Landowners. Among other smaller bills, MFA Executive Director and Lobbyist Nathan L'Etoile testified on the following major bills:

- In favor (with changes) of Representative Steve Kulik's (D) [HB2618, An Act maintaining land in agriculture](#), and Representative Kate Hogan's (D) [HB3323 An Act to establish estate tax valuation for farms](#), two bills that would reduce estate taxes on farmland and forestland that is brought into production, or maintained in production for a period of at least 10 years.
- In favor (with changes) of Representative Bradford Hill's (R) [HB3321, An Act relative to farm training in Massachusetts](#), a bill that would create a tax credit for farm and forest interns to assist employers in hiring and training the next generation of employees.
- In favor (with changes) of Representative James Arciero's (D) [HB1465, An Act relative to non-contiguous farm land](#), and Representative Paul Schmid's (D) [HB3350 An Act relative to expanding agricultural land](#), two bills that would revise the way farm and forest acreage minimums are calculated for meeting the statutory minimum of 5 acres to apply for current use taxation under chapter 61A.
- In opposition to Senator Michael Moore's (D) [SB1572, An Act relative to a municipality's right of first refusal](#), a bill that would extend the time a municipality has to review and act on a Chapter 61A right of first refusal from 210 days to 300 days.

DCR to Hold Timber Harvester Workshops in May and June

The Department of Conservation & Recreation's Service Forestry Program will hold its annual series of 10 workshops for licensed timber harvesters on Chapter 132 Forest Cutting Practices regulations around Massachusetts between May 24th and June 14th.

Licensed harvesters are required to take 9 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain their license, including 3 hours on Massachusetts forestry laws and regulations. Attending one of the DCR workshops will meet the 3 hour forestry laws and regulations requirement.

Workshops will be held at the following dates, times & locations

May 24 th	Noon - 3 pm	MFA property, Hawley Road - Ashfield
May 24 th	2 - 5 pm	Polish American Club - South Deerfield
May 31 st	Noon - 3 pm	Athol Public Library - Athol
June 7 th	2 - 5 pm	Palmer Library - Palmer

June 7 th	2 - 5 pm	Townsend Public Library - Townsend
June 8 th	3 - 6 pm	DCR headquarters --- Pittsfield
June 12 th	3 - 6 pm	Swann property, Sky Farm Road - Stockbridge
June 13 th	3 - 6 pm	Myles Standish State Forest - Carver
June 14 th	2 - 5 pm	Charlton Town Hall - Charlton
June 14 th	3 - 6 pm	Pepperell Library - Pepperell

For more information on specific workshops, including registration information, check the calendar on the Forest Alliance website at www.massforestalliance.net/calendar

Do You Have a Massachusetts Estate Tax Story You Can Share?

The Massachusetts Forest Alliance is leading the charge to help conserve family-owned private forestland during generational transfers. With much attention paid lately to the federal estate tax reform, you would be forgiven to not know that Massachusetts has a tax on all estates of more than one million dollars. While most people might think that a million in assets is a pretty large estate, with forestland values in our rural communities (where much of our forestland is located) varying between \$1,000-\$5,000 per acre and "average" farmland across the state being worth just above \$10,000 per acre, it doesn't take much land to show how low that limit really is. With USDA estimating that average larger farmland estates consist of 84% agricultural assets, that means that some combination of as little as 84 acres of farmland or 170-850 acres of forestland is enough to create a sizable estate tax bill to families struggling with loss and wondering about the viability of their family lands.

Let's face it, our landowners are generally our older generations, and the death rate of our farmland and forestland owners is around 1.71%. That means that every year there are roughly 22 farm and 49 forest operations that are owned by someone who dies with an estate large enough to be charged for the Massachusetts estate tax. That's 5,700 acres of farmland and 10,000 acres of forestland - every year that is taxed during a generational transfer. That time - that transition time, when a family is struggling with a loss, often making many tough decisions, is a period when further fragmentation and loss of land by a family is most likely.

MFA has worked with the land trust community and our partners in the advocacy world to try to find a better way. Several bills are currently proposed in the legislature that would, through varying approaches, take a chapter 61 approach to estate tax valuation - instead of the full and fair market value being used to value farmland and forestland, we would use the same values used for property taxation. Stay tuned for ways you might be able to help move this issue during the current legislative session, but in the meantime, if you have an estate tax story you can share with us, we would love to hear it. It will help us to craft a better bill, and a more convincing message.

If you can help, call Nathan L'Etoile at 413 896-8786 or email nletoile@massforestalliance.net

To Reduce Climate Change's Effects on Forests, Thin Them Early

A long term study on the effects of thinning on tree growth has revealed that the key to reducing the effects of global warming on forests may be to thin out trees early to grow tougher larger trees that are less susceptible to drought and insect attacks.

As trees grow, they take carbon dioxide from the air and turn it into wood, capturing 10 to 20 percent of total U.S. emissions annually. When trees are too crowded, they become stressed and more susceptible to drought and insects. Scientists know that removing some trees through thinning reduces competition and lets the trees left grow large and healthier. Concerns have been raised, however, that cutting trees reduces forest carbon storage, releasing more carbon to the atmosphere.

A recent study by scientists from the Nature Conservancy and the University of Montana, however, of a 1961 U.S. Forest Service thinning project in northwestern Montana shows that total carbon storage in thinned plots was virtually equal to those which hadn't been thinned, and the thinned plots had healthier larger trees than the crowded slow-growing non-thinned plots. In the study, some plots of western larch were thinned from thousands of trees per acre to just a couple hundred, while other plots were left unthinned. While the unthinned plots had more trees per acre, the carbon storage in the thinned plots was equal because they had larger healthier trees.

The key the study, reported in the journal *Science*, found was early thinning before trees have to fight for water and light. Trees in young thinned forests grow rapidly. Thinning treatments with mature trees haven't had similar success because the retained trees have already been weakened by competition.

To read the article, see www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/04/save-forests-cut-some-trees-down-scientists-say

New Biomass Handbook Now Available

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) has published the 4th volume of the [Community Biomass Handbook >>](#), developed by the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station and co-authored by Marcus Kauffman of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The new volume, *Enterprise Development for Integrated Wood Manufacturing*, highlights the importance of collaboration in developing sustainable wood products businesses, especially with forest owners and land managers. In cases where a stand-alone wood energy system may not be feasible, this publication shows alternatives to create other wood-based revenue streams to structure projects to benefit from existing and future markets.

This fourth volume is a companion to the three previously published Community Biomass Handbook volumes:

- Volume 1: [Thermal Wood Energy >>](#)
- Volume 2: [Alaska. Where Woody Biomass Can Work >>](#)
- Volume 3: [How Wood Energy is Revitalizing Rural Alaska >>](#)

The handbooks accompanies BTEC's [Wood Energy Financial Calculator >>](#), an online prefeasibility tool, which allows facility managers, project developers, and others interested in modern wood

heating to calculate cost and energy savings associated with converting fossil fuel-powered heating systems to wood.

The Wood Energy Financial Calculator is designed to encourage the development of new markets for modern wood heating systems, expand the use of wood heating in high-performance buildings, and show the viability of wood as a heating source in rural communities.

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is an association of 100 biomass fuel producers, appliance manufacturers and distributors, supply chain companies, and non-profit organizations that view biomass thermal energy as a renewable, responsible, clean, and energy-efficient pathway to meeting America's energy needs. BTEC engages in research, education, and public advocacy for the fast-growing biomass thermal energy industry. For more information about BTEC, see www.biomassthermal.org

Get Your Tree Farm Certification Up to Date

If your Tree Farm is being recertified for Chapter 61 or 61A this year (or was recertified last year) now is the perfect time to get your Tree Farm certification renewed also.

To do that, send an email to Greg Cox at gcox@crocker.com and let him know which forester is doing (or did) your Chapter 61 recertification. Greg will send a recertification form for your Tree Farm to your forester who can fill it out and send it back and it will be complete.

Energy, Environmental and Food Safety Grants Now Available

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has grants available to help agricultural businesses, including forestry, save energy, reduce pollution and improve food safety. The deadline to apply for this year's funding is June 7th.

Two types of Ag-Energy grants are available to agricultural operations to improve energy efficiency and aid the adoption of alternative clean energy technologies. Up to \$30,000 in reimbursements is available through the Traditional Ag-Energy Grant Program for a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, while greater amounts are available for six specific project categories that require higher capital investments to return greater energy savings through the Ag-Energy Special Projects Grant Program. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2018 and all grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

For more information about Ag-Energy grants, go to www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/ag-energy

The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program can provide reimbursement grants of up to \$20,000 or 80 percent of project costs to help agricultural businesses reduce, prevent or eliminate environmental impacts. The competitive grants can help to pay for materials and labor required to implement the project. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2018.

For more information about AEEP grants, see www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/aeep

Employment Opportunities

Field Operation Team Leader

The Department of Conservation and Recreation seeks qualified applicants for the position of Field Operation Team Leader

This position monitors and coordinates the operation of state-operated forest and park areas and facilities in the Mohawk Complex; inspects the condition of such areas and facilities in an assigned region; confers with management staff concerning assigned activities; maintains liaison with local and state agencies; provides technical assistance to state and local agencies; and inspects land sites to determine suitability for agency use.

The basic purpose of this work is to coordinate the administration of state programs for forest, park and conservation areas. Position is based at Mohawk Trail State Park in Charlemont. Salary range is \$52,196 to \$70,195

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have at least (A) four years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, experience in the field of forestry or park management, or (B) any equivalent combination of the required experience and the substitutions below.

Substitutions:

I. An Associate's or higher degree with a major in forestry, natural resources management or park management may be substituted for a maximum of two years of the required experience.*

*Education toward such a degree will be prorated on the basis of the proportion of the requirements actually completed.

NOTE: Educational substitutions will only be permitted for a maximum of two years of the required experience.

Special Requirements: Based on assignment, possession of a current and valid Massachusetts

Motor Vehicle Operator's License may be required.

For more information, see <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl>

Log Yard Scaler

Gutchess Lumber Company is seeking suitable candidates for the position of Log Yard Scaler at its yard in Canaan, NY.

Responsibilities of this position include the scaling and grading of gatewood timber and logs, assistance in marketing and the sale of logs not bound for Gutchess Lumber Co., (GLC) facilities, storage of logs, loading and unloading of trucks, data collection and data transfer, environmental and regulatory compliance, job safety, control and maintenance of GLC wood concentration areas, equipment and property.

For additional information, contact Tom Anderson at 413 923-8375 or TAnderson@gutchess.com

Program Manager

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is looking to hire an RPS & APS Program Manager to implement the state's Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS and APS) programs.

These programs establish annual minimum percentages of renewable and alternative energy generation that must be supplied to end-use customers in Massachusetts. The Program Manager's primary responsibility will be ensuring that all retail electricity suppliers in Massachusetts comply annually with their obligations under the RPS & APS programs.

The Program Manager will also be the lead reviewer for all non-solar RPS Class I & II applications. The Program Manager will be responsible for program data management, application review and processing, communications with retail suppliers, applicants, and stakeholders, and will be asked to perform general market analyses for the Department. The Program Manager will also support renewable energy programs and policy more generally. The Program Manager will report to the Director of the Renewable & Alternative Energy Division at DOER.

This is a Boston based position with a salary range of \$60,000-\$87,000.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have at least (A) four years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, professional, administrative, supervisory or managerial experience in business administration, business management, public administration, financial management, or professional experience in a particular specialty (i.e. scientific, professional, or technical), and (B) of which one year must have been in a supervisory or managerial capacity, or (C) any equivalent combination of the required experience and the substitutions below.

Incumbents may be required to have a current and valid motor vehicle driver's license at a class level specific to assignment.

Substitutions:

1. A Bachelor's or higher degree with a major in business administration, business management, public administration, financial management, or degree related directly to the specialty may be substituted for two years of the required (A) experience.
2. A Graduate or higher degree with a major in business administration, business management, public administration, financial management, or degree related directly to the specialty may be substituted for three years of the required (A) experience.
3. A Bachelor's or higher degree with a major other than in business administration, business management, public administration, financial management, or degree related directly to the specialty may be substituted for a maximum of one year of the required (A) experience.

For more information, see:

<https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=268020&src=JB-10080>

Wood Energy Coordinator

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is currently recruiting for a Wood Energy Coordinator (PG 23), which will be housed within the Wood Products Utilization and Markets Program and located in Montpelier. This is a limited service position through 12/31/2020, which may be extended.

The Coordinator will be tasked with helping to implement the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's goal of doubling wood fuel's share of building heating by 2035. Achieving this goal will help in reducing the State's dependence on imported heating oil and support forest management by providing markets for the products of silvicultural treatments on Federal, state and private lands.

The funding for this position is through a combination of state funds, made available through FPR, the VT Public Service Department, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development and a USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant to support the expansion of wood energy markets.

In general, the Wood Energy Coordinator will design and deliver a comprehensive modern wood heating information and education program with a focus on providing outreach and information to potential wood energy users. Program delivery will be through one-on-one contacts, workshops and collaboration with local energy committees, civic groups, organizations and institutions in order to increase the use of wood chips, pellets and cordwood in space heating. Strong communications, facilitation, interpersonal and public speaking skills will be essential. Education or experience in marketing, public relations or communications would also be an asset.

Application deadline in June 7, 2017 and applications must be done online at the VT Department of Human Resources website: <http://humanresources.vermont.gov/careers>

Additional information on the position as well as minimum education and experience requirements may be found at the link below...

<http://humanresources.vermont.gov/staffing/classification/job-specifications?code=313000>

MFA Forest Update: Now accepting ads, both graphic and text ! Contact MFA to learn more, or place your ad.

Upcoming Programs & Training

May 19 - 20 **Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo - Bangor, ME**

May 20 **Spring Ephemeral Workshop - Chester**

May 20 **Early Successional Habitat Tour -- Wales**

May 23 - 24 **Advanced Silviculture Workshop - Craftsbury Common, VT**

May 24 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Ashfield**

May 24 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - South
Deerfield**

May 31 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Athol**

May 31 **Wood Chipper Operation & Safety Training -- Lenox**

June 1 **Wood Chipper Operation & Safety Training - Whately**

June 3 **Forest Alliance Annual Meeting & Programs - Westborough**

June 7 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Palmer**

June 7 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Townsend**

June 7 **Wood Chipper Operation & Safety Training -- Bridgewater**

June 8 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Pittsfield**

June 8 **Wood Chipper Operation & Safety Training - Bridgewater**

June 9 **Wood Chipper Operation & Safety Training -- Leominster**

June 12 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters -- Stockbridge**

June 13 **Promoting Successful Regeneration - webinar**

June 13 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Carver**

June 14 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters -- Charlton**

June 14 **Chapter 132 Workshop for Licensed Harvesters - Pepperell**

June 17 **Managing Invasive Plants for Better Bird Habitat - Deerfield**

June 17 **American Chestnut Restoration program - Whately**

June 21 **Introduction to Agroforestry program - Lunenburg**