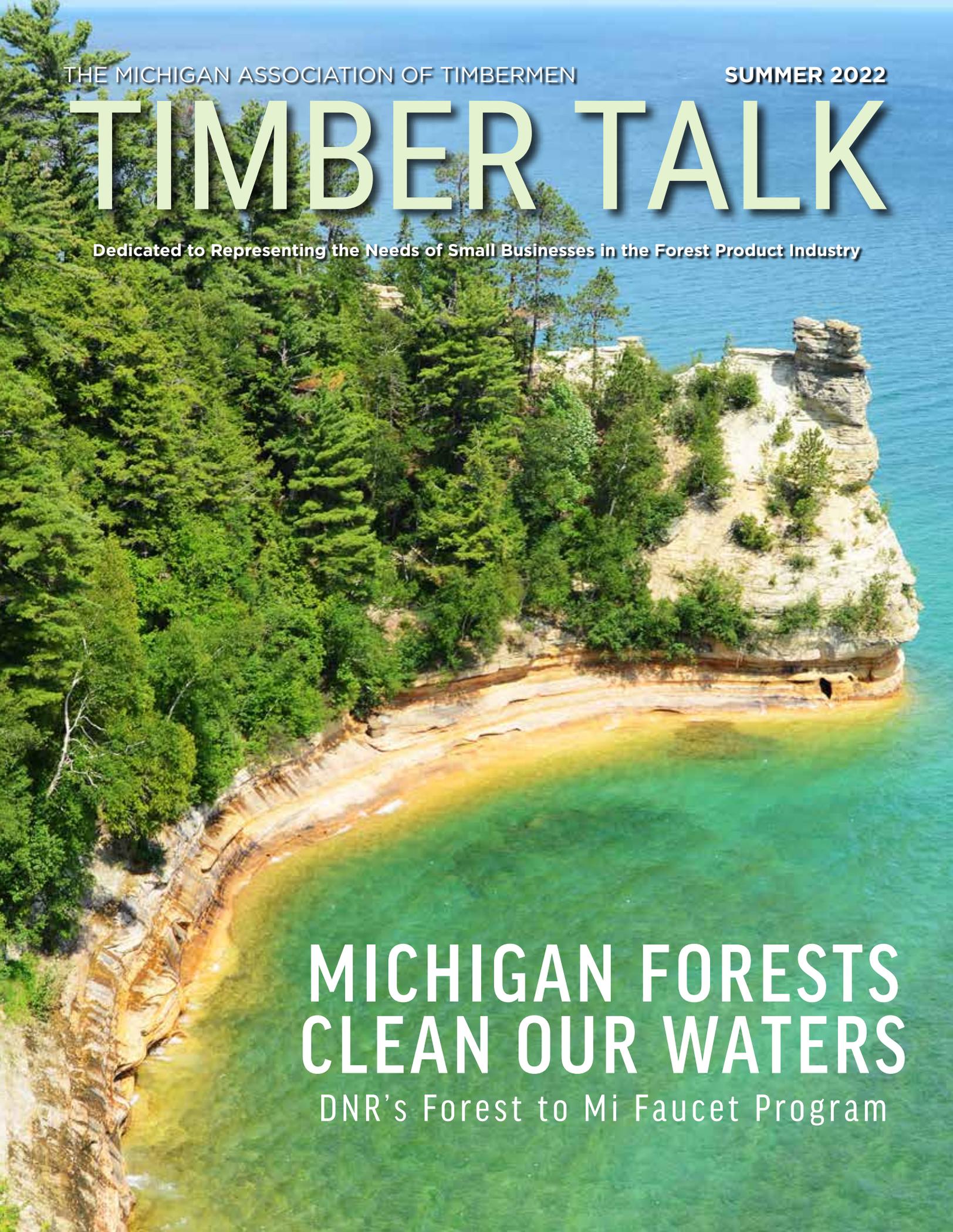


THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

SUMMER 2022

TIMBER TALK

Dedicated to Representing the Needs of Small Businesses in the Forest Product Industry



MICHIGAN FORESTS
CLEAN OUR WATERS

DNR's Forest to Mi Faucet Program

2022



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Position Announcement

The Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT) is seeking a candidate for the position of Executive Director for its Association. As the key management leader for the Association, the ED should possess extensive knowledge of the forest products industry policies in Michigan. Other duties will include but not limited to the following:

- Plan, develop and implement new programs and ideas to promote and increase membership involvement.
- Promote growth of the association through outreach of members, meet onsite with current members as well as recruit new members, and other organizations that enhance our image with the public.
- Meet with current and potential partner sponsors to grow our base yearly sponsorships.
- Assist MAT's lobbyists with national and state legislative issues, which affect our industry.
- Assist/manage office staff to meet goals.
- Participates in preparation of educational and technical assistance to members and the public.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Oversee finances of the association, including preparation of long-range forecast and monthly and annual budget reports.
- Direct and coordinate association functions, such as conventions, exhibits, local and regional workshops.
- Travel to meetings, job sites, and educational programs to represent the association.
- This position will report directly to the president of MAT.
- Represent the Michigan Association of Timbermen with professionalism and a positive attitude at all times.

This position will be a salary position plus benefits with yearly performance evaluations. Compensation based on qualifications and experience

Please submit your resume in confidence to: doyleforestproducts@gmail.com

Deadline for Resumes is August 31, 2022

*7350 M 123 Newberry, MI 49868 | Phone: (906) 293-3236 Fax: (906) 293-5444 |
www.michigantimbermen.com | timbermen1972@gmail.com*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Jason Wadaga, MAT Lobbyist

In June the Michigan legislature passed the largest state budget in the history of the State of Michigan before recessing for most of the summer. The record \$76 billion dollar budget focused on paying down retirement debt, increasing funding for education and local communities, water infrastructure and special projects. With a remaining \$7 billion dollar budget surplus, its anticipated that another supplemental budget will be passed this fall that will include some type of tax relief, debt reduction and special projects.

BUDGET SURPLUS LEADS TO MASSIVE STATE BUDGET

The two federal covid relief packages combined with unexpected high sales tax revenue allowed the Michigan Legislature to pass the largest budget in our state's history for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Some of the big-ticket items included:

- 🌳 \$6 billion to rebuild local roads, bridges, airports, and transit systems.
- 🌳 \$625 million for mental health services
- 🌳 \$305 scholarship program for students to earn teaching certificates
- 🌳 \$300 million for economic and community development
- 🌳 \$250 million for state laboratories

- 🌳 \$130 for public safety and community policing

Some forestry related items in the budget included:

- 🌳 Qualified Forest Program - \$5.4M in federal funds to plant 5 million hardwood and conifer trees on private and state land in the northern lower peninsula. The proposed use of federal funding would enable the planting of 5 million native trees on over 16,000 acres of private and state land.
- 🌳 Conservation Districts - Included \$2.0 million in ongoing funding to provide operational funding to be equally distributed among the state's 75 local conservation districts.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO DISTRIBUTE CARBON CREDIT MONEY INTO FOREST DEVELOPMENT FUND

Rep. Scott VanSingel introduced House Bill 6067 that would make it mandatory that all funds received by the State of Michigan for carbon credits go to the Forest Development Fund.

While MAT has been opposed to the carbon credits program and process if they are to continue, we would like to see the funds used for forestry purposes.



JASON WADAGA,
MAT LOBBYIST

The legislation is in the House Energy Committee and a hearing was held on the bill in May. It appears the legislation will remain in committee while the House of Representatives debates the merits of carbon credits.

MAT STALLS LEGISLATION TO PREVENT MACHINERY ON SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

House Bills 4535 and 4536 were introduced last year and would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to prohibit a motor vehicle other than a snowmobile from operating on certain trails from December 1 through March 31.

MAT has opposed this legislation as it could greatly affect our ability to harvest in the winter. The legislation has passed the House of Representatives but remains stalled in the Michigan Senate. MAT has led the charge in asking for an exemption for our industry and other timber groups have followed our lead.

There remains a lot of opposition from the timber industry and other outside groups to these bills.



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 harvest 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.”

LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT SELLING OF CARBON CREDITS REMAINS IN COMMITTEE

House Bill 5422 would prohibit the state from selling carbon credits or “carbon credit offsets.” This legislation was introduced in response to the announcement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to have DTE spend \$10 million to purchase carbon credits to offset carbon emissions that they produce by investing in state forests. That project will take place over 100,000 acres in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Despite assurances that timber harvest won’t be affected by the agreement, MAT has been very cautious about the plan moving forward.

House Bill 5422 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and has yet to have a hearing. 

JESS BIRTCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Michigan Association of Timbermen award a yearly scholarship of \$1,000 on behalf of Timbermen founding member Jess Birtcher and his family. This scholarship is open to anyone who is seeking a career or advancement in a natural resources field. **The deadline for all applications and references is March 1, 2023.** We welcome your application and should you have any questions or would like a copy of the application to fill out.

Please visit our website:
MichiganTimbermen.com/Jess-Bur

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LP **LOG A LOAD EVENT**

LP Newberry held a 3-day event in May that brought over 100 students and teachers from the Tahquamenon area schools for a mill tour, timber harvesting tour, and to utilize Ponsse North Americas simulator.

The total donation of the project which included stumpage, harvesting, mapping, hauling and delivery to the accepting mills totaled \$76,468.01. The money was then donated to the Children's Miracle Network, Devos Children's Hospital through the Log A Load program. The check was accepted on 7-12-2022.

I would like to thank all that were involved with this project.

Location: LP Newberry at 7299 N County Road 403, Newberry, MI 49868

PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THIS EVENT:
Producers – Trucking partners: Northland Harvesting, Cutting Edge Forest Products, David Nayback Trucking, Beacom Enterprises, Elenz, Inc., and Nathan Hubbard Transport.

Others include: MI Stems - Kevin St. Onge, Michigan DNR Wheels to Woods program, Biz E Bee rentals, Ponsse North America, Great Lakes Timber Professional Association, Michigan Association of Timbermen, and Grossman Forestry Company.

Accepting Mills: LP Sagola, Arauco, and Potlatch Deltic. And the team at LP Newberry.

The total tons of fiber donated from the harvest equated to 1,704.82 tons, or 741 cords.

Kind Regards,
 Travis Kangas
 Resource Manager
 Louisiana Pacific Corporation





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Todd Johnson
TD Johnson Forestry



Ryan Phillip
Pineco, Inc.



Kevin Proctor
Proctor Logging, Inc.



Jason McCarthy
Jason McCarthy

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 Feder-

al 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. Support-

ing 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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MORE ABOUT FOREST TO MI FAUCET

by Mike Smalligan, Michigan DNR

About 40 million people in the United States and Canada get their drinking water from the Great Lakes, which are 20% of Earth's available fresh water. Michigan's 20 million acres of forests, in the very center of the Great Lakes watershed, play a very important role in protecting and providing drinking water. Forests cover 56% of Michigan's land so more than half of our water flows through forests on its way to rivers, lakes and the Great Lakes. Better than any other land use, forests provide clean water and protect the sources of our drinking water. If the drinking water in your tap comes from a well, river or Great Lake, a forest helped keep it clean before it was treated and delivered to your home.

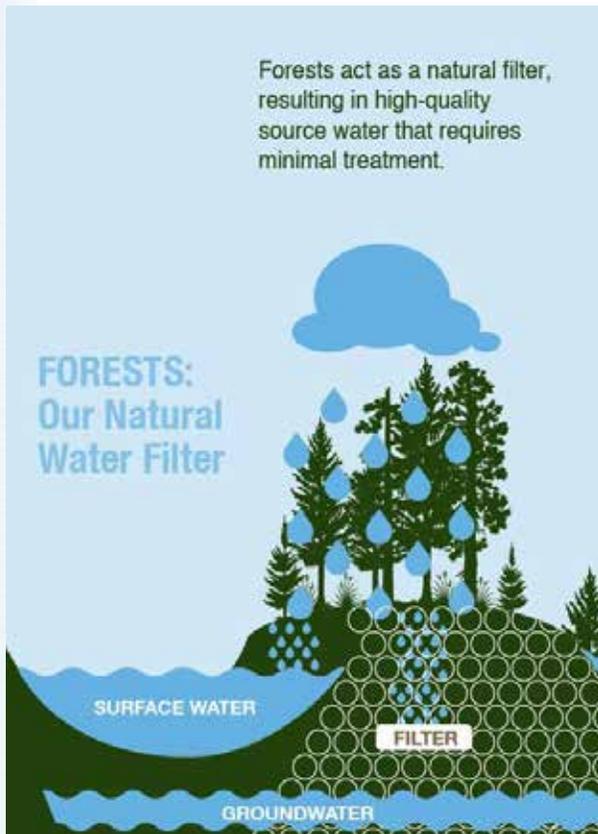


Image source: Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Which Great Lake would you prefer to drink from? Marquette gets its drinking water from Lake Superior whose watershed is 85% forest. Detroit gets its water from Lake Huron which has 68% forest cover. Grand Rapids gets its drinking water from Lake Michigan which has 29% forest cover. Poor Toledo drinks from Lake Erie whose watershed is only 19% forest. How much more does it cost municipal water utilities to treat water from watersheds with low forest cover?

How Michigan takes good, or bad, care of its land impacts global water quality and municipal costs to treat drinking water. Forests keep water clean by encouraging rapid infiltration into soil and introducing very little contaminants into surface or groundwater. Managing urban and rural forests well and protecting important forests lowers costs of treatment for municipal water utilities. Good forest management protects individual wells in rural areas too. Only 6% of Michigan's forests are protected in ways that restrict timber harvest. The Convention on Biological Diversity, which the United States Senate has not ratified, suggests protecting 17% of land cover.

The Forest Stewardship Program at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

is leading a team of a dozen conservation partners on a new project called "Forest to Mi Faucet" to educate woodland owners and the public about the connections between forests and drinking water. The project is funded by the USDA Forest Service and builds on its national Forests to Faucets 2.0 spatial analysis of priority watersheds for protecting surface drinking water in the United States. Michigan Association of Timbermen is a partner on the project and will use \$50,000 to recruit 25 new Master Loggers in the southern Lower Peninsula.

Forest to Mi Faucet has Five Main Components:

1. Help municipal water utilities implement their source water protection plans.
2. Inspire and empower landowners to manage and conserve their woodlands to protect drinking water.
3. Plant 60,000 trees in riparian zones of urban and rural forests for water quality and reduced runoff.
4. Educate people about connections between forests and their drinking water.
5. DNR will plant 750,000 trees on state forests as matching funds to USDA Forest Service investment.

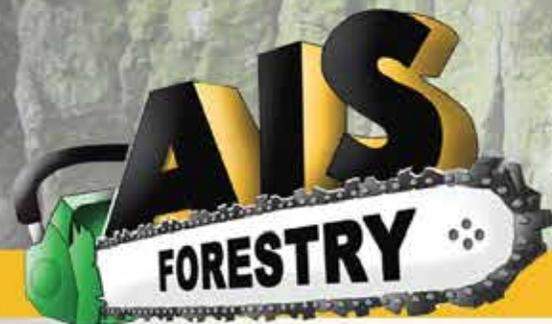
Forest to Mi Faucet has a dozen partners supported by two funding sources from the USDA Forest Service – a Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant for \$300,000 and a Lower Great Lakes (LGL) grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$315,000. All partners will be doing similar work with slight variations regionally and by funding source.

Forest to Mi Faucet hopes to build the foundation for a future payment for ecosystem services program where private forest owners are compensated for providing clean water by managing their forests well and protecting sources of drinking water. Other states (Arizona, New Mexico, Georgia, Maine, New York) and countries are already doing this.

The project manager for *Forest to Mi Faucet* is Mike Smalligan, DNR Forest Stewardship Coordinator.

Contact: SmalliganM@Michigan.gov or (517) 449-5666.

Project information will be available at Michigan.gov/Forest2MiFaucet later in the fall of 2022. 🌲



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MAT VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



1. A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BUSINESS:

Waldo is a new software company, built to help the forest industry by introducing easy-to-use apps and technology tools. As a UP (Michigan) based company, we understand hardwood markets and sorts, so we design tools to make bookwork, payments, and business easier.

2. HOW DID THIS BUSINESS GET STARTED?:

Leo Huhta and his wife Tina own a small logging company in the Copper Country. Tina needed a way to make her bookwork tasks easier. They set out to make an app that would solve bookwork problems for loggers and truckers. With the guidance of the MTEC- SmartZone in Houghton, MI, initial testing for the first app was completed in spring 2022.

3. WHAT IS THIS BUSINESS DEDICATED TO?:

Waldo is committed to making the logging industry sustainable for future generations. The only way to make sure this happens is through sustainable business practices and better ways for small businesses to "know their numbers."

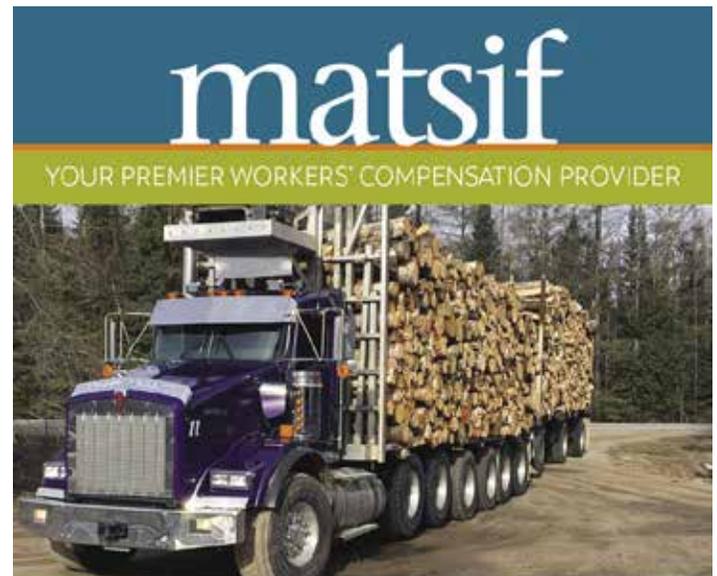
4. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON HOW HAS THE BUSINESS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL?:

Waldo's early success is measured by interest to change. We have found loggers, truckers, mills, and land companies are hesitant about change, but all know something needs to change. These conversations are key to finding a repeatable model for EVERYONE'S success.

5. DO YOU HAVE ANY LONG-TERM GOALS FOR THE BUSINESS?:

"Something's gotta change" "We can't keep going with these rates" "We need more money" "but HOW?" Solving "HOW" is the long-term goal for Waldo. We plan to give each contributor in the logging industry what THEY need to track and show "their numbers". It's said that land management, and mills are making money on the backs of small business. It's also been said that the loggers and truckers always complain about pay. Neither are true. What seems to be true, is mills need wood, land management needs to sell, loggers need to cut, and truckers need to haul; but NOBODY can tell us the true cost. Each group has their own method for calculating profitability, whether it's in their head, or on a large spreadsheet. Waldo will help each small business

with their "numbers" by using apps and simple calculations to reflect the actual cost of operating, so when a raise is required, we have data to back up the request. If each logging job in our area uses common information about costs, time, and production, we will have data to start stabilizing prices. Waldo will begin by replacing the "paper trip-ticket" with an electronic version. An electronic trip ticket gives everyone in the supply chain THEIR information immediately, rather than waiting for mail, or week/month-end statements. Waldo is built by the industry, for the industry. Please contact us if you have any ideas to share. 🌲



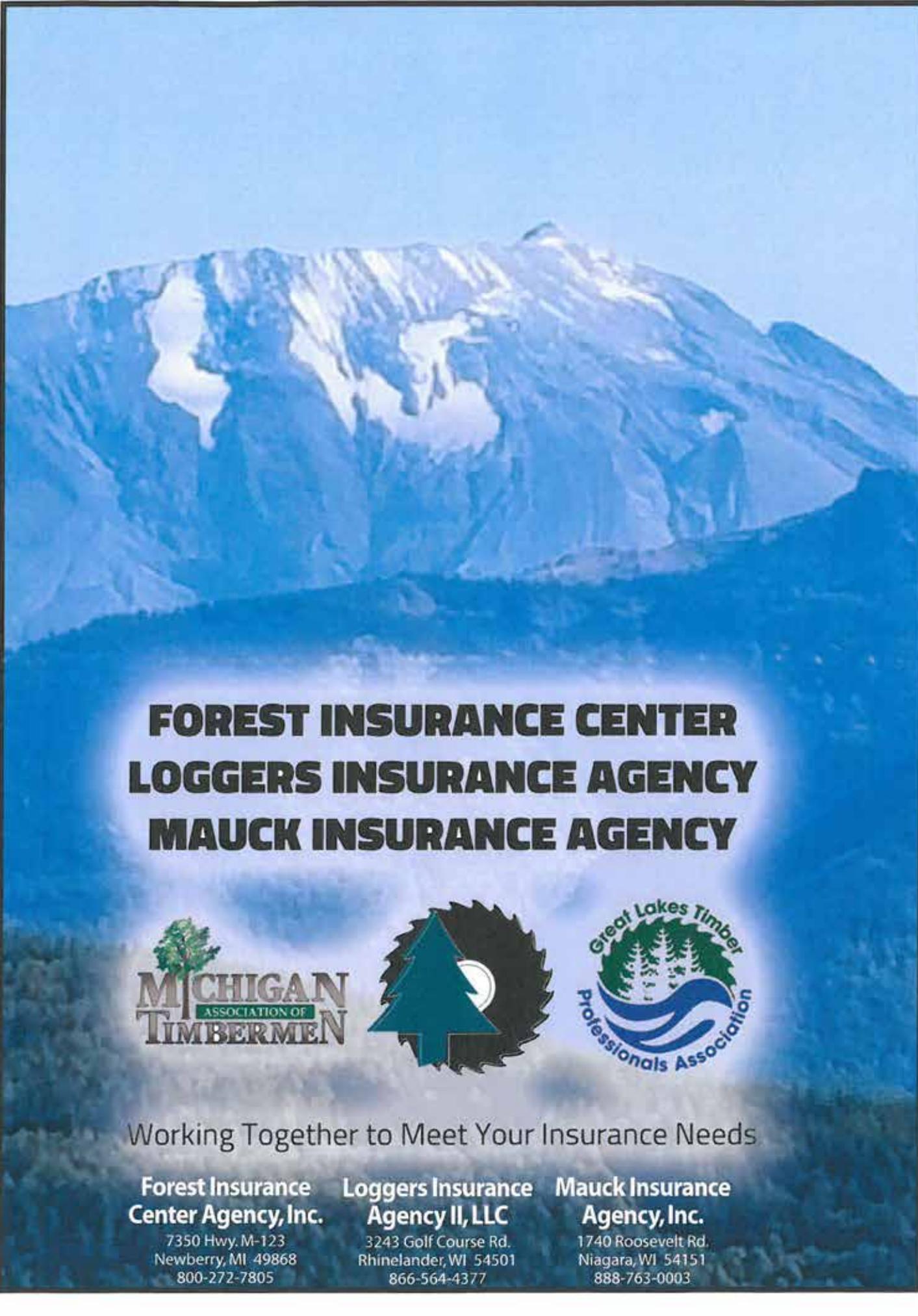
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Technological
University**

Located approximately 40 miles south of Houghton along US-41 in Baraga County, the center is owned and operated by Michigan Technological University. The Alberta sawmill opened on September 1, 1936, as part of Henry Ford's vision as a model town sawmill community. The auto legend named the town Alberta, after Alberta Johnson, the daughter of his U.P. operations superintendent.

The Alberta mill was a smaller version of the early sawmills. Much of the lumber was utilized in the production of his "Woodies" and other pre-World War II cars. Steel dominated the wood industry post World War II, and therefore closed the mill on June 30, 1954. The town of Alberta was originally set up to meet essentially all of workers and their families' needs, with community and social amenities largely provided by the company.

On November 30, 1954, Alberta, its well-equipped sawmill, and over 1,700 acres of adjacent timberland were donated to the Michigan College of Mining and Technology (aka-MTU) for researching the methods



of timber management and utilization, and serving as a laboratory to train students in the field of forestry. Currently the Center comprises of 5,500 acres of forestland and consists of a conference center, research forest and field training for forestry students.

Currently a there is a committee formed, working with the University, to help restore and improve the condition of the existing structures located within the Village of Alberta. The longterm goal is to obtain historic designations, and additional funding, to attract tourists and groups to the center, and providing information to the public on previous lumber and timber operations by Henry Ford within the region. 

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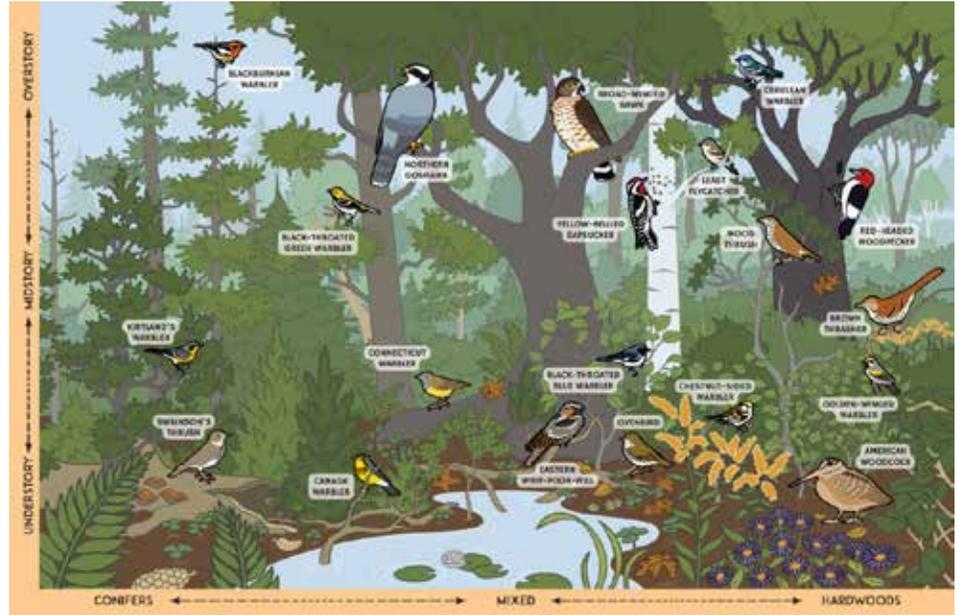
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BRINGING FOREST MANAGEMENT AND BIRD HABITAT TOGETHER

Over 10 years ago, Audubon Vermont developed a program called *Foresters for the Birds*. This program was designed to help landowners integrate forestry practices with both timber and songbird habitat management in mind. This program became widely received by foresters, biologists and forest landowners and has since spread to many other states, which now includes Michigan!

Forestry for Michigan Birds is hot off the press and excited to help forest professionals and landowners alike! The program is heavily adapted from the programs in Vermont, Maine, and New York. We've created two Michigan specific guides to provide people with a starting point in their efforts to improve their forest management practices for birds. These guides include information about our 20 priority bird species, habitat features that birds use, and more. We've created two guides to target two different audiences: landowners and land managers. The land manager's guide is more detailed with management information while the landowner's guide provides more basic information that can educate the public before speaking with professionals.



Why is all of this work so important? When it comes to birds, the habitat Michigan provides is critical because there are 221 different bird species that use the state during the breeding season. That doesn't include the birds that only use Michigan for stopover sites during the migratory seasons. Michigan is mostly within the Mississippi Flyway for migratory birds, but slightly touches the Atlantic Flyway. With these two flyways, and the habitat provided by our Great Lakes, we're likely to see

anything from waterfowl to hawks to shorebirds to neo-tropical migrants. Birds also provide benefits in the form of pest control, pollination and seed dispersal, and billions of dollars in economic activity nationally.

Information about *Forestry for Michigan Birds* can be found at **MichiganAudubon.org**. From this site you're able to download digital PDF files of the management guides as well as keep up with what's going on with the program. Occasionally, there will be events such as workshops, presentations, or birding trips that will be held to take information off the page and into visual scenarios.

For more information about the program, or to partner on an event, contact Michael Paling with American Bird Conservancy at **mpaling@abcbirds.org** or **906-251-3065**.



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MISSOURI, GOING BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

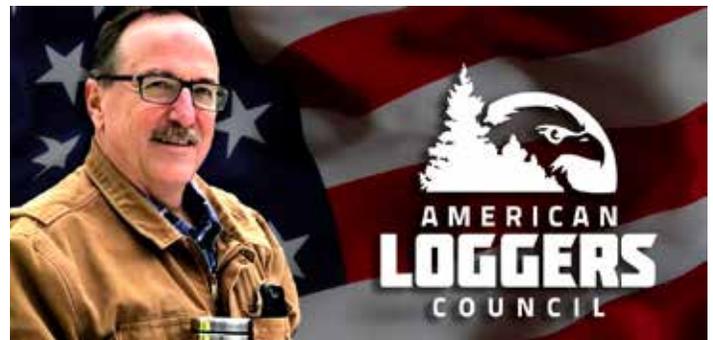
by Scott Dane, Executive Director

In 1994, loggers from across the country met in St. Louis, Missouri to discuss forming the American Loggers Council, hoping to provide a national voice for the logging sector of the forest products industry. The meeting was precipitated by the American Forests and Paper Association rolling out the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. A program which was initiated without any input from the logging sector, with disregard for the fact that the burden of implementation and compliance was going to lay primarily upon the loggers.

Spearheaded by Earl St. John, and thirty-three other logging leaders from across the country, the meeting was convened, and over the course of a few days the framework of the American Loggers Council was developed.

That was a gutsy move, especially considering that loggers were expected to be seen and not heard within the industry. Though loggers had previously been silent and fragmented, these leaders stood up and said, "We are going to be heard. We are not going to be dismissed and ignored. We are going to be represented!"

As we've recently celebrated Independence Day, it is good to recall that the founders of the American



Loggers Council, like the founders of the United States, similarly risked personal ramifications, but still, "pledged to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our honor." In retrospect the risk was worthwhile, as with our nation, so it has been for our organization. The battle belongs to the brave.

Today, the American Logging Council is unquestionably the NATIONAL VOICE OF THE AMERICAN LOGGERS, representing over 30 state and regional associations, nearly 100 Individual Logger Members (ILM), and all major primary industry vendors. You, as a stakeholder in the timber industry, are represented from coast to coast, north to south, from the landing to the halls of Congress.



LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT **SENATOR ED MCBROOM**

State Sen. Ed McBroom serves the Upper Peninsula's 38th Senate District and is Caucus Dean.

McBroom chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Oversight committees.

McBroom is a fourth-generation dairy farmer, and operates his family's 100-year-old farm, which in addition to raising Holsteins, also grows corn, wheat, and hay. He previously served a full three terms in the state House of Representatives from 2011-2016.

He is active in the community, serving on the U.P. State Fair Authority, as dairy superintendent of the Dickinson County Fair, and Director of the Norway City Band. He also directs music at the First Baptist Church of Norway.

McBroom holds bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Social Studies Secondary Education from Northern Michigan University.

He and his wife Sarah have five children and they reside in Waucedah.

"Michigan's Upper Peninsula is blessed with an abundance of renewable natural resources in our forests, and the logging industry has a rich, valued heritage here. The U.P. is fortunate that the industry remains such a critical component of the region's economic engine and appreciate all the efforts made by the hard-working professionals to keep the industry moving forward. The value is almost indeterminable as it helps sustains families, communities and the environment."

—Sen. Ed McBroom



What's your number one legislative priority?

My top legislative priorities tend to revolve around bureaucratic reform and government transparency. Many of the bills I sponsor are associated with these topics to adopt meaningful reforms and ensure government is open and accountable.

What's the best part of your job?

The best part of serving as a state legislator is hearing from constituents and helping address issues that they bring forward.

What's the biggest hidden gem in your district?

The U.P. has many well-known attractions like Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Tahquamenon Falls or the Porcupine Mountains, but some of the biggest hidden gems are the lesser-known attractions like Copper Peak, Kitch-iti-kipi Big Spring and the smaller waterfalls.

Who's your modern day hero?

I look up to all of the American truck drivers that drive back and forth across our nation delivering products that we all rely on each and every day. 




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MI Wood Fibers
1st Place!



Housler Sawmill
2nd Place!

We had a great time at the Cadillac golf outing on Friday July 22 at Lakewood on the Green course. Thirteen teams participated this year. MI Wood Fibers took 1st place and Housler Sawmill came in 2nd. 