

Facts of the Week

Upcoming Legislative Reception

- ❖ MAT and GLTPA will be hosting a Legislative Reception in Lansing on **February 17th** in the Capitol Building. The purpose of the reception is to provide greater exposure for our two associations. We will have an opportunity to meet the newly elected Legislators and discuss issues that plague our industry. This will be an exciting event.

We are in the process of contacting a few members asking if they would be willing to volunteer their log truck for the day. We are looking to have a self-loader, chip van, slasher unit, as well as trailers with finished products. I have two requests, 1) if you are interested in donating your rig for the day please let us know, and 2) if you are willing to donate money to offset the cost of having these trucks in Lansing please do so. We are doing the best we can to stretch our dollars to get the most bang for our bucks; any additional financial assistance you can provide to this event would be greatly appreciated.

Again the date for the Legislative Reception is February 17th, 2009 in Lansing at the Capitol Building from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Legislative Update

- ❖ As many of you know we just ended a lame duck session with our Michigan Legislation and I found out during this time anything is possible. What a tumultuous year MAT has had in Lansing. One month our bills were ready to go only to have them removed the following month. Well I'm happy to report that **Senate Bills 880 and 881** were passed by both the House and Senate and have been presented, this week, to the Governor to sign. If you recall these two bills dealt with Sales and Use tax and we were successful in closing the loop hole Treasury was using. I apologize to those companies that have been assessed either Sales or Use Tax during the time we were working on this bill. These bills took use almost 2 ½ years to get passed! Unfortunately, our Slasher Bill did not see any action during lame duck; this will be a priority in the upcoming months.

Other key issues that we will and have been working on include Sales and Use Tax as it pertains to sawmill equipment, the aforementioned slasher bill, and amending the Michigan Business Tax. We have other issues concerning property tax; however, we need to be careful on how many tax issues we go after.

The final analysis is that we had a fantastic legislative year in Lansing. We were successful in getting 3 of our 4 bills passed into law, assuming 880 and 881 get signed. These actions would not have been possible without the support our members from your dues to your PAC donations. I strongly urge you MAT Members to urge your peers who are not supporting our efforts but benefiting from your Associations success to join and fight for their industry!

Potential Tax Relief

- ❖ This past December we held a Timber Tax Seminar conducted by MAT member Metcalfe Forestry, LLC. Metcalfe Forestry not only provides landowner forestry assistance but can help loggers reduce your tax liability on the sales you have purchased and harvested during the tax year. I was not aware this was possible and still do not fully understand how it all works. I know with the new Michigan Business Tax many of you will see an increase in your tax liability and this might help lessen the sting a bit. Metcalfe Forestry will give a 10 percent discount to any MAT member.

- **Here is a Tax Tip:**

- When you are sending out you 1099's to your landowners you bought timber from this year, remember that you should only send them a 1099S, do not send a 1099misc. They will pay much more in tax if you don't send them a 1099S.

You can reach Metcalfe Forestry at 989-348-3596 and ask for either Susan or Bryce.

New Member Benefit

- ❖ We have two new programs both are discount fuel programs.
 - **SuperFleet** – This program is set up and ready for member to join. There is an introductory period for the first 3 months of 10 cents per gallon and 3 cents for the next 9 months. After the first year the discount is dependent on our monthly volume. The stations participating in the SuperFleet program are Speedway, Marathon, SuperAmerica and Pilot. If you would like an application please contact our office.
 - **Holiday** – This program will be finalized shortly and is very similar to the SuperFleet program. The introductory discount is 6 cents per gallon for the first three months then drop to 4 cents per gallon. The Holiday Stations are primarily in the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin.

I urge all of you to enroll and take advantage of these two programs. We can supply you with locations of stations that have truck access but remember these cards can be used for your service trucks as well. Each program has free options to help you manage and monitor your fuel usage; these options can be best explained by SuperFleet and Holiday Representatives.

Upcoming Events

Deer Advisory Meeting	13 January	10am – 4pm	MUCC Office
Woody Biomass Meeting	23 January	9am – 4pm	RAM Center
Fire Seminar	27 – 29 January		Stevens Point WI
MSU Bioenergy Meeting	10 February	10am – 3pm	MSU Campus
Legislative Reception	17 February	11:30am – 1:30pm	Capitol Building
FMAC Meeting	18 February	1pm – 4pm	MUCC Office