

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

National Firewood Workshop

June 20-21, 2018

**Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
3775 S. Reese Road
Frankenmuth, MI 48734**

Wednesday June 20th, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 AM Registration
8:30 – 9:00 AM Opening-Welcome (**Dr. Rich Kobe**, Chairperson, Department
of Forestry, Michigan State University)
Presentation of the program (**Harry Watt**)

**Morning session (9:00 – 12:00): Basics and challenges of producing and
marketing firewood**



College of
**Agriculture
and Natural
Resources**

Department of Forestry

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9: 00 - 9:45 *Changing Directions in the Firewood Industry*
Rural and urban forests, challenges of woodstove and local burning requirements, trends in equipment, forestry, business challenges, serving firewood customers, national firewood associations (**Harry Watt, NCSU Wood Products Extension and Ed Norman, Northern Michigan Firewood Products**)

9:45 - 10:30 *Firewood Marketing By The Book*
Marketing firewood in urban and rural markets, bulk to bundles and restaurant wood markets (**Brian Madden, Madden Brothers Firewood**)

10:30 – 10: 45 Coffee break

10:45 – 11: 30 *Sourcing Wood for Firewood Production*
Rural traditional logging sources, urban sources from arborists, working with landowners and foresters-forester, arborist, firewood business owner (**Dave Neuman, Jessica Simons and Anthony Weatherspoon**).

11:30 – 12: 15 *Firewood Production and Forest Health*

(Insect and quarantine issues, pest risks etc...-issues in rural and urban forests, arborists disposal of insect damaged trees, working with foresters with insects and forest health issues (**Liz Pentico, APHIS**))

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch and Demo Session 1

Afternoon session (1:30 – 3:30) Technical aspects of firewood production

Time	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
1:30: – 2:30	Processors Large & Small-processor manufacturer #1 Bryndon O’Hara,- Multitek and WoodBeaver, Charlie VanDusartz of US Products	Concepts of Kiln Drying Firewood, Modular Kilns, Growing Kiln Drying Capacity as the Business Grows, Firewood Business Concepts-Niels Jorgensen of Kiln-Direct	Business success issues-making profits a priority in the firewood business-good business strategy and management-Harry Watt, NCSU Wood Products Extension, Ed Norman, Northern Michigan Firewood Products
2:30 – 3:30	Processors Large & Small-processor manufacturer #2 Louie Weaver, Dyna Products, Paul McCann, Supersplitter, Ed Norman, Northern MI Firewood Products,	Industrial Fixed Site Firewood Dry Kilns, Firewood Business Concepts-Brian Turlington of SII, Rob Garadi of KDS Kilns	Automation of a firewood business to lower labor costs and grow sales-Harry Watt, NCSU Wood Products Extension

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee/Ice Cream break

4: 00 - 6:00 *Equipment demonstration / Visit exhibition (Session 2)*

6:00 – 7:00 Dinner

7:30 – 9:00 *Social hour-Barvarian Inn in Frankenmuth, MI-Dutch treat*

Thursday June 21th, 2018

Morning session (8:30 – 12:00) Lessons learned and regulatory challenges

8:30 – 9:15 *Policy and regulatory challenges – Michigan and national quarantines*
(MDARD/Mike Bryan)

MDNR Parks Division firewood policy and vendor contracts **(Lisa Crozier-Green)**

9:15 – 9:45 *Heat treatment kiln certification-AHPIS system* **(Liz Pentico, APHIS)**

9:45 – 10:15 *Safe Transportation of Firewood*

(MC Officer Josh Freeland MSP/ Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division)

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:15 *Stories From Firewood Business Owners* **(3 business owners + Ed Norman)**

The good-bad-and the ugly-multiple firewood business owners and manager tell of their successes and disappointments

11:15 – 11:45 *What's next?* **(Harry Watt and Ed Norman)**

What is the future direction of the split firewood industry, what actions can we take to cooperate for greater good, options to connect to landowners, loggers, foresters, arborists, other firewood businesses, distributors, brokers, retailers, equipment manufacturers and dealers? Exploring the idea of a Regional Firewood Association-panel group from industry and public supporters

11:45 - 12:00 Closing Remarks

12:00 – 01:00 Box lunch and Adjourn