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MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Maryland's Voice for Forest, Wildlife, and Natural Resource Management.



THE CROSSCUT

FALL 2015

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Featured In This Issue:

- Message from the President
- Featured Member: John and Karen Colton
- MFA/Tree Farm Fall Regional Meetings
- NRCC Recap
- MFA Annual Meeting 2016

Our Vision

The Maryland Forests Association envisions a future in which vibrant forests are maintained throughout the State, providing diverse economic and environmental benefits to all.



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 Brooklandville, MD 21022



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Electronic *CrossCut*

If you are interested in receiving the next issue of *CrossCut* electronically, instead of print, please e-mail the MFA office, director@mdforests.org.

In your email please include your name, company name, and e-mail address.



Message from the President



The snow ball started rolling last year when the board came together and decided we were going to reinvent ourselves. None of us were prepared to let MFA die on the vine. There were employees from state government, private logging firms, and industrial foresters at that meeting that remember the MFA of old.

We decided after much discussion

that we needed to improve our presentation with a new website. This also led us to move our website from a server controlled by a member to one that MFA rents and has unlimited access to. This allowed us freedom of updates and took a burden away from a member that had been extremely generous for many years. We launched our new website last year and continue to improve on its connectivity.

Organizationally, we also needed to make changes to our financial management and day to day operations. Financially, we moved our accounting to a private paid service with the help of Lindsay Smith. This moved our banking away to management that was purely controlled by MFA. We also decided that we needed the help of an outside entity to help with the day to day operations, so Quercus Management was brought in to help with this end. They have helped organize events, send out the *CrossCut*, and answer people's calls or emails. Vanessa Finney and Quercus Management brought years of organizational management to our association. Since that time, we have moved our mailing address so it can be checked daily. We changed our phone number so there is always a warm, friendly voice to answer questions. With the help of Quercus we have consistently sent out email blasts, *CrossCut* in electronic and print, and had regular meetings.

Within the past year, we had a legislative reception and have just finished a round of regional meetings with Maryland Tree Farm. These meetings focused on regional and statewide topics and were very well attended. We also decided to grow our board with additional landowners and hunt clubs being represented.

MFA has also been active on state wide and regional planning meetings with DNR, Farm Bureau, Department of Planning, and University of Maryland. This allowed us to direct policy, legislation, education, and research across the state. We have pushed forward the mission of Healthy, Vibrant Forests being good for the state's

economy and environment by writing letters of support to legislative representatives, funding landowner education classes, and sponsorship of economic development tours of forest industry businesses. I am also very pleased to say that we have given away two scholarships this year to two well deserving college students that hope to improve our future with their education.

Well, where are we going in the future? We are actively working to help Maryland Farm Bureau by attending their annual meeting in December. We are putting together our legislative committee to quickly address and offer new state legislation and to have another legislative reception that is scheduled for February 25, 2015. We are continuing to work with the Governor to make forest landownership profitable with less legislative restrictions to encourage new business development. We will continue to work to share developing issues that touch all of us on a daily basis, like Emerald Ash Borer or changes to logging BMP standards. We continue to support the Master Logger program by housing the Master Logger Steering Committee. We will continue to work on increasing membership across the state to all of the people that work, play, and live in the forests of Maryland.

This MFA snow ball is rolling, I urge you to get involved to ensure that we keep it rolling and growing in the right direction. We are always looking for worthwhile events to help sponsor or get involved with. We can always use new members and even more people to help us carry the message that healthy, vibrant forests are good for our economy and living environment. I look forward to meeting each of you throughout the year and hope that you can make our legislative reception in February.

Join us in our mission to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by:

- increasing awareness of the diverse, public benefits of forests;
- supporting the sustainable use of forest resources;
- promoting economic opportunity for forest landowners;
- maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

Todd Berman
President, MFA
410-742-3163

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knowledgeable staff at:

866-961-4101

Or visit us online at
MFA.OutdoorUnd.com



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Forest Industry Calendar

December 2, 2015

Nutrient Management Update
Location: National Wildlife Center—Laurel
Contact: MDA, 410-841-5959

December 10, 2015

Pest Management Conference
Location: Carroll Community College—
Westminster, MD
Contact: UMD Extension, sklick@umd.edu

December 14, 2015

Sustainable Soil Management and NM for
Urban Growers
Location: UMD Baltimore City Extension
Contact: Naima Jenkins-El, naimaj@umd.edu

January 6-8, 2016

Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show
Location: Baltimore Convention Center
Contact: MANTS, info@mants.com

January 16, 2016

Reforestation Your Neighborhood
Location: Westminster, MD
Contact: Carroll County Forestry Board
410-848-9290

February 10—11, 2016

MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture
15th Annual Regional Conference
Location: Dover Downs Hotel and Casino
Contact: Victoria Corcoran, vgc@umd.edu

February 17, 2016

2016 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Location: Radisson Hotel—North Baltimore
Contact: Allegheny SAF
miekusko@gmail.com

February 25, 2016

MFA Annual Meeting
Location: Senate Building—Annapolis
Contact: MFA, 410-823-1789

April 28—May 1, 2016

Maryland Woodland Stewards Workshop
Location: TBA
Contact: Lyle Almond, lalmond@umd.edu

A full list of industry events is kept on the [MFA website \(www.mdforests.org\)](http://www.mdforests.org).

Remove calendar for easy reference to events

MFA Member Renewals—2016

It's that time of year again!

Please note that all MFA member renewals were recently mailed to all members. If you did not receive your membership renewal, or know of anyone that would like to join the MFA, please contact our office via phone, 410-823-1789 or email: director@mdforests.org.



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

We are looking forward to another great year of membership, and if you have any questions regarding your membership, please feel free to contact our office.

Thank you for your continued support of the MFA.

Natural Resources Careers Camp By: Steve Resh

Since the mid-1970's, the last full week in July has found high school students from throughout Maryland gathered together for the purpose of learning what it takes to manage our natural resources. For the past 30 years, this gathering has taken place at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County. While the official title of this experience is the "Natural Resources Careers Camp" it is informally known as "Camp Hickory" by most.



Campers spend a lot of time eating at camp. Everyone agrees that the food is great.

Every county in Maryland has a Forest Conservancy District Board who is appointed by the Governor. These Boards raise the funds to send the students and select the individuals who will attend camp. Typically the Boards will review applicants from their counties and select two students to attend who show an interest in becoming a forest or wildlife manager, a soil scientist or a conservation officer. Steve Resh, who is the Curriculum Coordinator for the camp states "we like to work with students who have finished their freshman year in high school but have not entered their senior year." "We believe we can help these students select an appropriate college and perhaps shape their high school course selection so they understand what they must do to become a natural resource manager. If they are entering their senior year, it is often too late to impact these decisions." "Some students have actually

graduated from high school prior to attending camp but generally; we would like sophomores and juniors."

The program is designed to be hands on. There is some class room work where campers are exposed to the theory of resource management. But most of the curriculum has the students out in the wood where they experience the hills, the snakes, the bugs, the heat and the rain of our beautiful natural world. Highlights include stream sampling, firefighting, soils examination and tree identification. Other days find the students collecting GPS data, creating a property map using a GIS, measuring tree height and diameter to determine tree value and cruising the forest to collect data on which management decisions are made. These data demonstrate very clearly the difference between a healthy forest and one that could use some of man's help. We take the students on a tour of a sawmill where they can see how that beautiful lumber is produced with virtually no waste. On Thursday we expose the students to a career choice that few high school students ever consider: urban forestry. On that day they learn how to safely climb a tree, properly plant and prune a tree as well as experience some of the dangers associated with running a chain saw to fell a tree. They also see a demonstration provided by Pepco where they come to fully realize the dangers associated with trees around power lines. On that day, urban foresters from many organizations explain what they do and why they love it!



Most of the indoor activities take place in the Nature Center classroom at Camp Hickory in Garrett County.



Campers examine stream health in the Castleman Rive using electro shocking and kick nets to determine what aquatic life can be found.

The week culminates in the students preparing a management plan which will help guide their land owner to make good management decisions. The campers, aided by forestry students from Allegany College of Maryland, write a plan that might result in higher valued wood products, better hunting opportunities, cleaner water, or even more outstanding recreational ventures into their forest. Their plans are presented to the entire camp audience, which might include their parents, on Saturday morning prior to camp dismissal.



Campers gear up to "fight" a forest fire at camp.

Gabriel Oldham, who has been the Camp Director for more than 25 years, says that her involvement in this camp is "an act of love." She believes that the future of camp attendees can be dramatically changed by the end of the week. The campfire on Friday evening often finds students expressing their appreciation for this "life changing experience." Oldham goes on to explain that

the camp could not take place without the support of many individuals, organizations and companies. The fees paid by the forestry boards do not cover the cost of the experience. Companies supply cash and scholarship donations as well as teaching professionals to help at camp. Allegany College of Maryland provides two faculty members to assist at camp for the entire week plus five to seven students who act as group leaders. The DNR Forest Service sends many individuals to camp who present daily lessons and lead field experiences. So many individuals care so much about this camp and the campers that it would be hard to list them all. But to all of them, we say thank you.



Bartlett Tree Expert Company employees teach tree climbing using ropes and saddles.

If you know a high school student who you believe might benefit by spending a week in the beautiful hills of Garrett County learning about natural resource management, contact your local forestry board. More information as well as camp applications can be found on the web at www.marylandforestryboards.org. We really need your help to secure our future natural resource managers.



MFA Scholarships 2015

The MFA supports various scholarships across the industry. Below, please find more information and letters of thanks from this year's scholarship recipients.

Dick Stanfield Memorial Scholarship Award Winner: Katherine Garst



The MFA established the Dick Stanfield Scholarship to honor Dick Stanfield who was instrumental in starting the Maryland Forests Association. This scholarship will provide a \$500 cash award to a member or a child of a member of MFA or employee of Edrich Lumber to continue their education at the college level. Any member or employee of Edrich will be eligible for this annual award.

Katherine Leigh Garst was named the 2015 recipient of the Dick Stanfield Scholarship. Katherine has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology at Garrett College is now pursuing a BS degree in Wildlife and Fisheries with a minor in Forestry at Frostburg State University.

As a junior in high school, Katherine attended the Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC). The NRCC introduced her to forestry and its importance in managing habitats for wildlife. She then became a member of the Maryland Forests Association to pursue a minor in Forestry. She participated in the educational opportunities provided by the Maryland Forests Association by attending a Forestry Friday Young Forest Management Field Tour and a Maryland Forests Association Regional Meeting.

In the pursuit of a career in natural resources, Katherine became a certified Weed Warrior, to help remove non-native invasive plant species from Carroll

County nature centers and parks. In 2012, she attended the Woods in Your Backyard workshop at the Carroll County Extension Office. Outside of school, she has also been a member of 4-H for ten years.



She volunteered at Green Ridge State Forest and assisted in marking trees to harvest to enhance golden-winged warbler habitat; and has volunteered at Warrior Mountain Wildlife Management Area and collected forest inventory data.

While in high school, Katherine took general education requirement courses at Carroll Community College to work toward her future college degrees. Her academic performance led her to become a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society of community colleges. She is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa at Garrett College and graduated *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA.

This year's Richard Stanfield Scholarship certainly goes to a worthy individual whose career will be a valuable addition to the profession.

Note from Katherine:

Dear Maryland Forests Association,

Thank you for awarding me the 2015 Dick Stanfield Scholarship. The Dick Stanfield Scholarship is helping me continue to be successful in pursuing my degree in Wildlife and Fisheries at Frostburg State University. Thank you again for helping me to reach my educational goals on my path to becoming a natural resources professional.

Sincerely,

Katherine Garst

Thomas O. Tyler III Excellence in Forestry Scholarship

Award Winner: Eric Yetter

This scholarship honors the memory of Thomas O. Tyler, III, a commercial forester who during his professional career was lauded for his forward-thinking approach to environmental sustainability before such practices were mainstream. Mr. Tyler is remembered for his ability to bring industry members and regulatory bodies together to resolve issues to the mutual agreement of those involved.

The award is \$1,000, payable \$500 per semester, to a 2nd year student pursuing a B.S. in Forestry from a Society of American Foresters accredited program. In Maryland, the TOT scholarship may be awarded through Allegany College in Cumberland. The MFA contributes \$1,000 to Allegany College to support the Thomas O. Tyler III Excellence in Forestry Scholarship. We are proud to support such a qualified program and candidate.

Note from Eric:

Dear Maryland Forests Association,

I would like to thank you very much for awarding me the Thomas O. Tyler, III Excellence in Forestry Scholarship. This award will assist me in paying for my education at Allegany College of Maryland. I really appreciate your consideration with this kind gift that will allow me to continue my education with no debt. Your generosity will not be forgotten. I am looking forward to another great year at Allegany College of Maryland and my graduation from the program in the spring of 2016.

Upon graduation, I will continue my education at West Virginia University as a Forestry Major. Upon graduation from WVU with my Bachelor's Degree in Forestry in the spring of 2018, I would then like to work for a Forestry Consultant, in Maryland, Pennsylvania or the West Virginia Pan Handle. After I get experience and first-hand knowledge I would eventually like my own consulting business.

To Make a Donation:

The MFA continues to accept donations to the both scholarships in order to build its endowment to fund future scholarships.

If you wish to make a donation to one or more of the Maryland Forests Association Scholarship and/or Educational Funds, please send your tax deductible gift in care of:

The Scholarship Name
MFA
PO Box 904
Brooklandville, MD 21022

Member Feedback and Input Request

With the legislative session quickly upon us, the MFA board requests member feedback on issues that affect you or you believe impact Maryland's forestry industry in general. We will publish regular e-blasts during the Session updating you on bills that the association is following. However, we need member feedback and input on crafting our responses. At any time, now and up through the close of the Session, please share your comments and input. Comments can be sent to director@mdforests.org and MFA President, Todd Berman at Todd.Berman@glatfelter.com.

The MFA board is seeking new members and additions to our legislative and membership committees. If you are interested in serving, please contact MFA director, Vanessa Finney, for more information. Vanessa may be reached at 410-823-1789.



MFA and Maryland Tree Farm – Regional Meetings



This past fall, the MFA and Maryland Tree Farm program jointly sponsored member/educational meetings. The gatherings were held in three locations across the state, Allegany College, the American Legion in Salisbury, and Maryland Center for Agriculture in Baltimore County.

Attendees shared time of fellowship, a good meal, and quality forestry education at each meeting. From my perspective, it was great to see so many members attend, network, and share the challenges and successes of being a member in Maryland's forestry industry.

Maryland Tree Farm director, Kenneth Jolly spoke at each of the sessions sharing history and purpose of the Maryland Tree Farm System, as well as some woodland management information. Likewise, Todd Berman, president of MFA, spoke at each session, highlighting the mission and goals of MFA and how the association serves its members. Ken may be reached at 410-260-8502 and Kenneth.Jolly@maryland.gov. Todd may be reached at 410-742-3163, ext 102 and Todd.Berman@glatfelter.com.

Jonathan Kays, Natural Resources Extension Specialist, UMD, and MFA board member, spoke at the Allegany College session. Jonathan's presented on the Northern Long-eared Bat, disease and habitat issues as well as effort to protect this species. Jonathan may be reached at 301-432-2767 and jkays@umd.edu.

We were also fortunate to have Colleen Kenny, Emerald Ash Borer forester with DNR present at all three assemblies. Colleen reported on both the spread and control of Emerald Ash Borer in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region. Colleen is a resource for our members and may be reached at 410-260-8531 and Colleen.Kenny@maryland.gov.



Top: Attendees stopped at one of the points along the tour. Right: President Berman along with tour attendees stop to listen to Mr. Outen.

Dan Rider, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager, DNR Forest Service, participated in our Salisbury session, updating our participants on upcoming changes to the Soil and Erosion Control Permits. As of this publication the proposed changes have not been implemented. Dan may be reached at 410-260-8583 and Daniel.Rider@maryland.gov.



In Baltimore County, we had a special tour led by Don Outen, AICP, Natural Resources Manager, Forest Management & Sustainability for Baltimore County. Don led the group on a tour of Oregon Ridge Park, highlighting areas of planned reforestation, and explaining why planning, rather than always just letting nature take its course, is important for overall forest health. Don may be reached at 410-877-3981 and DOuten@baltimorecountymd.gov.

If you've any follow up questions regarding the seminars, please feel free to contact our speakers. On behalf of the board, we look forward to seeing you all at future MFA events. Our next planned event is the Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception, to be held Thursday, February 25th in Annapolis. Start time will be later in the afternoon/early evening.

Vanessa A. Finney
Executive Director, MFA

Top: Mr. Outen addresses the attendees at one of the stops on the tour. **Right:** The attendees on the tour all introduce themselves before the tour begins. **Bottom:** Attendees make a stop on the tour.



Featured Member

John and Karen Colton

Named Maryland State Tree Farmer of the Year for 2015 along with his wife, Karen, John Colton has always enjoyed spending time outdoors, particularly on a point of land in Southern Maryland with a mile of waterfront jutting into St. Clements Bay. There he and his family camped and water skied when he was a boy. The land, known as Shipping Point, has been in his family since 1888. His great-grandfather, Richard Colton, according to legend, won part of the property in a card game and sold his interest in Colton's Point to the south in order to buy the rest.

The land was actively farmed from the late 1800s until the Great Depression, when hard times forced members of the large family of 10 into nearby Washington, D.C., in search of jobs. In that same turn-of-the-century time period, goods were shipped to and from Shipping Point. Ox and horse carts brought tobacco, corn and beans through the property to be shipped out, and merchants brought in goods needed by local citizens.

As the family dispersed, the cropland was abandoned, little by little, until all the fields had grown up in stands of pines, tulip poplar, cherry and oak.

Colton's father was a machinist, and after serving in the military, he settled with his family in the Silver Springs, Md., area.

Colton's great-aunt bequeathed the 130-acre farm to the State of Maryland, with stipulation that it be used for housing for low to moderate-income elderly residents.

"The State just accepted the land," Colton said. "I tracked it for a couple of years, then figured they couldn't (carry out) the terms of the will. I fought for 10 years to get the land back.

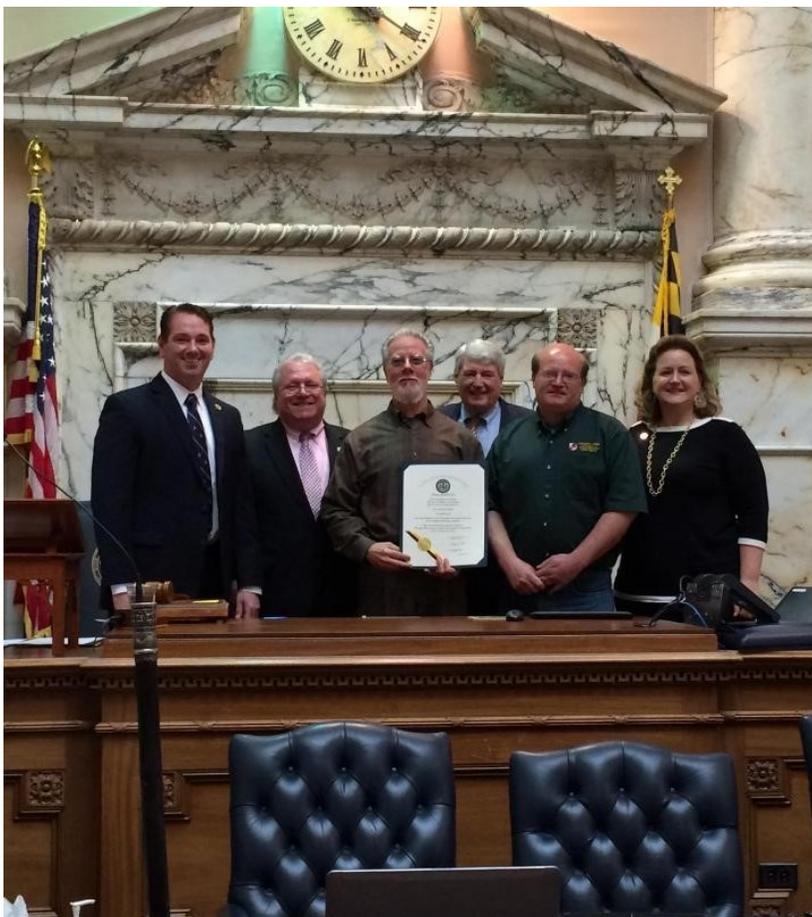


Image Source: Brancing Out. In the House of Delegates' chamber, John and Karen Colton were honored by Delegate Matt Morgan as the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. From left to right: Delegate Morgan, Delegate O'Donnell, John Colton, MD Outstanding Tree Farmer of The Year 2015, House Speaker Busch, Mark Muir, Tree Farm Inspector, MD Forest Service and Delegate Rey .

"Not too many people can sue the state and win," he continued. "At one point, Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein said in exasperation, 'Just give the land back to the Coltons. We're not going to do what the will said, so give it back.'"

Colton still had to deal with state attorneys, however, and the matter went to court ... at least as far as the courthouse steps, where they discussed the matter and he emerged the winner. The land, now forest rather than farm, was his.

Having graduated from University of Maryland with a business degree, Colton had no formal education in forestry. About 20 years ago attended a Coverts Project — a forest-wildlife volunteer training program offered by the University of Maryland Extension and the Ruffed Grouse Society. (A covert is a thicket that provides sheltering habitat for wildlife.) The four-day training introduced him to Bob Tjaden, now Extension specialist and professor at the University of Maryland, and Jonathan Kays, now principal agent and regional Extension specialist at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center near Hagerstown.



Image Source:
Coltonshippingpointfarm.com

Kays was instrumental in helping Colton get the training he needed and in doing research.

A certified forester helped develop a forestry plan for the Coltons' land. The Coltons' main goal is to keep as much wildlife as possible. The land is managed for long-term sustainable forestry. "When we cut, we encourage new growth," Colton said. We don't clear cut but leave six to eight large trees to seed the area. That's the easier way, and the seed is from natural species for that area."

Colton schooled himself on good forestry practices such as what kinds of cuts to make in different stands and how many acres to take at a time so he can leave the majority of the land forested for wildlife.



Image Source:
Coltonshippingpointfarm.com

The Coltons do all the work on their property, managing it for multiple uses — timber, hunting, recreation and education. They enjoy taking friends and families on tours of their property to enjoy viewing wildlife and to promote the importance of forest products and sustainable forestry.

Colton's "real" job is property management. Self-employed, he travels all over the United States and into Central America managing property mostly owned by religious groups. He just returned from Alabama where he helps manage 1,400 acres. There, land is usually clear cut, sprayed, burned and replanted with new hybrids that grow fast. "It's monoculture. It's not what I want at our farm. I want oak, tulip poplar and pine."

Once an area has started to regrow, he and Karen go in and cut trees that are growing too close. Called "Timber Stand Improvement," the TSI process cleans out competitive growth. For example, if there are 20 loblolly pines in a 10-foot square area, they cut out the smaller trees and leave the nicer ones.

"We do that with oaks, too," Colton said. "That encourages deer, rabbits, fox and whatever else we have. If a forest is just pines and all the oaks are gone, all the acorns are gone. TSI encourages growth of the species that are there."

(Continued on page 14).

(Continued from page 13).

Because of his interest in the forest, Colton became involved in the Maryland Forests Association and what was going on in the state, including issues having to do with legislation. He served on the MFA board for 15 years, was chair of the membership committee for a time and served on the legislative committee. "I spent a lot of time in Annapolis," Colton said, "writing legislation and fighting against legislation."



Image Source: *The Enterprise*

He recalled going to Annapolis to give testimony one time when a man asked, "Haven't we cut enough trees?" Colton responded, "We still use a lot of products that use wood."

He commented later: "A lot of forest land has been used up, but those of us who cut trees and grow more think there could be more encouragement. In this day and age we have issues with people not quite understanding that growing trees is growing a crop. It just takes longer to mature and harvest. They just see that trees have been cut and ask, 'How could someone do that?'"

He left the legislative work because it was so frustrating, he said. "It's not like with children. When we bring Boy Scouts or Webelos into the woods, they're the ones who get it. A lot of it is common sense. The kids get it; I require that their parents come with them."

Having parents along gives Colton a double chance to educate about forestry and wildlife and how forests clean the air and water. Those lucky enough to come may see all sorts of wildlife, including pileated woodpeckers, who need tall, mature trees. The Coltons have about 20 acres on the north side of their home that they've left for the woodpeckers.

The luckiest visitors are those who book a stay at "The Cottage," originally built by an aunt in the 1970s as a little summer place, just four walls and a screened-in porch. Modernized, the cottage has become a retreat for singles or couples. It's right on the water, in the woods, and quiet.

Colton isn't sure he will remain in Maryland, despite - or perhaps because of - his love for the land. He's approaching an age when he'd like to slow up and perhaps enjoy a warmer climate.

Then too, in the state of Maryland, he noted, people aren't encouraged to keep doing things for the land. "They give us a hard time every time we want to harvest."

If you share the Coltons' love of wildlife and would like to spend time at The Cottage, call 301-807-0988 or 301-769-4359, or send an email to coltonscottage@aol.com. 

Carol Kinsley
cjkinsley@comcast.net

The MFA will post all previous issues of its E-Newsletter on the association website. If you missed an issue, or just want to catch up, please visit the MFA website, www.mdforests.org and see the newsletter link on the homepage. If you or your company has content to add to this newsletter, please email or call the MFA, director@mdforests.org, 410-823-1789.

Orioles Game 2015

On Sunday, October 4th Green Industry members, families, and friends, joined in celebration at the Orioles' closing home game at Camden Yards. Members of the Maryland Arborist Association, Maryland Forests Association, and Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association joined together for an afternoon of ballpark food, networking, and to watch the O's beat the Yankees in the season-ending home game.

The weather appeared to be promising earlier during game week, but a cold snap hit over the weekend. That did not deter more than 50 hardy souls from enjoying the afternoon. Please enjoy a few pictures from the afternoon below.

We thank the following sponsors for helping to underwrite the cost of the event:

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Seeing the Forest and the Trees, All 3 Trillion of Them

Source: *YaleNews*

By: Kevin Dennehy

A new Yale-led study estimates that there are more than 3 trillion trees on Earth, about seven and a half times more than some previous estimates. But the total number of trees has plummeted by roughly 46% since the start of human civilization, the study estimates.

Using a combination of satellite imagery, forest inventories, and supercomputer technologies, the international team of researchers was able to map tree populations worldwide at the square-kilometer level.

Their results, published in the journal *Nature*, provide the most comprehensive assessment of tree populations ever produced and offer new insights into a class of organism that helps shape most terrestrial biomes.

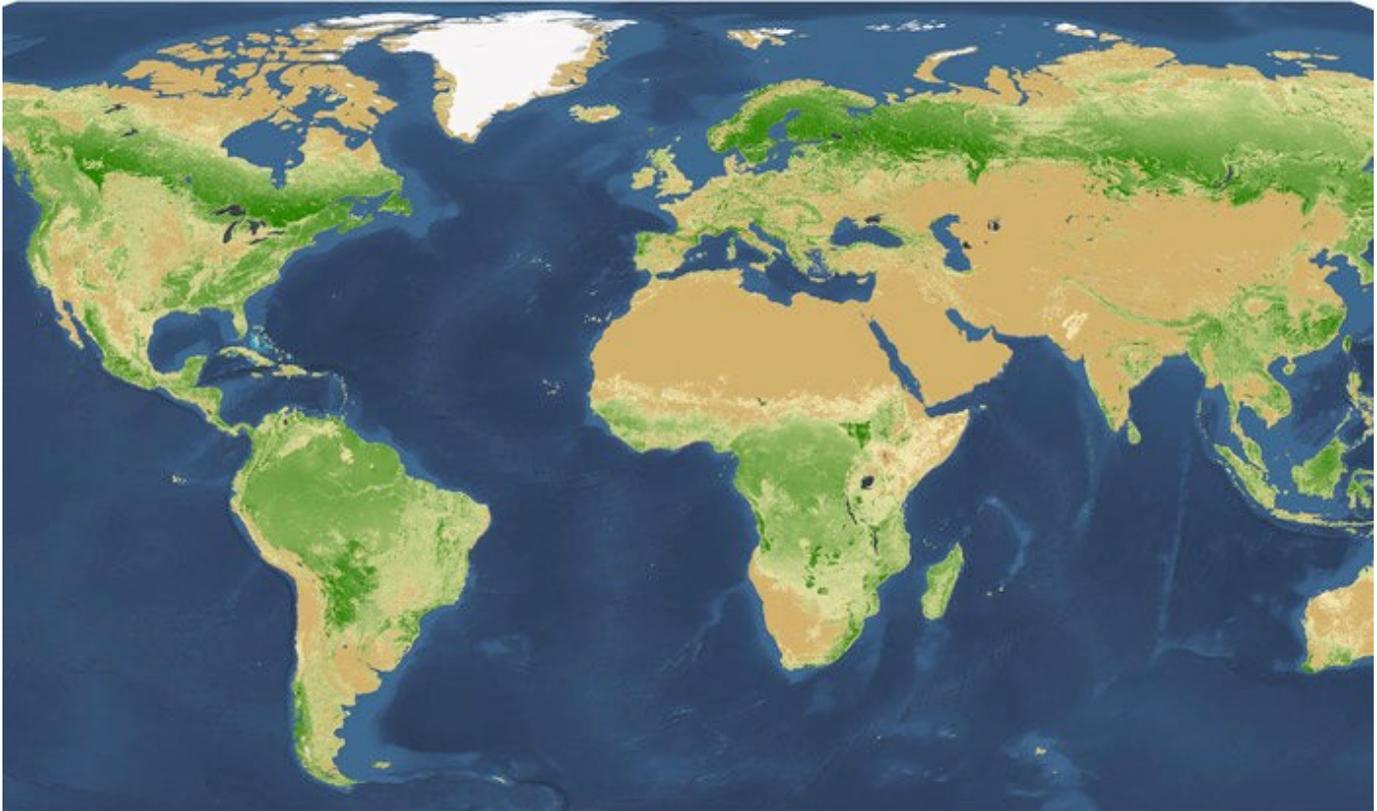


Image Source: *YaleNews*

The new insights can improve the modeling of many large-scale systems, from carbon cycling and climate change models to the distribution of animal and plant species, say the researchers.

“Trees are among the most prominent and critical organisms on Earth, yet we are only recently beginning to comprehend their global extent and distribution,” said Thomas Crowther, a Yale Climate & Energy Institute postdoctoral fellow at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES) and lead author of the study.

“They store huge amounts of carbon, are essential for the cycling of nutrients, for water and air quality, and for countless human services,” he added. “Yet you ask people to estimate, within an order of magnitude, how many trees there are and they don’t know where to begin. I don’t know what I would have guessed, but I was certainly surprised to find that we were talking about trillions.”

The study was inspired by a request by Plant for the Planet, a global youth initiative that leads the United Nations Environment Programme's "Billion Tree Campaign." Two years ago the group approached Crowther asking for baseline estimates of tree numbers at regional and global scales so they could better evaluate the contribution of their efforts and set targets for future tree-planting initiatives.

The logo for Yale News, featuring the text "YaleNews" in a white serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

At the time, the only global estimate was just over 400 billion trees worldwide, or about 61 trees for every person on Earth. That prediction was generated using satellite imagery and estimates of forest area, but did not incorporate any information from the ground.

The new study used a combination of approaches to reveal that there are 3.04 trillion trees — roughly 422 trees per person.

Crowther and his colleagues collected tree density information from more than 400,000 forest plots around the world. This included information from several national forest inventories and peer-reviewed studies, each of which included tree counts that had been verified at the ground level. Using satellite imagery, they were then able to assess how the number of trees in each of those plots is related to local characteristics such as climate, topography, vegetation, soil condition, and human impacts.

"The diverse array of data available today allowed us to build predictive models to estimate the number of trees at each location around the globe," said Yale postdoctoral student Henry Glick, second author of the study.

The resulting map has the potential to inform scientists about the structure of forest ecosystems in different regions, and it can be used to improve predictions about carbon storage and biodiversity around the world.

"Most global environmental data is thematically coarse," said Matthew Hansen, a global forestry expert from the University of Maryland who was not involved in the study. "The study of Crowther et al. moves us towards a needed direct quantification of tree distributions, information ready to be used by a host of downstream science investigations."

The highest densities of trees were found in the boreal forests in the sub-arctic regions of Russia, Scandinavia, and North America. But the largest forest areas, by far, are in the tropics, which are home to about 43% of the world's trees. (Only 24% are in the dense boreal regions, while another 22% exist in temperate zones.)

The results illustrate how tree density changes within forest types. Researchers found that climate can help predict tree density in most biomes. In wetter areas, for instance, more trees are able to grow. However, the positive effects of moisture were reversed in some regions because humans typically prefer the moist, productive areas for agriculture.

In fact, human activity is the largest driver of tree numbers worldwide, said Crowther. While the negative impact of human activity on natural ecosystems is clearly visible in small areas, the study provides a new measure of the scale of anthropogenic effects, highlighting how historical land use decisions have shaped natural ecosystems on a global scale. In short, tree densities usually plummet as the human population increases. Deforestation, land-use change, and forest management are responsible for a gross loss of over 15 billion trees each year.

"We've nearly halved the number of trees on the planet, and we've seen the impacts on climate and human health as a result," Crowther said. "This study highlights how much more effort is needed if we are to restore healthy forests worldwide."

Researchers from 15 countries collaborated on the study. There were 14 researchers from across the Yale community who contributed to the study.

News from MDA



Maryland Farm & Harvest - Season 3

The new season of Maryland Farm & Harvest debuted on November 10th and will air on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on MPT-HD and is rebroadcast on Thursdays at 11:30 pm and Sundays at 6 am. The series puts a human face on Maryland's agriculture industry.

Southern Pine Beetle Devastating Trees in Dorchester County

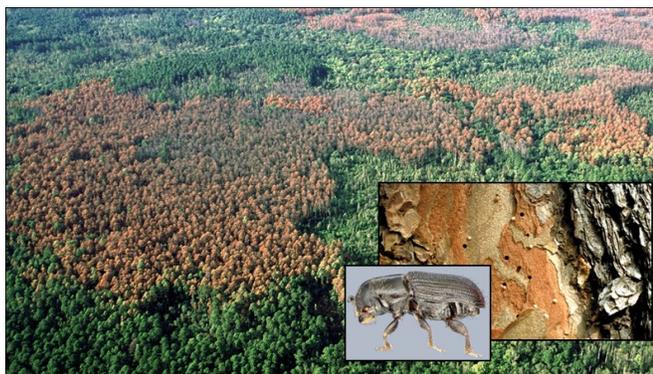


Image Source: MDA

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that trees in southern Dorchester County are currently under the attack or at risk of attack by the Southern Pine Beetle, *Dendroctonus frontalis*. MDA's Forest Pest Management, Eastern Shore Office in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service's Dorchester County Forester have identified 115 acres of trees that have recently been killed by the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB). Fifteen of these acres went

from green asymptomatic trees to dead in the last four weeks. This is an active and growing beetle population moving to the north and west.

Read the full press release: <http://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2015/08/19/southern-pine-beetle-devastating-trees-in-dorchester-county-contact-mds-forest-pest-management-if-experiencing-tree-damage/>

MDA Rescinds Statewide Quarantine on Movement of Hardwood; all of Maryland to fall under Federal Quarantine

Because the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed the presence of the invasive, highly destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle on the Eastern Shore, MDA will rescind the statewide quarantine that prohibited the movement of hardwood from the western to the eastern shore on Aug. 1. At that time, all of Maryland will fall under a federal EAB quarantine.

Read the full press release: <http://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2015/07/30/mda-rescinds-statewide-quarantine-on-movement-of-hardwood-all-of-maryland-to-fall-under-federal-quarantine/>

Maryland—Commercial Wood Energy Grant Program

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is excited to announce the opening of its first, commercial Wood Energy Grant Program (WE Program). Because wood energy conversion systems have the potential to significantly lower fuel and electricity bills while burning renewable, locally sourced, low-emissions wood fuels, MEA will provide grants to conduct wood energy feasibility studies at eligible facilities in Maryland.



The upfront cost of feasibility studies are often cited as a barrier to project development. By removing this barrier, facility owners will have the information necessary to determine the technical and financial feasibility of converting an existing fuel oil, propane or electric heating system to a wood energy conversion system. Like the residential Clean Burning Wood Stove Program, the WE Program is only open to properties that lack access to natural gas.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2016

For more information visit: <http://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/woodenergygrant.aspx>

UMD—College of AGNR Position Opening—Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology



Location: Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Maryland 21658-0169 Position

Summary/Purpose of Position: Under the direction of the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, serves as the Executive Director of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc., <http://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol>, an Affiliated Foundation of the University of Maryland. Following the Strategic Plan for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc., administer the Center's Strategic Plan responsible for Center operations, including overall administrative leadership, development and management of budgets, the Plan of Work, Board and external outreach and extramural fund raising.

For more information visit: <http://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol/job-openings>. Open the Job Openings tab and you will see more information on the Executive Director position as well as information on how to apply.

MFA Annual Meeting

Save the Date 2016
February 25th



Last winter, the MFA board gathered with MFA members and local legislators. The meeting was a great success as twenty-three legislators and aides attended the reception, and had the chance to mingle with MFA members and really talk about issues that are

relevant to our members in the industry. Below, please find a few pictures from the event.

The MFA is actively planning our 2016 Annual Meeting and Legislative reception. We hope that you will all be able to attend, and we can work on developing an even larger legislative presence for our members.

The MFA Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2016, and will be held in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland. The MFA will be publishing more event details as they are finalized. We hope to see all of you in Annapolis in 2016.



Emerald Ash Borer Found on Maryland’s Eastern Shore

Source: UMD Extension—Branching Out

BRANCHING OUT
Maryland’s Woodland Stewardship Educator



The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an exotic pest first found in southern Maryland in 2008. It expanded its range throughout all counties west of the Chesapeake Bay by 2014. Quarantines have been in place to help stop the movement of EAB to the Eastern Shore but pheromone traps put out in the spring of 2015 found three positive samples in Ken, Talbot, and Dorchester counties (see map at right).

mortality occurs, these trees will typically decay very quickly and fall to the ground. For woodland owners with larger trees of commercial size and value, it is worth contacting a professional forester to consider a timber harvest to salvage the trees and receive some income. The University of Maryland Extension publication, “Emerald Ash Borer and the Private Woodland Owner,” provides more information.

Unlike many other trees that die from insects or disease, ash trees killed by EAB decay very quickly, making removal very hazardous. For homeowners with ash trees that they cannot afford to inject, they should consider

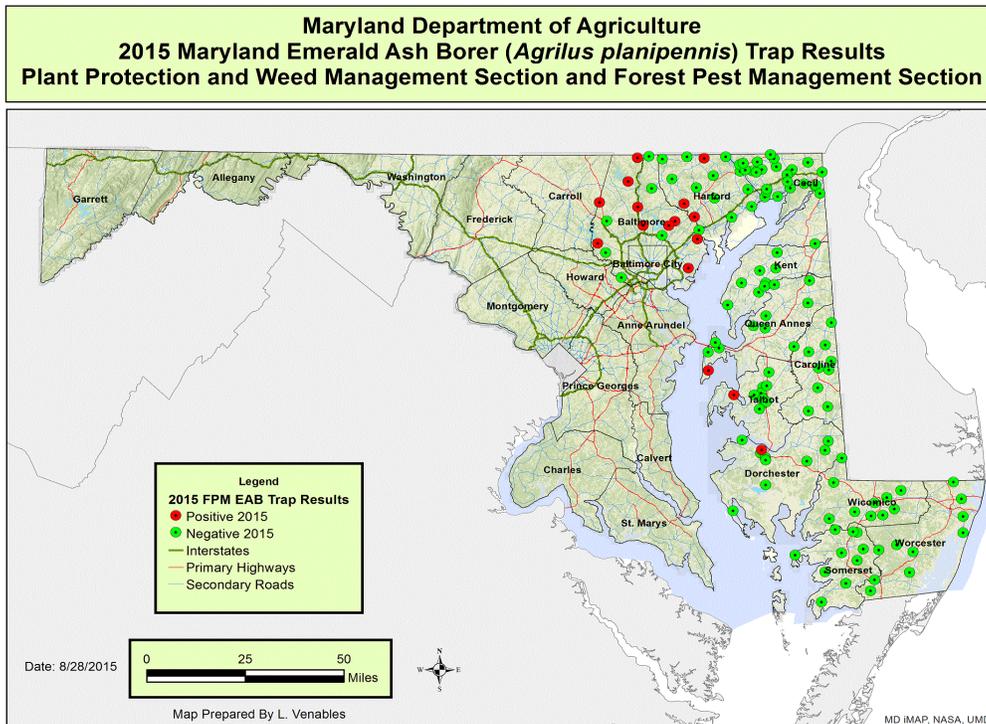
While the borer is present in these locations, it will likely take some time for it to expand throughout the rest of the Eastern Shore. As populations of EAB increase, it will be followed by increasing mortality among ash trees. The borer will basically kill all species of ash trees in urban and rural areas, unless trees are treated with pesticide. The treatment of individual trees can be expensive (about \$8 - \$10 per inch), and the tree must have at least 30% of its canopy intact. The Maryland DNR Forest Service has been working with many communities around the state to do tree inventories and help decision-makers identify trees to target for treatment. Their publication, “Saving your Ash Trees from the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle: A Homeowner's Guide”, provides some guidelines.

Trees in woodland areas are usually too numerous to treat, so as the populations of EAB build up and

the option of removal before mortality occurs to minimize the cost. Many arborists will not climb dead ash trees due to safety hazards. This means they will need to use cranes to facilitate the removal, which increases the cost of the job. It is best to consult

with a few reputable arborists before making this decision.

The presence of EAB on the Eastern Shore also raises many concerns about the fate of large areas of pumpkin ash that occupy tidal areas of the major rivers of the Chesapeake Bay. At some time in the future, it is likely EAB will cause mortality of these trees, which stabilize tidal areas, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. The big question is what would take its place and is there some type of proactive practice that can be taken to minimize the impact. There is still some time to consider these questions, but the answers are uncertain at best.



2015 Forest Service Annual Award Winners

Courtesy of : Donald VanHassent, MD Forest Service



2015 Forester of the Year – Jamie Weaver

Jamie is a Special Rivers Watershed Forester working in the Baltimore/Carroll County Project, and has made superior progress in advancing streamside buffer

goals by working closely with landowners to accomplish CREP site remediation work resulting in over 100 acres of established riparian forests remaining in CREP for an additional 10 to 15 years. He also completed CREP survival inspections on 278 acres, invasive plant and weed control projects on 100 acres, reinforcement plantings on 32 acres, new CREP Plans on 8,200 linear feet of buffers, and compliance inspections on 27 acres. Jamie assisted the Carroll County Forestry Board in becoming a host organization for the AmeriCorp Volunteer Maryland program and generating funding for a full-time position working to build a sustainable Weed Warriors program. He also successfully spearheaded the effort for the Baltimore/Carroll Project's selection as a host site for the Chesapeake Bay Trust Chesapeake Conservation Corps program to fully fund an intern position to assist in field operations of the Project, and worked with the Carroll County Public Schools to obtain two high school student interns for assistance with tree planting activities in the Spring. Additional accomplishments include coordination of the Backyard Buffers program to distribute 2,000 tree seedlings to 40 landowners, development of a landscape level invasive species control Plan with four cooperating landowners on 48 acres, preparation of six Lawn to Woodland Planting Plans, and completion of six forestry program compliance inspections.



2015 Ranger of the Year – Shannon Wolfe

Shannon is assigned to the St. Mary's / Charles County Project, and provided outstanding technical service through forest data collection and GIS mapping on 35 Forest

Stewardship Plans on 926 acres, and completion of 38 forestry inspections. He coordinated the Southern Region tree-planting bid, along with coordination of seedling pick-up and contractor work supervision, and provided primary leadership to ensure the Dennis Trail Grant at Doncaster Demonstration Forest was completed. Shannon also participated in three interagency wildlife assignments, serving as Crew Boss on two assignments and Engine Boss on the other assignment, and assisted with two wildfire training classes (S-212 and S130/190). Additionally, he completed numerous improvement projects on the Southern Region State Forests, including road maintenance, boundary making, and design and installation of three new educational kiosks for visitor education.

2015 Employee of the Year – Sue Mahanes



Sue is the Central Region Administrative Officer, and demonstrated exceptional work accomplishments and customer service through her multiple administrative duties. She has the primary responsibility for tracking Regional expenditures and revenues, and was instrumental in the processing of 11,000+ annual and daily use permits for the Elk Neck shooting range. Sue is also directly responsible for the coordination and administration of the roadside tree permitting process, and issued 175 RTB permits for public utilities, 43 RTPA for public agencies, and 389 RTIs for the public. Additionally, Sue serves as the primary office contact for the public in the Region, and consistently provides friendly and efficient service to the many citizens who call into the Region Office looking for information. Further, Sue has taken on two new statewide administrative responsibilities for the Forest Service – handling corporate card statement processing and overseeing the equipment inventory and documentation process. Her attention to detail and effective supervision of these two responsibilities has been highly beneficial in minimizing processing time for these two administrative functions.

Member Information

Welcome New Members! The MFA would like to welcome the below new members that have joined the MFA .

- Hog Head—Mr. James Paul
- Ms. Joan Terry

Phone: 410-823-1789

Email: director@mdforests.org

MFA Resources

There are many useful resources available to those in Maryland's forestry industry. Below are just a few; access a more complete list on the MFA website, www.mdforests.org, Resources page.

Maryland DNR: www.dnr.state.md.us/forests

MD Invasive Species Council: www.mdinvasivesp.org

MD Forest Conservancy District Boards: www.marylandforestryboards.org

Society of American Foresters: www.eforester.org

MFA Website

The MFA website, www.mdforests.org is full of resources to all of those involved in the industry. This new site was developed a few months ago, is user-friendly, and includes information on upcoming events, legislative efforts, insurance programs, and many other relevant topics. The MFA encourages all of our members to explore the website and visit all that it has to offer. If you have any questions, or content that could be added to the site, please contact the MFA.

MFA Contact Information

Address:

PO Box 904
Brooklandville, MD 21022

Phone:

410-823-1789

E-mail:

director@mdforests.org

“The forests are the flags of nature. They appeal to all and awaken inspiring universal feelings.” - Enos A. Mills



Publication Notice

We welcome your company news and updates or columns with your professional insight. E-mail any submissions you may have for the next edition of *CrossCut*, to director@mdforests.org.



Or Mail to :
Maryland Forests Association
PO Box 904
Brooklandville, MD 21022

THE CROSSCUT

Our Mission

The Mission of the Maryland Forests Association is to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by:

- Increasing awareness of the diverse, public benefits of forests;
- Supporting the sustainable use of forest resources;
- Promoting economic opportunity for forest landowners; and,
- Maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

MFA strives to accomplish this mission by:

- Monitoring and influencing legislation and regulation that affect forests and the forestry community;
- Promoting growth in MFA membership and finances; and,
- Recognizing recipients for outstanding contributions on behalf of Maryland's forest resource.