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FALL 2021

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TIMBERMEN

EXCELLENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED



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TIMBERMEN

EXCELLENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED



Excellence in Manufacturing Award
Northern Michigan Hardwoods

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Logger of the Year

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EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING AWARD NORTHERN MICHIGAN HARDWOODS



The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to announce Northern Michigan Hardwoods as our 2020 Excellence in Manufacturing award recipient.

Phil Manthei started as a logger back in 1979 and steadily built his independent logging operation into what is known today as Northern Michigan Hardwoods, Inc. Phil is a visionary who wanted to be able to take a tree all the way through to a finished product. In the late 80's and early 90's, Phil's vision took shape as he added a sawmill, followed by a dry kiln and flooring department.

With an emphasis on being environmentally friendly, NMH utilizes every part of the tree in the sawing and finishing process; even the bark and scrap wood is utilized and manufactured into premium landscape mulch, which is delivered state-wide.

Rebekah Manthei and Sam Manthei took over the business just over a year ago and have had to overcome many obstacles with the 2020 pandemic. Matthew Bennett, who is an employee, said, "Only with diligence, hard work and working together as a team got us through this past year." Even though times have been rough during this past year, NMH has broken several company sales and manufacturing numbers.

Under the current circumstances, NMH has had to adapt to operating with half the number of employees the business typically employs. Rebekah and Sam, being owner-operators, work diligently to focus on those things the company does really well. Both are continually seeking fresh ideas to do their part at helping create a better future for everyone.

This year, NMH is installing a new kiln which will increase efficiency, and moving forward, they plan to increase their hardwood flooring manufacturing capacity by installing new equipment able to handle larger volumes.

NMH will continue producing their products of kiln dried lumber, hardwood flooring and landscape mulch. They are also a dealer of prefinished hardwood flooring and butcher block counter tops.

Sustainable forest management along with providing quality wood products has always been the focus of NMH. They believe it is their duty to sustain a healthy environment in the forest and in the home for generations to come. 🌲

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2020 FRIEND OF THE TIMBERMEN AWARD



The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to announce Mike Smalligan as the recipient of the 2020 Friend of the Timbermen award.

Mike Smalligan is the Forest Stewardship Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Forest Stewardship Program connects landowners with a forester to develop a plan to help them manage, protect and enjoy their woods. Only 5% of Michigan's family forest landowners have a forest management plan and only 29% use a forester during a timber sale, so Mike also works hard to connect landowners with great loggers who are proud members of the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

Prior to joining the government in 2014, Mike worked on a forest carbon research project at Michigan State and was a consulting forester in the southern Lower Peninsula. Mike is a Michigan Tech dropout (Calculus II got him) and finally discovered forestry a few degrees and a decade later at Michigan State. 🌲

FSP Partnership with MAT

Fiscal Year	Grant (all funds from USFS State and Private Forestry)	Amount
FY17-19	Forests for Fish - 137 new MAT members	\$25,000
FY20-22	Little Bridges of Michigan Counties - crane mats for BMPs	\$130,000
FY2019	FSP Partnership Grant - annual meeting, Forests for Fish	\$13,945
FY2020	FSP Partnership Grant - Timber Talk	\$4,907
FY2021	FSP Partnership Grant - Master Loggers	\$17,500
FY2022	Hopefully another good partnership idea!	TBD
TOTAL		\$191,353

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2020 Excellence in Trucking Award Announced



The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to announce MD Contracting, Inc. as the recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Trucking award.

Mike Delene, owner of MD Contracting, Inc. of Baraga, Michigan, has owned and operated his business for 31 years. Mike is one of the largest pulpwood haulers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, currently utilizing 18 Western Star and Kenworth trucks that run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. MD Contracting employs 25 people, including not only truck drivers but also mechanics, loggers and coordinators. Mike also runs a tree length slasher, feller buncher and 2 grapple skidders, and his previous work ventures include sand/gravel hauling, sewer/water main construction, and various site improvements.

Mike is well respected by the people he employs. Most importantly, he is very grateful to all his employees, and appreciates how well everyone works together. Mike lives in L'Anse, Michigan with his wife Mina and two children. 🌲



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Excellence in Logging — Logger of the Year



The Michigan Association of Timbersmen and the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee are pleased to announce Chris Muma Forest Products, Inc. of Gladwin Michigan as the recipient of our 2020 Logger of the year.

Chris Muma has been logging for over 40 years. His Company was established in 1980. Through hard work and dedication to the forest products industry, Muma has grown his business to over 45 employees, many which have been with him for over 20 years.

Chris's greatest accomplishment is having all 5 of his children involved in the family business. His son Travis oversees the company's new state-of-the-art shop with his brother Dallas taking care of the parts side. His other son Jon moves the equipment for the company as well as filling in operating when needed.

Chris' daughters Jamie, Suzie, and daughter-in-law Melissa keep the office organized and running smoothly. Chris is involved in all aspects of his business from procuring the standing timber for the

crews to overseeing his several woods crews scattered across Northern Michigan.

Chris Muma Forest Products has 7 sets of Ponsse harvesters and forwarders running on his cut to length crews. He also runs John Deere bunchers and grapples on his slasher and chip crews. To move the wood, they have 4 self-loader log trucks and 4 tractors pulling log trailers, and three-chip haulers, all Western Stars. Chris has built long-term relationships with the mills that they supply delivering pulpwood to Weyerhaeuser, Packaging Corporation, and Aruaco. He also deliveries and produces for Biewer Lumber and sells grade and pallet logs to many local sawmills.

His loyalty and quality of products have always allowed him to have markets even during tough times. CMFP harvests timber from mainly state and private-owned lands. His crews take great pride in their work and this has kept them busy harvesting for over 40 years. As Chris Muma looks at the business he has built, he is confident that the next generation of Muma's will keep his legacy alive into the future. 🌲



LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT STATE REP. GREGORY MARKKANEN

District

State Rep. Gregory Markkanen was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2018. He was re-elected in 2020. He represents the 110th District, which includes Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties, as well as Powell and Ishpeming townships in Marquette County.

Committees

Markkanen serves as vice chairman of the Energy Committee. He also serves on the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee, Workforce, Trades and Talent Committee and the Education Committee.

Education

Greg graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in history and political science. Greg also graduated from Michigan Technological University Cum Laude with a social sciences and biology degree. He also has graduate work in special education with a focus on Learning Disabilities in K-12. He holds a Professional Teaching Certificate from the State of Michigan.

“I have worked in the timber industry, on the ground running a chainsaw and skidder. I know how important it is to support the logging industry in the U.P. It is an essential industry to help manage our forest and produce the products we use every day.”

—Rep. Markkanen

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Professional

Greg served as a medical Corpsman with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Airborne Infantry Platoon and spent additional time as a Medic with the 107th Engineer Battalion of the Michigan Army National Guard. He teaches high school civics, history and geography for Baraga Area Schools and served on the Hancock City Council as the Ward II representative.

Public Office and Affiliations

Markkanen has worked with the Hanka Homestead Board of Directors and as a volunteer tour guide, as well as with the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council. Greg has also served the Copper Country Americorp Program with the BHK Child Development Center. He is also a board member with the Michigan Center for Civic Education. Greg is also an Endowed Life Member of the National Rifle Association.

Personal

He is married to his lovely wife, Jane with two children, Kalle and Maija. They reside in Hancock. 🌲

Rep. Gregory Markkanen





My name is Victor Porteous, and a student at Gogebic Community College, enrolled in the Forestry Technology program. I was born and raised in a small town in the lower peninsula of Michigan called Boon that was founded in the bygone lumbering era. Both of my sets of grandparents owned beef cattle farms and growing up this way instilled upon me a great work ethic.

On a farm there's always work to be done, from planting fields and picking rocks, baling hay, to cutting and splitting firewood for winter, and many more things to numerous to mention. Growing up in such an environment gave me a greater wonder and respect for nature, and this is something that I've never lost. Not far away is the town of Cadillac, which also has a rich history in logging. There are two large lakes in the area that lay very close together, Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell. Many years ago a great undertaking was begun, and that was to dig a canal connecting the two lakes. Doing this allowed lumbermen to float logs from the western side of Lake Mitchell, through the canal to Lake Cadillac, and on across this lake to the eastern side where there was a railroad spur, ready to ship the logs downstate to the mills.

Growing up in an area like this, as well as my two grandparents owning land that includes forests that have to be managed, I was always aware of logging and land management practices. However, I never had too much close association with logging until I met my future wife Sarah. She lived in Traverse City, but was from another small town further north, called Central Lake. Her father is a consulting forester in northern lower Michigan and has owned/operated his own business for many years. In addition to this, her two brothers also work in the industry, having gone to school in Sault Ste. Marie.

At this time I was employed at Akwel, USA in Cadillac, a factory which makes raw rubber, and eventually this rubber is made by other departments into various automotive parts. Having been there for 10 years, I was working in the labs as a Quality Assurance Laboratory Technician. It was my job to test the raw rubber when it gets made for viscosity, durability, speed and strength of the curing process, as well as tensile strength and elongation of the rubber once it was cured. This job I did on 3rd shift (10:30pm-6:30am) and was stuck on this shift due to my father having the same position on 1st shift. Good money I was making, yes, but the schedule didn't allow for me to have much of a daylight life, as well as often working 6-7 days a week.

I talked in depth with my now-fiancé, and she supported my desire to go back to school, but for what? One of my passions has always been bow hunting, and with my background in farming, food plots have captured my attention. Researching soil types, nutrient and pH levels, plant types, and their attractiveness to wildlife has taken up much of my free time. As such, I thought that something that allows me to work outdoors, possibly land or habitat management, would interest me most. Both of Sarah's brothers and her dad work in Forestry, so I decided to talk with them and pick their brains.

“One of my passions has always been how hunting, and with my background in farming, food plots have captured my attention. Researching soil types, nutrient and pH levels, plant types, and their attractiveness to wildlife has taken up much of my free time. As such, I thought that something that allows me to work outdoors, possible land or habitat management, would interest me most. Both of my wife's brothers and her dad work in Forest, so I deduced to talk with them and pick their brains.”



Talking with them was pretty eye-opening, as working in Forestry you can be in the private sector or working for the government. On both sides of the spectrum, you can work directly with timber as a valuable renewable resource for wood and paper products, or you can use management of the timber to accomplish certain goals, like changing stand structure to benefit certain wildlife species. This was starting to definitely sound like something I would be very interested in.

Talking with her father showed me this was even more promising than I was starting to believe, as more and more people are interested in managing their land for recreational and wildlife purposes. He also suggested a couple of schools in the Upper Peninsula and Ontario. After doing some research into schools and areas, I was eventually led to Gogebic Community College. Neither Sarah nor

I wanted to be a great distance from our families, but also far enough away so that making a 'day trip' home wouldn't be a common occurrence. I have travelled across the U.P. and knew it to be beautiful country, and the multitude of waterfalls, trails, and parks appealed to both of us.

Once I graduate, we envision settling down back in the northern lower peninsula, but that will depend on where I get a job at. We have explored opportunities in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and we have even made comments about going out West to states like Colorado, Montana, or Wyoming. My having a job is likely going to be the deciding factor in where we end up though, especially with Sarah planning on being a stay-at-home mom and teacher once kids come along. It is both of our dreams to have property of our own to enjoy when that time comes, if God allows it to be so. 🌲



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Jason Wadaga, MAT Lobbyist

The Michigan legislature has returned from the summer in-district work period with a focus on completing the state budget prior to the October 1st deadline. Meanwhile, MAT was busy this summer opposing and monitoring efforts to block forest land from timber harvesting.

MAT Opposing Efforts to Further Prevent Logging in the Ottawa National Forest

In August, MAT contacted state and federal legislators to oppose efforts to prevent logging, mining, and development in 51,000 acres of the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

A coalition calling itself "Keep the U.P. Wild" recently proposed working with the Biden Administration to block this acreage from being harvested and

developed. This short-sighted, ill-informed proposal will negatively impact our industry and several industries with a long history of driving the economy in the U.P. while also protecting our natural resources.

At a time where the demand for these precious resources is increasing, we find it ironic that environmental extremists want to limit supply of timber and raw materials. A proposal like this would only lead to price increases for consumers and threaten our industry.

MAT will continue to advocate with our federal legislators to oppose any such efforts and we've been told that there will be a resolution introduced in the Michigan Senate shortly calling on the federal government to reject this proposal.

MAT Monitoring Carbon Credits for DTE in the Pigeon

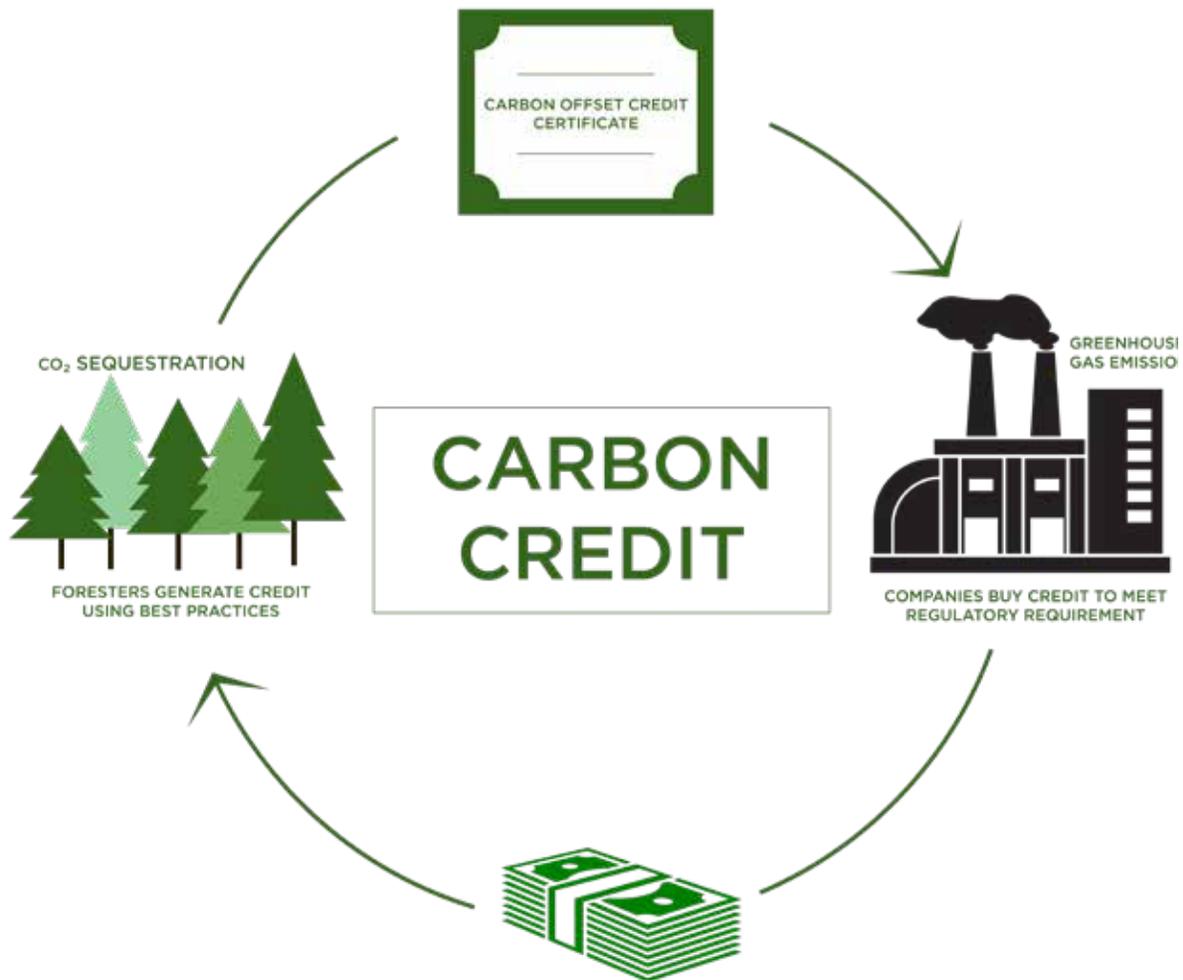
DTE recently announced an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to spend \$10 million to purchase carbon credits to offset carbon emissions that they produce by investing in state forests. This project will take place over 100,000 acres in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

"MAT has been in discussions with the DNR on the carbon credit project and has been assured that this project won't impact timber harvesting in the Pigeon."

—Jason Wadaga



Jason Wadaga



MAT has been in discussions with the DNR on the project and has been assured that this project won't impact timber harvesting in the Pigeon. That said, we will continue to monitor and discuss the project with the department and work with other timber partners to advocate for our industry.

The DNR website says the following regarding timber harvesting from this project:

“Management of state forest resources and the sale of carbon credits are intended to be complementary. Carbon credits will be generated from the management of forest resources within the Pigeon River Country state forest, as governed by the 2007 Pigeon River Country Concept of Management and the 2013 Northern Lower Peninsula Regional State Forest Management Plan. It is not anticipated that the carbon project will adversely affect management and timber harvests levels from the forest. Carbon credits are generated based on the DNR’s commitment to maintaining forest growth levels and progressively increasing forest stocking, rather than increasing harvest levels as would be allowable under the management plan and state law.”

State Leaders Announce Budget Agreement

State Budget Director, Dave Massaron, Senate Appropriations Chairman, Jim Stamas, and House Appropriations Chairman, Tom Albert recently announced that they have an agreement together for the Fiscal Year 2022 state budget.

The budget is expected to move through the legislative process soon and be sent to Governor Whitmer’s desk by the October 1st deadline. All sides have been very tight lipped on the details of the budget however, it’s expected to exceed \$50 billion total which would make it the largest budget in Michigan history.

While Michigan still has several billions left over from the federal government COVID relief dollars from the past few years, it’s expected those dollars will be spent in several supplemental budgets later this fall.





MAT was established in 1972 for the purpose of reducing costs and increasing profits of small forest industry businesses while ensuring a continued supply of timber. As a member you should enjoy all the benefits we have to offer.

Your membership within MAT provides the following opportunities:

- Free membership to American Loggers Council (ALC) and the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM).
- MAT provides multiple opportunities to earn free SFI credits throughout various sponsored events.
- MAT represents member's issues with local, state and federal departments such as MDOT, MDNR, CRA and Townships as well as Federal Motor Carrier issues.
- As a MAT member, you qualify for rebates thru Western Star, Peterbilt, International Truck, and Clark Tracks as well as other discounts from various other firms/programs.
- TIMSER Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MAT owns Forest Insurance Center, Loggers Insurance Agency II LLC and Mauck Insurance Agency. Supporting these agencies helps provide funding for association programs.
- MAT endorses Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste. Marie as the Health Insurance Provider for association members.
- MAT retains KDA Consulting, a full service Lobbying firm, to assist with legislative issues.

To join, simply fill out the membership form at www.michigantimbermen.com/join and return to the MAT office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at: **(906) 293-3236**

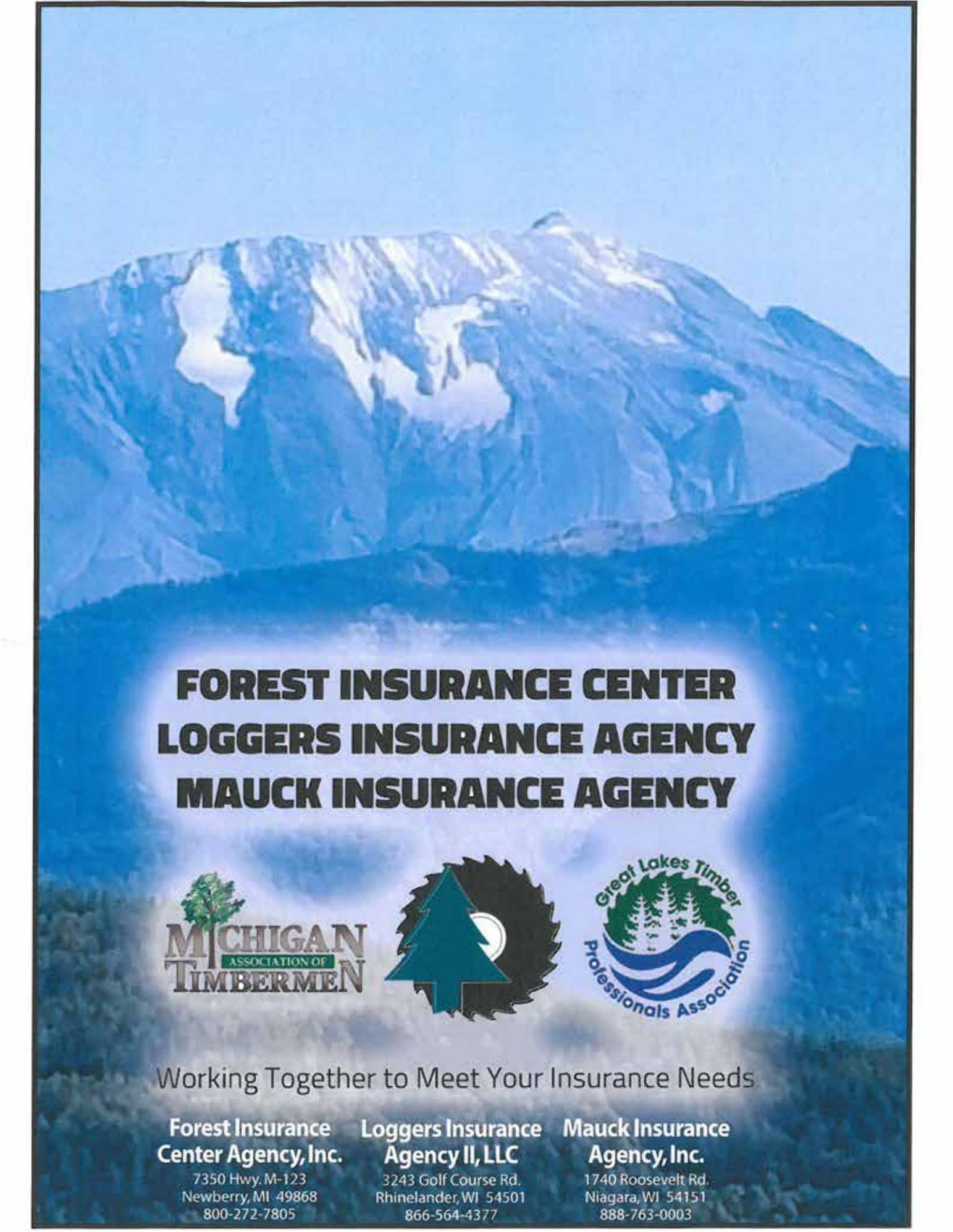


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Allison delivered the plaque to Amy, Stephanie and Heather celebrating Mauck's 45 years of partnership with SECURA!

Thank you to you and your team for all you do for SECURA & the Logging program!

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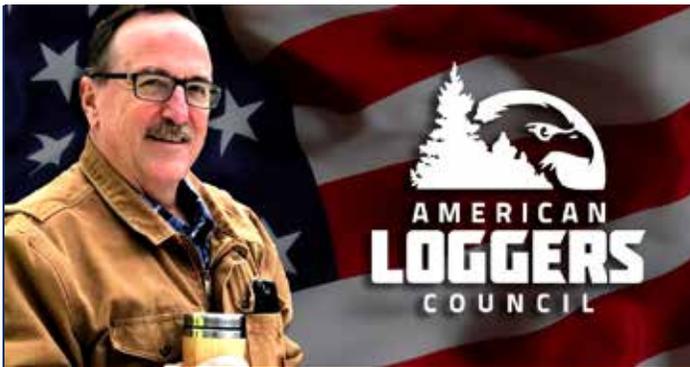
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What Makes the American Loggers Council “THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR LOGGERS”?

by Scott Dane — Executive Director, American Loggers Council

In the last month the American Loggers Council, with our states association members, has represented the American Logging Industry at a White House round table meetings, participated in the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH) announcement Press Conference, was a witness in a Congressional Hearing, and received national media coverage of our opposition to the nomination of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

First, after many months of working with the USDA, USFS and FSA as they developed the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers the program was unveiled. The American program met the objectives of target group. The American Loggers Council was trusted to respect the confidentiality of the program development and was the timber industry primary stakeholder at numerous meetings. In fact, upon the public announcement the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) said:



The American Loggers Council was invited to be one of 20 participants at a virtual White House Summit meeting with Commerce Secretary Raimondo and other Cabinet Members and Administration Officials to discuss the Homebuilding Supply Chain. The American Loggers Council was the only participant representing the American logging industry. The American Loggers Council took advantage of the opportunity to provide comments that the logging industry end of the supply chain has not derived any benefit from the record lumber prices and explained the need to maintain the Canadian Softwood duties.

The American Loggers Council Government Relations Chair, Henry Shienebeck, and Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association Executive Director, was a witness in the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry Congressional Hearing on The U.S. Wood Products Industry: Facilitating the Post COVID-19 Recovery. As one of four Congressional Hearing witnesses, Henry represented the American Loggers Council. Again, Henry touched upon the fact that the loggers and truckers have not realized any benefit from the record lumber prices. In closing, he provided recommendations that would facilitate the wood products industry recovery such as the Future Careers



“We thank the American Loggers Council & its state association members for helping us better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timber harvester and timber hauler sectors... they provided insights on their industry that allowed us to develop an effective and efficient program that delivers the greatest benefits to businesses in need.”

- Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency



in Logging and Safer Routes legislation that the American Loggers Council has been advocating for. He also encouraged the development of new forest products such as Cross-Laminated Timber (Mass Timber) and biomass products derived from forest based feedstocks.



The American Loggers Council Board of Directors voted at the Summer Board Meeting in Minneapolis to oppose the nomination and confirmation of Tracy Stone-Manning as the Director of Bureau of Land Management due to her documented involvement in eco-terrorist tree spiking incidents. The American Loggers Council opposition and request to the Senate to vote no on her confirmation was picked up by national news services across the country. 🌲

These four examples, over the past month alone, demonstrate why the American Loggers Council is “THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR LOGGERS”.

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WHEELS TO WOODS

by Mike Smalligan, Michigan DNR



How can we get young people interested in careers in logging, trucking and forest products? That's a very complex problem, but one small step is to get students into the woods to explore forests and to see loggers at work. Students in both rural and urban schools don't understand how forests are managed or what loggers, truckers and sawmills do to bring forest products into our everyday lives.

Wheels to Woods provides transportation grants to schools to go on educational field trips to nearby forests or forest products companies. Teachers want to take their students on field trips, but transportation funding is a significant barrier for many

schools. Wheels to Woods pays for the bus and makes it easy for teachers to visit any forest so their students can learn about any topic. Teachers can apply any day of the year with a simple form available at WheelsToWoods.org and sent to admin@WheelsToWoods.org.

Since 2016, Wheels to Woods has granted \$144,000 to 428 schools to help 46,000 students, teachers and parents visit a forest. The average cost per student is just \$3.72. Most trips are urban schools visiting suburban parks and nature centers (reflecting Michigan's demographics). While most students are not seeing loggers in action, they are having life-transforming encounters with nature. One teacher in Detroit reported that her students saw a woodpecker for the very first time in their life on a Wheels to Woods field trip.

Wheels to Woods is very interested in helping more schools visit actively managed forests. Field trips that include loggers are some of the most interesting visits for students. Jed Platske of Bruce's Crossing has been hosting students from Ontonagon and Ewen Trout Creek for many years to see active logging operations (Jed is wearing the hard hat in the photo). Only a few schools have visited forest products companies like Ironwood Middle School

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going to Bessemer Plywood, but Wheels to Woods would love to pay for more trips to mills. North Dickinson County School brought a busload of high school students to the 2019 Logging Expo to see high-tech logging equipment.

Dana Welch of Welch Land & Timber in Curran came up with a great idea at the Timbermen's annual meeting in Frankenmuth in August. Last year her company brought their logging equipment to the school when students were not able to travel to

the forest. Wheels to Woods is also willing to provide transportation reimbursement directly to MAT members who bring logging or trucking equipment to a school when it's not possible to bring students to the forest or the mill. Wheels to Woods offers a maximum of \$1,000 to each school and will provide up to that amount to MAT members who bring equipment to a local school.

If you are willing to host a Wheels to Woods trip at your logging site or mill, the DNR and MAT are ready to help you have fun, stay safe and share your love of the woods with students in your community. Contact Michelle at MAT or email SmalliganM@Michigan.gov for assistance.

The Michigan Tree Farm Committee is the fiduciary for Wheels to Woods. Michigan Association of Timbermen has supported Wheels to Woods financially, although most funding is from the US Forest Service through grants administered by the DNR's Forest Stewardship Program. Let's get students outside into the woods!





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