

Facts of the Week

I hope all of you came out of spring break up in good shape. As we head into the warmer months I hope your company isn't impacted to much by the suspension of the BCAP program. . I would like to give you some updates on what we have been up to since the last time you received this fax.

Convention – Boyne Falls

Our Convention planning is coming along smoothly. *We have one correction the Hockey PAC Fund Raiser had a mistake in the donation amount, my fault, the suggested donation is \$25 per skater or \$50 per family, if you wish to donate more you can.* The game will be played at the Otsego County Sports Plex in Gaylord starting at 5:30pm on April 22. Golf will be at the Gaylord Country Club on M-32 West, just a few miles West of Gaylord, we will be starting golf at 9:30am and the cost is \$20 for 18 holes and a cart. We have a great slate of programs and speakers this year. Danny Dructor, Executive Vice President of the American Loggers Council will be speaking. Our afternoon session will discuss the bio-economy potential in Michigan and we have a good panel of speakers including; Gary Melow with Michigan Biomass, Donna LaCourt with MEDC, Dale Allen with Farm Service Agency, Larry Merrill with Michigan Township Associations and Danny Dructor. We also have a raffle for a 50 caliber Thompson Center Pro Hunter Encore Muzzleloader. If you haven't register you can either contact the office or register on line at www.timbermen.org and again the convention is April 22 – 24th.

Logger Truck Training Sessions

We had another year of successful training programs held in Mt Pleasant, Grayling, Soo, and Baraga. Approximately 350 individuals attend these programs which featured updates on MAT activities in regards to Biological Steward Areas, Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, BMP's and Legislative issues. Jan Charles with Michigan Center for Truck Safety and Officers from Michigan Traffic Safety Division provided information on CSA 2010. Next year we will be scheduling all programs during spring break up.

Timber Sales Minimum Bid

Members from MAT, Michigan Forest Products Council and others have met a couple of times to look at revamping the current way minimum bids are established for timber sales. We listed what we both needed for a sale

As a result of our first meeting here are the proposed changes to the Prospectus

Additions to this page include:

Sale acres (currently on map only)

Designated trails: within sale area/not within sale area

Access: Access must be acquired through private land

Access is through state land

Access could be acquired through private land or may be through state land.

Following our second meeting it was agreed upon that future timber sales will have more volume available to be bid on the current process was only volume that resulted in 10 percent of the value of the sale was biddable. Future sales could have up to 80 percent of the volume biddable.

BCAP

As of 31 March 2010 the BCAP program was suspended until the program rules can be established. I do not foresee this program being up and running until October. Once the rules have been established the new rules will go before Congress for a 60 day review process. Farm Service Agency has received will over 25,000 comments regarding issues with BCAP. MAT has supplied comments to FSA as well as some of our members.

Legislative

Sawmill Sales Use Tax Bill

Jim Maeder and I provided testimony in support of House Bill 4404 and Senate Bill 198 which would clarify the Sales and Use tax issues on the mill equipment that loads and unloads your trucks. Unfortunately there was miscommunication between the House and Senate on the language of the bills and they were not voted out. The proper changes will be made to the senate bill to mirror the house bill and they both will be voted out of committee the week of our Annual Meeting.

Slasher Combination

Have had several members contact me regarding citations for not having brakes on their saw table. Brakes are required if the saw table is in excess of 3,000 lbs. Many of these citations were given without weighing the saw table. We are working with the Federal Motor Carrier to get an exemption from brakes on the slasher.

Washington DC Trip

This year Brian and I attend the American Loggers Council's (ALC) Spring Board Meeting in Washington, DC. The trips to DC lay the foundation for changes that we need to improve our industry and many years the same messages are presented. This year we presented several issues including change to the child labor laws, funding for our National Forest and the importance of harvesting woody biomass from all forest landowners. We also provided and supported positions developed by the ALC. The ALC's positions dealt with woody biomass and transportation issues. On the transportation side there is movement to increase gross weights on the Federal Highways to 97,000 lbs. This would not help but hurt our industry, if we are not grand-fathered. We asked our delegation not to support any bills looking to increase the weights. We support the rights of states to enforce state tolerances on weights for both State and Federal Highways. Much of our discussions revolved around the problems our members had been experiencing with the BCAP program. We also met with the Federal Motor Carrier to discuss the possibility of getting a brake exemption for our slashers.

Amish

John Fowler, Rich Newill, Dave Whittaker, Asher Tourison, Jim Maeder and myself met with representatives from Misclassification Task Force (Unemployment Ins), MIOSHA, Work Comp., and Representative Darwin Booher. This was a follow up meeting to our original meeting in January to see what progress has been made since our first meeting. All state agencies indicated that they are working to ensure all entities are being held to the same level of Michigan Law.

Membership

Thank you to those companies who have renewed for the upcoming year! If you have received your notice but haven't sent it in please do so, roughly 70 percent of our budget revenue comes from your support. The association needs your support so we can continue to fight for your rights and while minimizing the cost of doing business in Michigan. The amount of work your association has been able to do since its establishment is a direct reflection of your support. During these difficult economic times our work is most important. As our State is struggling to find ways to generate revenue they are looking to eliminate tax exemptions such as our property tax and sales/use tax as well as our log plate. Also if you know of companies who are not members I urge you to strongly talk with them about supporting their industry and joining MAT. It is truly an honor to represent you and thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Events

MAT Convention	22-24 April	All Day	Boyne Mountain Boyne Falls
Ray Billsby Golf Outing	22 April	9:30am -	Gaylord Country Club
MAT PAC Hockey Game	22 April	5:30pm – 6:20pm	Otsego Cty Sports Plex Gaylord