

Facts of the Week

First let me apologize for the lack of consistency in getting you the “Facts of the Week”, it seems more like a monthly report and I will try to get back more frequent schedule. I will have to say that this past Spring has been one of the busiest I have experienced since joining MAT.

April

- ❖ The Michigan Deer Advisory Team met for a two day meeting in Lansing to start the process of developing recommendations to the Wildlife Division. These recommendations will help Wildlife develop their State Deer Management Plan. Some of the Recommendations from this meeting were:
 - Management of the deer herd is essential to maximize its positive and minimize its negative effects on social, biological, ecological and economic values
 - The DNR is the lead agency for effective deer management and should collaborate with private landowners and other appropriate partners and stakeholders.
 - The DNR evaluate and strengthen efforts to inform and solicit input on deer management from affected stakeholders as well as members of the public at large.
 - The DNR maintain a healthy and balanced deer herd to meet the social, economic, and recreational demands of the public while conserving sustainable deer habitat, native plant communities, agriculture, horticulture, and silviculture and protecting public safety.
 - The framework of deer management (i.e., integration of social, economic, and ecological considerations) is standardized statewide. Interpretation and implementation of results from that process should address specific geographic areas and issues.

Our next meeting will be in May.

- ❖ We held our second truck and logger program in the Soo. We had roughly 50 participants and a full day of speakers. Primary speakers included Michigan Center for Truck Safety, Michigan Traffic Safety Division, Susan Metcalfe of Metcalfe Forestry and me. I would like to thank our program sponsors for their generous support, Pensee, Mauck Insurance Agency and Fabco.
- ❖ Attended the Non-Industrial Private Landowner Coalition meeting at Higgins Lake. This group is working on improving the management and education of our private forest landowners. MUCC has acquired a grant to help facilitate our meeting. These groups of people are representative of all the major forestry organizations found in Michigan. We also discussed the planning process for the

Forestry Day in Lansing. It was decided to have a Forestry Day on May 26th in the Capital Building.

- ❖ Attended the Eastern Upper Peninsula Ecomanagement meeting in Newberry. This meeting presented the concept of Management Areas that are located in the Eastern UP. Unique forested areas have been identified in these management areas.
- ❖ The Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) met. We discussed the interaction between snowmobiling and logging operations and what could be done to improve this relationship. For the most part this is a good relationship but it seems there is always seems to be issues every winter reading a logging operation and its impacts on the snowmobile trail. It was suggested that DNR, logging contractor and local snowmobile associations get together in early fall to see what trails might be impacted by a logging operation, if a sale is going to be conducted can the snowmobile trail be rerouted to avoid any conflicts. It was suggested that MAT help facilitate these meetings.

Updates were provided on the progress on the Woody Biomass Harvesting guidelines. There are many definitions; it can go from the trunk of the tree down to the root systems, to stumps, to needles, and on. The group tried to break it out and look at the considerations related to using different elements and what sort of things you should think about when using specific parts. The recommendation was, in most guidance, the suggestion is you start out taking between 1 to 6 tops of trees that are harvested; depending on the site, either work up or down. The group suggested staying with something that is easy to implement, i.e. every 3 trees cut leave 1 of the tops, or every 6 trees cut leave 1 top.

- ❖ I meet with staff from Representative Lindberg's office and Scott Schragger of Treasury to discuss our Sales Use Tax bills for sawmills. Scott wanted to better understand our issue and wanted time to go back to Treasury to see if their policy could be changed without legislation. I felt this was a very productive meeting, however, we are still waiting to hear back from them.
- ❖ We held another truck safety meeting in Grayling.
- ❖ Participated in another NLP Core Design Team meeting. The group was still trying to figure our operating procedures and how data will be provided to the group. This is a very time consuming group meeting multiple times a month.
- ❖ MAT Director John Fowler help organize a meeting with some MAT members and legislative staff to discuss Amish issues. The Amish do have some federal exemptions for Social Security tax and child labor, however we are were not aware of any state exemption. We have asked the legislation to look into this issue for use. Our message was a level playing field.

- ❖ Our last truck safety program was held in Mt Pleasant. We had a scheduling snafu, the hotel double booked us with another group so we were bumped back a week. This might have had an impact to the attendance at this program. We had roughly 25 participants. I would like to thank all of the people who took the time to attend and also the speakers and sponsor of these programs.
- ❖ The Annual Convention was held in the Soo at Kewadin Casino. We were extremely happy with this years turn out. It was not by far our largest turnout but considering the economic times I feel it was a great showing by our members, THANK YOU! Everything ran pretty smoothly as conventions go and I felt we had good breakout sessions which were all well attended. We had a policy session where the attendees provided critical feedback to the MAT Board on their feelings regarding a proposed change to the way state timber sales are conducted. We had been asked to support an amendment to change the system, the amendment read as follows: *The department shall offer timber sales for bid on the basis of all products and species offered in the timber sale prospectus, beginning in FY 2010. The department shall collect and analyze data for all bid products and species in their timber sale management and timber sale appraisal software. Bidding on all products and species enables the collection of data that more accurately reflects current market conditions affecting the appraisal of future sales. **Bidding will not be offered on those products that account for less than 5% of the overall volume of the sale, as determined through the DNR appraisal process. Products are defined as sawlogs and pulpwood, identified during cruising activities.** Accurate appraisals encourage the purchase of offered sales, which in turn enables the department to meet management objectives and offer sales in a more cost-effective manner.* The group was asked two questions, one do you support this amendment and two do you feel this should be legislated, both questions were answered No. The Board took this information and voted to not support the amendment. I would like to congratulate all of our award winners, Excellence in Logging Melvin Whitten and Zellar Excavating, Excellence in Trucking Ed VanDuinen, Excellence in Manufacturing Maple Rapids Lumber Co, Distinguished Service Award Doug Scheuneman, Legislator of the Year Representative Darwin Booher, Friend of the Timbermen Barb Bennett and Judy Augenstein. Next year the convention will be back at Boyne. Thanks again to all of you who took the time and made this years convention a great success.

May

- ❖ Charley MacIntosh a newly elected MAT board member and I met. I try to meet with all newly elected board members to go over what we are currently working on as well as what they would like to see the Association involved with.
- ❖ Had a meeting with Gary Melow of Michigan Biomass to discuss how our groups could work more closely in the future.

- ❖ MAT Director Jim Maeder provided testimony before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of the Slasher Bill. The bill was reported out of committee with flying colors, thanks Jim for filling in during my trip to DC.
- ❖ The American Logger Council (ALC) made a return trip to Washington DC. MAT was asked to participate in this trip. Michigan has four Congressmen on the Energy Commerce Committee and Senator Stabenow is on the Senate Committee. Our mission was to discuss the definition of biomass and urge the Energy and Commerce Committees to broaden the definition. As defined before we went to DC only 500,000 acres of Michigan's 19 million would be eligible for Renewable Energy Credits. You could still harvest biomass but consuming mills or energy plants looking to receive credits would not be able to if the biomass did not come from lands as defined in the bills. In a nutshell we have very productive meeting with most of the offices we visited. A group of roughly 14 made at least 33 visits to Congressmen or women and Senators offices over our two day trip, I participated in 8 office visits. Then for the offices we didn't have appointments with we cold called, which means we just dropped in and provided the office with our materials. We cold called roughly 60 plus offices and some of these we were able to speak with the Energy Staff person. This was a very successful trip.

The definitions of biomass have started to broaden out and become more favorable for our industry and I like to think we had a small part to play in these changes. John Deere needs an extremely big thank you as they paid for our hotel rooms from the three nights we were in DC. John Deere also published ALC's position in very professional appearance at no cost to ALC. Thank you John Deere!

- ❖ Met with Representative Lahti to explain why MAT was opposed the timbersale bid amendment. I also met with staff to Representative Booher to explain our position as well.

❖ **THE SLASHER BILL PASSED THIRD READING OF THE SENATE AND HAS BEEN SENT TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR SIGNING!!!!!!!** This is great news and with any luck the bill will be signed and into effect in the very near future.

- ❖ Jan and I met with the staff at the Kewadin Casino to basically go over the positive and negatives of our convention and how we can improve the experience. Behind the scenes many things are going on and from time to time problems do occur. Like walking around a casino with a rifle.....even though the bolt was our and a lock was in place we got in trouble. This was a great meeting and they are very interested in having us back in 2011.

- ❖ I attended the Eastern UP Citizens Action Committee meeting in Newberry. This group provides feedback to the DNR regarding various issues. Tom Buckingham, General Manager of Forest Insurance, is MAT's representative on this committee.
- ❖ Attended the Forestry Day at the Capital. This was sponsored by MUCC with a grant from Plum Creek. Participating in the event was the Nature Conservancy, Conservation Districts, Michigan Forest Association, Tree Farm, Stewardship Program, MSU Extension, Society of American Foresters and MAT. These are some of the groups involved with the Non-Industrial Private Forest landowner Coalition. We had a pretty good turn from our legislators and staff for being the first day back from a long weekend. We held a reception similar to the one MAT and GLTPA held in February, this provided an opportunity to discuss our issues as they pertain to private land forest management and what needs to be done to increase their productivity.

Upcoming Events

NLP Core Meeting	01 June	9am – 4pm	Grayling
WUP Core Meeting	02 June	9am – 4pm	Marquette
Sirex Wood Wasp Meeting	03 June	9am – 11am	Lansing
DNR Timber Bid Meeting	04 June	8am – 9am	Lansing
NRC Meeting	04 June	10am – 6pm	Lansing
Senator Gleason Fund Raiser	05 June	All Day	Montrose
Executive Committee Conf Call	08 June	8pm - ?	
Deer Advisory Team	08-09 June	All Day	Lansing
Senator McManus Fund Raiser	12 June	9am – 1pm	Clare
FMAC Meeting	17 June	1pm – 4pm	Lansing
Stewardship Meeting	08 July	9am – 4pm	Gaylord
NRC Meeting	09 July	10am – 6pm	Lansing
Deer Advisory Team	13-14 July	All Day	Lansing
MAT Summer Board Meeting	16 July	All Day	Newberry