

# The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® of Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania

Fall  
Issue 2003

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## When is a Certified Forest Not Sustainable?

*Maybe When It's a National Forest!*

by Ken Kane\*

The East Side Project is an ambitious effort designed to restore a unique forest ecosystem, the Allegheny Hardwood Forest Type. The 131,900-acre East Side Project area is contained within the 508,000-acre Allegheny National Forest, located in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania. At the core of the project is an effort to practice sustainable forest management by following the guiding principles of Green Tag Forest certification. The principles of Green Tag certification are concurrent in many ways to those set out by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program.

Unfortunately, neither the East Side Project nor the Allegheny National Forest have accomplished the goal of balancing age classes of the forest. The long-term sustainability of the forest ecosystem is simply not addressed in the project goals. The imbalance in the age classes and the historical problem of white tail deer pressure have sadly combined to reduce the vertical structure of the forest and the diversity of the ecosystem.

The Allegheny Hardwood Forest type is unique to approximately 16 million acres of land in portions of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and West Virginia. It is a subtype of the larger Northern Hardwood Forest type, which dominates the northeastern United States from the Great Lakes through New England.

The Allegheny Hardwood Forest is a result of the geotype of unglaciated soils of the last Ice Age. Its ability to maintain the shade intolerant species of black cherry, white ash and tulip poplar, is dependent on natural or man-made disturbances, creating desired conditions for the establishment and growth of the shade intolerant species. If proper conditions are not maintained, this unique resource base type will eventually convert to the more common Northern Hardwood Forest type characterized by the dominance of American beech, sugar maple and hemlock.

Natural disturbances, which have created the conditions necessary for establishing and maintaining an Allegheny Hardwood Forest, are windstorms (tornadoes), major ice storms and fires. None of these natural occurrences are predictable, and two of the three are beyond human control. Couple this challenge of unpredictable natural disturbances with the human responsibility for an excessive and destructive white tail deer population, and the ability to maintain the unique Allegheny Hardwood Forest type becomes even more challenging.

\*Ken Kane is the certifying forester, Keith Horn, Inc. Consulting Foresters of Kane, PA.

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(Issue #14)

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program is a voluntary, industry driven effort developed to ensure that future generations will have the same abundant, healthy, and productive forests we enjoy today. Created in 1995 by the American Forest & Paper Association (the national trade organization representing the United States forest products industry), SFI is a program of comprehensive forestry and conservation practices.

In order to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry in our state, an Implementation Committee was formed to develop the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania. Today, the SFI of PA program works to ensure the progress of the national initiative, here in Pennsylvania.

### Implementation Committee (IC) Members

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**Todd Waldron**, Craftmaster Manufacturing, Inc.

**Mark Webb**, Webb Forestry Consulting

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*Questions or comments regarding the SFI of PA newsletter, contact Ray Noll at 814-867-9299, 888-734-9366, or via e-mail at [sfi@penn.com](mailto:sfi@penn.com).*

**Part of the swath cut by the 1985 tornado that hit the Allegheny National Forest.**



## When Is A Forest Not Sustainable?

*(continued)*

As noted, the Northern Hardwood Forest type has a high component of shade tolerant sugar maple, beech and hemlock tree species mix. Sugar maple mortality due to insect infestations, drought and other threats is a major consideration behind the East Side Project. Likewise, both beech and hemlock are under attack by exotic pests. The beech is under attack by the Beech Scale Necria Complex, which entered North America on an ornamental beech around 1890 near Nova Scotia. This disease is moving south and west. The killing front is now the southwestern portion of the Allegheny National Forest.

Hemlock is under attack from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This pest is present throughout southern and central Pennsylvania and is moving. The threat to beech and hemlock, along with the region's high deer population and its preferential browsing habits, eliminates any practical application of uneven aged forest management.

Preserving and maintaining the Allegheny Hardwood Forest type through human management becomes more challenging in older stands (100 years or more) as interfering vegetation and lower tree stocking occurs because of deer browsing and tree mortality. More aggressive management, including the use of herbicides, deer enclosures and a more aggressive harvest of both deer and timber over larger areas, is clearly necessary.

One problem that could be encountered by attempting the proper human implementation of management that mimics natural disturbance is not only the size and scope of the project, but the socioeconomic implications. A man-made attempt to mimic natural forces will result in the harvest of significant volumes of merchantable forest products, which could be easily misinterpreted—and portrayed by some—as profit seeking, especially since trees which comprise the Allegheny Forest type are valuable and in demand throughout the world.

Another potential concern in maintaining the Allegheny Forest type is available manpower and economic commitment. As Forest Service financial resources are strained with the perennial and growing cost of fighting forest fires in the West, less money and personnel are available for effective management elsewhere.

The aging work-force and retirement of veteran Forest Service employees will reduce the experience levels of those implementing the management plans. This can already be seen in the marking of timber on the East Side Project. Field observations suggest that timber markers do not completely understand the dynamics of the Allegheny Hardwood Forest type.

Clearly, it is necessary to undertake an immediate, aggressive program of managing the Allegheny National Forest in order to maintain its role as a unique forest ecosystem. A strong education process will be necessary to convince the public of the value in protecting Allegheny Forest type from loss due to man's unwillingness to properly manage these resources. ■

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## SFI of PA IC Member

# Joe Glover of Plum Creek

Joe Glover's career in forestry is characterized by being in the right place at the right time. Growing up in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, his formative years were shaped by his Catholic faith and his Boy Scout activities. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout and seriously considered the priesthood while attending St. Vincent's College. Joe's love of the outdoors won out, and he transferred to Penn State's School of Forest Resources at Mont Alto. He received an Associates degree and then transferred to the main campus to complete his Bachelors in Forestry.

While in college he was on the woodsman's team and worked summers as an intern for Georgia Pacific (GP) at Marble. It was there he worked under Kevin Stout, a Forest Resource Area Manager for GP and a member of the SFI of PA Implementation Committee. Joe was hired by GP in 1998 before he graduated from Penn State. At that time, the Timber Company (a subsidiary of GP) divested its land holdings in Pennsylvania, giving Joe the task of putting 32,000 acres up for sale. The Timber Company was purchased by Plum Creek in October of 2001, separating the land from GP, both in terms of harvesting policy and attitude. Plum Creek is a real estate investment trust (REIT) that happens to be in the logging business. Joe states, "As a land company, selling delivered logs, we are reaping the benefits of high stumpage prices. I am looking for a sawmill just about ready to run out of logs—and that is the customer I want. My job here is to make as much money off my logs and pulpwood as I can."

Joe sorts out all the wood he takes from Plum Creek land according to market and is also responsible for finding and cultivating those markets. It is an unpredictable business and he thrives on the challenge of it. Joe's view of the forester/logger relationship is that the forester is the doctor diagnosing the treatment of a particular stand. The logger is the surgeon, cutting out what needs to be removed for the betterment of the forest. Joe will mark a sample area of a



Forester Joe Glover with his dog Tucker in the Plum Creek office in Brookville.

stand so the loggers get the idea of what he wants done and how to proceed. He says, "Some loggers are uncomfortable with the responsibility of selecting trees to harvest, but our SFI trained logging crews enjoy the challenge. Most of the time they do as good of a job in selecting trees to harvest as I do."

What makes Plum Creek lands profitable is logging, which generates 95% of their profit. Joe says, "Most of our stands were high-graded back in the 70s and 80s resulting in a high percentage of pulpwood. The challenge is to move that pulpwood and increase the value of that stand to make us money." Part of Joe's focus is to make the lands under his stewardship healthier and to ensure sustainable yield. He says, "I'll use whatever method is necessary to get regeneration started within the stand. Clearcuts, shelterwoods, thinnings, herbicide treatments, deer fences—though I am not wild about the fences. My typical cut is to improve the stand by removing the low value species such as hemlock, beech, birch, pine, and aspen; and also cut some of our more valued species to generate income."

In terms of environmental sensitivity, Joe feels it rests in the hands of the skidder operator. "In a harvesting operation, it is the mind set of the skidder operator that reflects aesthetic and environmental awareness. It is all in how you get the logs from the stump to the deck. The skidder operator needs to take care of his machine and make sure it is not doing any residual damage. I see the difference in how efficient he can be, as well as taking care of the stand. This is why SFI of PA's new course, Job Layout and Profitable Skidding, is so important. When a logging job is finished people notice two things: how well it is cleaned up and what the skid trails look like."

*In a harvesting operation, it is the mind set of the skidder operator that reflects aesthetic and environmental awareness.*

—Joe Glover

Joe's philosophy of forestry complements SFI Objectives. He says, "You need to have a good skidder operator backing up the logger. But the logger can't make day-to-day decisions as to what trees to select. Our loggers are top notch as far as concerned, they are a very professional group of men. SFI of PA training courses help keep them sharp and get them home at night. It provides pertinent information that ties directly into their business. SFI's continued primary focus on training and how to make their business run better is a tremendous benefit to the industry."

One of Joe's responsibilities is overseeing leases on 30,000 acres of Plum Creek land. The remaining 2,000 are under an easement with the Game Commission. Joe comments, "It's a hard way for us to make money off the land. We have 100 tracts into roughly 120 acres and rent for about \$6 an acre. Once people take out a piece of ground, they love it and treat it as their own. If something happens on the property, like trash dumping, I find out about it immediately. The Game Commission also reduces the taxes on the landbase. The Game Commission doesn't like to see big tracts because they feel the deer kill is less on that than what it is on non-posted property. This has made it clear to our lessees that our land is not a game refuge. We want to see the deer. Most of our lessees do a very good job of it."

Discussing the limited markets available for wood, Joe observes, "We need an Oriented-Strand Board (OSB) Plant in central Pennsylvania that will take round wood. Like the inventory shows, the timber volume continues to grow—unfortunately, the best keeps getting slightly worse as time goes by. Five years ago what passed for a cherry wood is completely different from the cherry wood today. In order to move away from that, we are going to have to educate the forest landowners to stop high grading the stand. I don't see that changing with the rate forest land changes here in the state—one million acres in ten years. It's going to be interesting to watch."



TUSAF Form is a separate file.

## Partners Program Spotlight: Lapp Lumber

Lapp Lumber is located near Paradise, in the heart of Lancaster County's Amish country. Like Lancaster County, Lapp Lumber is undergoing a period of intense transition by evaluating their goals, products, and equipment in order to make changes suited for the current economic climate.

Jim Lapp's grandfather started the sawmill back in 1956 as a means of keeping his four energetic sons out of trouble and gainfully employed. They began by clearing fence rows and were soon selling logs. The Lapps built the sawmill on the family land and would log for two weeks then saw for two weeks. Lapp Lumber expanded and incorporated in 1962. They originally specialized in barn timbers, but then transitioned into their primary product, high quality custom dimension lumber for building industry and home owners. They utilize all the wood that comes into the mill, producing dimension/construction grade, furniture grade, and pallet lumber, as well as bark mulch, sawdust for animal bedding, and woodchips for pulp. Lapp also sells their woodchips to landscapers and homeowners. For their bark mulch, they grind it up, then let it compost, then grind it again in order to make it more consistent in color and texture for landscapers. Lapp sells their bark mulch by the cubic yard, emphasizing it is a totally organic product without stains or dyes which can leach out over time. They sell close to \$300,000 worth of bark mulch a year, often buying bark from other mills to add to theirs. In the last two years Lapp Lumber has been producing 2.5 million board feet a year. They employ sixteen people full time and several part time employees—most notably two of the senior Lapp brothers who helped to start the business nearly fifty years ago. Jake and Mel still own the business while Sam Esh, (Mel's son-in-law) and Jim (Jake's son) manage the daily operations. Jim Lapp worked at the mill off and on through his high school and college years. The last two years have been difficult for the company, forcing them to examine all their costs, become more efficient and analyze their product line. Jim says, "We need to find ways to cut more costs or raise our prices on the product lines that we have—getting more money for what we produce."

Lapp Lumber procures their timber primarily by reputation and word of mouth, though they have done some radio and print advertising. They try to procure their wood within a sixty-five mile radius of the



*Co-owner Mel Lapp, procurement forester Jeff Stover and manager Jim Lapp, in the woodyard at Lapp Lumber in Paradise, PA. (Not pictured: Jake Lapp, co-owner; Sam Esh, operations manager)*

mill. Until recently, Lapp maintained their own logging crew, but due to high insurance costs, they have scaled back and now subcontract cutters who work with Lapp log loaders and truck drivers. They use other subcontracted crews as needed. Most of these crews have had some SFI of PA logger training. They also augment their inventory supply by purchasing gateway wood. Lapp Lumber maintains a standing inventory of 1.2 million feet in the woods as a security buffer against the fluctuating timber prices of the current market. The ongoing challenge of buying quality standing timber, when bidding competitively against larger mills in the region, is very difficult. Jim considers a reasonable price for timber a price that he knows he can make at least one percent profit.

Lapp Lumber completely agrees with the principles of SFI—but economic times being what they are and landowners needing dollars despite arguments for sustainability—they will harvest everything fourteen inches and up. It is particularly difficult to maintain sustainability in Lancaster County, because of the development pressure. Jim elaborates, "The ones that give us the most pause for thought is someone who just bought the land—and he is a land developer. He has 40 acres he wants cut—we love forty acres, it is an ideal tract for us. We often have to work on five acre tracts. But we know once we cut it this land will never be forestland accessible for harvesting timber again."

Lapp Lumber is a family business and in many ways treats their employees as family. They are committed to keep the mill running so the employees can continue to be breadwinners. The other side of the Lapp commitment is to their customers. They serve two sets of customers with completely different needs. The forested landowner is a customer of sorts; even though he is paid for resource extraction, he wants his property cared for. The lumber buyer wants a quality product. Timber procurement is part of Lapp's ability to produce the lumber to satisfy customers. Lapp Lumber sells veneer logs, and sometimes sells its highest grade sawlogs to Weaber's sawmill simply because it pays better than putting them through their own mill.

Procurement from woodlots in the Lancaster area has continued to shrink—down to two and three acres. Lapp has plenty of stiff competition from other local sawmills. Jim states, "It is impossible to compete with the three Amish mills in our area because they do not have the same costs associated with running their business that we do. They don't pay social security or workman's comp. They have no payroll taxes or health insurance. They still compete against each other—it is not like they have some grand Amish conspiracy to drive the 'English' out of business—but their overhead is much lower than ours. How it effects us in terms of business competition is they can afford to pay more for sawlogs, and sell their lumber for less."

Lapp's procurement forester, Jeff Stover, strives to educate the landowners he deals with. He marks a stand to ensure sustainability, knowing they will get another opinion in hopes of a higher dollar value for their stand. Jeff says, "I always ask the landowner their plans for the land before I even consider marking the stand." Lapp Lumber has always kept the long-term goals of the landowner in mind when they do a harvest. But Jim Lapp wonders if their good intentions have been eroded by other competitors over the years, cutting on the same properties. He says, "Forty years ago when my grandfather started this business there weren't any other mills in the area. Over time we couldn't satisfy the demand for lumber and other mills sprang up. The Amish didn't have enough land for all their offspring to go into farming so sawmills were another way to keep them nearby."

As Jim looks toward the future he says, "The next two years will be critical for us in developing new products and upgrading our mill for greater efficiency. We are at the crossroads as an industry; those of us who can survive the next year will have the opportunity to make some money, if the economy doesn't take another dive. The industry in Pennsylvania has lost production because of the number of mills that have gone out of business. But the demand is still there."

# The Timber Unit Sustainability Assessment Form: It's Your Turn

by

**Susan Stout**

Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, Forest Sciences Laboratory

**Jim Finley**

The Pennsylvania State University, School of Forest Resources

*Ninth in a Series*

## Background

For the past two and a half years in the Sustainable Forestry Newsletter, we have shown how results from research can help you assess whether the practices that you are applying to the forest are likely to sustain key values and benefits in Penn's Woods. At the outset, we asserted "... the dominant challenge for sustainable forestry in Pennsylvania is prompt regeneration with desirable species." This result is supported by many regeneration studies conducted over the last 35 years across the Commonwealth, by scientists at Penn State, with the US Forest Service, and a variety of others. Recent inventory data, described below, add further evidence. ***But the best evidence is not yet available—and you, the forestry community of Pennsylvania—must take your turn as research partners if we are to truly understand the extent of this problem and, together, develop a solution.***

Research results showed that the answers to a few basic questions about any timber harvesting practice and its context give a great deal of information about its contribution to sustaining Penn's Woods:

1. Does the harvest leave trees of diameter, quality, and species that keep options open for the future?
2. Is the harvest a regeneration harvest (what will be the canopy closure after the harvest is completed)?  
*And for regeneration harvests (those with < 60% canopy closure after harvest)...*
3. Is there adequate advanced regeneration on the ground to restock the forest?
4. Is there too much interfering vegetation to allow advance and new seedlings to survive and grow?
5. How heavy is the deer impact?

These are the questions we are asking you to answer for every timber harvest with which you are associated. Filling out the Timber Unit Sustainability Assessment Form – on the next page – and submitting it to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Office so that we can link data about these critical issues to the ground that is actually being harvested is your opportunity to make a difference

for the future of your industry and even your own business. We won't reveal your identity to anyone in the summary data, although we may call and ask to visit some of the TUSAF areas selected at random as part of our data quality assurance efforts.

## Evidence from Forest Inventory

In 2000, the USFS, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry (PA BoF), began a shift to an annualized inventory system in which one-fifth of the state's forest inventory plots are visited each year, taking 5 years to visit all of the study sites. Regeneration is sampled intensively on all sites visited during the growing season. Last autumn, the USFS and the PA BoF published an interim report summarizing results from the first two years of field work. While the results that will emerge after all the plots have been visited will be more precise, these data show important trends.

These trends confirm our concern for Pennsylvania forest regeneration. Using criteria to account for different levels of white-tailed deer impact (see the Spring, 2001 issue of this newsletter) in partially harvested stands where sufficient light should promote regeneration establishment, the report projected potential regeneration success. Just 39 percent of the stands have sufficient advance regeneration in desirable species if the stands experience low deer pressure, and only 17 percent of the same stands will regenerate with desirable species if the deer pressure is high.

## What does this evidence mean?

In the big picture, these results are a serious cause for concern, no matter how we look at it. The July 2003 storms that tore across much of northern Pennsylvania remind all of us how suddenly an existing forest can be blown over, and the winter 2003 ice damage across the northern tier showed us another natural force that can leave us completely dependent on the advance regeneration that was already established.

But how much concern depends on some data that the USFS/PA BoF inventory doesn't provide directly. Only some – perhaps half – of Pennsylvania's forest landowners indicate an intent to harvest timber. And for the long periods of time between stand replacing natural disturbances, our main concern about regeneration will be on acres that experience timber harvests.

What if all the adequate advance regeneration – 39% if we succeed in reducing deer densities, 17% if we don't – is on land whose owners and managers aren't planning to harvest timber? What if all the interfering ferns and beech and stripped maple are on the very acres where timber harvests will be conducted? And how can we tell?

## This Is Where You Come In

One of the great strengths of the USFS/PA BoF Forest Inventory is also one of its great weaknesses. The data reported above represent an unbiased sample of what's happening in all of Pennsylvania's forests, across all landownerhips and attitudes towards forest management and timber harvesting. The inventory is conducted with great sensitivity to the privacy of those who allow forest inventory data to be collected on their land. That's really important in Pennsylvania, where 74% of the forest land is privately owned. So the inventory crews ask no questions of the landowners of specific plots. Even though other members of the Inventory staff conduct interviews and surveys to determine what proportion of landowners are likely to conduct a timber harvest, they protect the privacy of the plot owners by keeping that data independent of the plot data.

So the Timber Unit Sustainability Assessment Form is a critically important way to link concerns about sustainability and future timber supply with the ground that's actually being harvested through your efforts in partnership with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Jeff Kochel, of Forest Investment Associates, led a task force including industry leaders and research scientists, including both of the authors of this report, in developing the form, which is closely linked to SFI's Sustainable Silviculture Training Course. All that's left to complete the project is widespread adoption and use of the form. ***So now, it's your turn!***

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See TUSAF Form as a separate file.

**Partner Spotlight:**

**Cummings Lumber Company, Inc.**



**Scott Cummings, foreman of the sawmill, Roy Cummings, Jr., president and general manager, and Chip Cummings, who is in sales and marketing for the company.**

Success has always figured into the family business of Cummings Lumber for the four generations it has been operating, and they continue to thrive. Started in 1929 by Lee William Cummings in Troy, PA, the twenty acre sawmill site was chosen for its excellent water supply and closeness to the railroad. Cummings built a railroad siding and erected his steam powered mill next to it. They phased out the steam engines by 1966 and have kept consistent with new technology and equipment ever since. Over the decades, Cummings Lumber has endured two fires and the flood of '72 which damaged Penn Central's railroad lines so badly they were abandoned. Cummings began shipping their lumber by truck, eventually buying several tractor trailers. They expanded to a second mill in Monroeton in 1980 and opened a retail store in Troy to capture the walk-in business, selling hardwoods and softwoods, paneling and other products. In 1985 Cummings formed a new company, Oak Hill Veneer, run by Lee Cummings and specializing in high quality veneer from selected boards. Their equipment is so specialized that they can produce veneer panels up to twelve feet long by infinite widths. Cummings has nine dry kilns which each hold 50,000 boardfeet (bf). The company produces 10 million bf of lumber per year—approximately 40,000 boardfeet a day. Thirty-five percent of their production is in pallet lumber which goes to Cummings' pallet manufacturing plant and uses up the low-grade wood. The two common lumber goes to their flooring plant in Troy, Barefoot Flooring, which employs 60 people who produce 16,000 square feet of finished flooring a day. Cummings' primary product is one common or better dimension lumber that is surfaced or made into molding.

Cummings procures its lumber from about a 100 mile radius of the mill in Troy, which attests to the vast timber resources in the Endless Mountains region considering Cummings' volume. That volume is harvested at least ten times from other large mills cutting in the same area. Cummings keeps a standing inventory of about 4 million bf in the woods—a five month supply, and another 400,000 bf in the yard—three

weeks worth of wood for the mill. They do purchase some gatewood.

Roy Cummings, Jr. is president and general manager of the lumber operations at the sawmill. His goal is to efficiently produce the finest hardwood in the world. Their equipment is state-of-the-art, their employees are highly skilled and dedicated, and they produce a diverse product line that serves the changing needs of customers around the world. Roy discusses the role SFI plays in his business, "SFI has been good for the industry. Good for the safety and training of loggers. We hope that SFI emerges as one of the leaders in the certification field with rules that can be adapted to various situations mills buying logs encounter. For the most part, only state lands are certified. We believe that loggers and forestry people need to be certified so that all forest harvesting falls under their guidelines, then the whole process can be certified." Cummings customers in England would like to see them produce certified wood, but are unwilling to pay the higher price chain of custody wood will cost. Roy states, "Certification was a hot topic two years ago and has died down because it can't be done. I'm not going to spend seven or eight thousand dollars to get certified—which doubles my costs out in the log yard—with nobody willing to pay for it. It doesn't make any sense. The idea of certification is good. SFI is good—we need more training for anybody who logs. People who practice bad forestry need to be stopped."

Chip says, "At the end of the day it is the people whomake the difference, not the forests. We, as an industry, would like to see the SFI program get the recognition as the true certification rather than FSC. It makes

more sense for the people who are doing the cutting to be trained in sustainable harvesting methods than for the actual land to be certified. We can't change what has been done before on that land, but we can make it better from this day forward."

Roy continues, "Forestry and the practice of growing trees is really a no-brainer. It is pretty hard to mess up. You cut them down and you let them grow. Making it easier for trees to grow is not difficult. The way to do that is make sure everyone who is involved in harvesting is educated. Foresters who work for sawmills and are involved with industrial logging have more to lose than the others because that sawmill's reputation is at stake in the quality of their harvesting." Chip adds, "There are also some landowners who just don't care—which is amazing in this day and age. We generally try and avoid them because our stamp would be on that property and neighbors talk. We will walk away from some jobs. Most sawmills realize that if they want to be around another eighty years they have got to do a good job."

Cummings employs two foresters and require all their loggers and foresters to be SFI trained. SFI practices have been a part of Cummings policies before there was an SFI. Chip says, "It wasn't a big change for us to go with SFI. Where I see SFI being really helpful is with landowners. Because they want to understand what is happening to their land, and they need to be reassured everything will be all right. SFI helps with the landowners' perception of our industry. Very few organizations are spending money to educate the public, but SFI is one." ■



## State Examines Expanding Forests

Pennsylvania's protected wild and natural areas would grow by more than 20,000 acres while timber production is maintained at current levels under a plan being proposed by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The agency has unveiled a plan that aims at balancing forestry goals with increased recreational uses of the state's natural areas. Since 1955, state forest management has been set by plans written every 15 years. Early plans focused solely on timber management. The new plan grew out of more than two dozen public meetings dating back five years. During that time, more than 5,000 comments were submitted.

"The forest plans started with timber management and evolved into multiple-use and now to ecosystem management," said Gretchen Leslie, a spokeswoman with the agency. "The hot button issues at those meetings were recreation and user access, and this plan reflects that buzz."

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said the new draft plan recognizes the need to see wild and natural areas of the state as ecological regions. At the same time, it does not ignore timber production on state lands. Officials say timber from state land is part of a \$5 billion a year industry that employs 100,000 people in Pennsylvania.

The plan would maintain timber production at levels reached during the 15-year period from 1985 to 1999. The state Bureau of Forestry estimates that about 635 million board feet of timber was harvested during that period.

Perhaps the most important part of the plan is the proposed addition of more than 20,000 acres to the state's 61 natural areas and 14 wild areas. Together, those areas account for almost 180,000 acres. DiBerardinis was quoted in saying, "This proposal further advances this administration's views on protecting more areas in our state forests and parks."

The agency plans to hold eight public meeting across Pennsylvania, to be followed by 20 additional meetings in each of the state's 20 forest districts, during which time more public testimony will be solicited on the final draft of the plan. DCNR officials want to finalize the plan by the fall. ■

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### SFI of PA Program Partners

Partners Program Participants are committed to the SFI Standards and pay a set fee annually based on sawmill production from Pennsylvania sawlogs.

- Appleton Papers, Inc. (6)
- Baker's Lumber Company, Inc. (5)
- Blue Ox Timber Resources (5)
- Bonham Log & Lumber, Inc. (5)
- Brode Lumber (5)
- BroJack Lumber Company, Inc. (3)
- Brooks Lumber & Timber Harvesting (4)
- Brookville Wood Products (5)
- C.J. Charles Lumber, Inc. (4) ☒
- Champion Lumber Company, Inc. (4)
- Clear Lake Lumber (5) ☒ ☑
- Cornerstone Forest Products (6) ☒ ☑
- Craftmaster Manufacturing, Inc. (2)
- Cubbon Lumber & Land Co., Inc. (5)
- Cummings Lumber (5) ☒ ☑
- Custead's Sawmill, Inc. (5) ☒
- DA-JAC Lumber (3)
- Deer Park Lumber (6)
- Dwight Lewis Lumber Co. (2)
- James Doliveira Lumber (3)
- Edwin Johnson & Sons (5)
- C.A. Elliot Lumber (4)
- Forest Investment Associates (3)
- Georgia-Pacific Corp. (8)
- The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co. (8)
- Heacock Lumber (3)
- R.J. Hoffman Lumber (3)
- Hyma Devore Lumber (5) ☒
- International Paper (8)
- Kern Brothers Lumber Company (3)
- Gerald King Lumber (6)
- Krumenacker Lumber Company (5)
- Kuhns Brothers Lumber (6) ☒ ☑
- L & H Lumber Company, Inc. (3)
- Lapp Lumber Company (5)
- Lauchle Lumber (6) ☒
- Lee Brothers Lumber Company (2)
- Randy Leeper Lumber (3)
- Mead Westvaco (8) ☒ ☑
- Matson Lumber Company (3) ☒ ☑
- Mountain Hardwoods (6) ☒ ☑
- \*Mt. Airy Lumber Co.
- Mt. Valley Farms & Lumber Products (4) ☒ ☑
- Ongley Hardwoods (3)
- Ordie Price's Sawmill (3)
- P & S Lumber Company (3)
- Patterson Lumber Co. Inc. (3)
- Pine Creek Lumber (6)
- Plum Creek Timber Co. (2)
- RAM Forest Products (6)
- Salem Hardwood, Inc. (1) ☒ ☑
- Solt's Sawmill (4)
- St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc. (5) ☒
- Sterling Forest Products (3)
- Temple-Inland Forest Products (1)
- Tuscarora Hardwoods, Inc. (4)
- W. B. Shaffer Lumber (6)
- Weaber Inc. (8) ☒ ☑
- Wheeland Lumber (6) ☒ ☑
- Weyerhaeuser (8) ☒ ☑

\*denotes new company

( )= years as participant

Visit our web site for e-mail addresses (☒) and web site links (☑) for these Partners and Supporters!

### SFI of PA Program Supporters

Supporter Companies help to promote sustainable forestry practices and pledge meaningful financial contributions.

- \*Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG)
- Babcock Lumber (4)
- Bailey Wood Products, Inc. (3)
- Bingaman & Son Lumber (3) ☒ ☑
- Catawissa Lumber & Specialty Co. (2)
- Coastal Lumber (4)
- Hobbes Forestry Services (3)
- Horizon Wood Products (3)
- Keystone Chipping, Inc. (2)
- Noll's Forestry Services, Inc. (3) ☒
- Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc.
- Ochs Forestry Consulting, Inc. (1)
- Penn State University (2)
- (Forest Land Management Office)
- Pennco International, Inc. (1) ☒ ☑
- TimberLeads, Inc. (3)
- \*Timber Management, Inc.
- Red Rock Enterprises LLC (4) ☒ ☑
- Sylvandale Forestry (3)
- Woodland Forest Products (2)
- \*Viking Energy
- \*denotes new company

Please send me information on  
**SFI's Partners**   
**SFI Supporters**   
**SFI Program in general**

send to:

SFI of PA, 315 South Allen Street,  
 Suite 418, State College, PA 16801

Name:

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Company:

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Street Address:

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City, State, & Zip Code:

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Telephone Number:

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Sawmill \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Forester \_\_\_\_\_ Logger \_\_\_\_\_

## Managing Logging Risk and Liability Symposium

A recent court case in Pennsylvania involved a logger who was severely and permanently injured by a danger tree. The jury awarded him a settlement of six million dollars. An appeal has been filed so the final outcome of the case won't be known for some time. Several very important issues came to light in this case. One of these was the stark reality that most of us—landowners, loggers, foresters, mill owners—do not have a good understanding of our responsibility when it comes to timber harvesting and danger trees. The SFI of PA will try to help by offering a symposium, **Managing Logging Risk and Liability**, on **Thursday, October 2, 2003**, at the Bryce Jordan Center on the University Park Campus of Penn State. It will be a full-day program with knowledgeable and extremely well-qualified speakers.

**Sponsors:** SFI® of PA, Penn State School of Forest Resources, PA Tree Farm Program, PA Forest Products Association, Allegheny Society of American Foresters

**Date:** Thursday, October 2, 2003

**Place:** The Bryce Jordan Center, University Park Campus of Penn State

**Cost:** \$65.00 per person (includes lunch, parking, and materials)

**Time:** Registration begins at 7:45am. Symposium will run from 8:45am until 4pm.

Topics to be covered include legal considerations for landowners, loggers, foresters and mills, written contract language, insurance, site disturbance and changing conditions, risk management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards for logging operations, and more. Speakers will include Mark Gordon, Esquire, Partner in the firm of Pietragallo, Bosick, & Gordon, Chris LeDoux, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service, an OSHA representative, a risk management professional, an expert on insurance, and others. The symposium will provide some insights and will suggest resources for you to contact to deal with your specific concerns as they arise.

***Pennsylvania SFI Continuing Education Credit as well as SAF CFE Credit will be given for attending the symposium to those who apply for such. Forms will be provided.***

Overnight accommodations at special symposium rates have been arranged with:

MOTEL 6, 1274 North Atherton St., State College, (814) 234 – 1600.

RODEWAY INN, 1040 North Atherton St., State College, (814) 238 – 6783

IMPERIAL MOTOR INN, 118 S. Atherton St., State College, (814) 237 – 7686

DAYS INN PENN STATE, 240 South Pugh St., State College, (814) 238 – 8454

HAMPTON INN, 1101 East College Ave., State College, (814) 231 – 1590

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**SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s) of Attendee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline — September 19, 2003. Check or Money Order payable to SFI of PA (\$65.00 per person) must accompany Registration Form.** Send to SFI of PA, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 418, State College, PA, 16801. For further information call the SFI of PA office (814) 867 – 9299.

***SPACE IS LIMITED TO 700 PEOPLE – EARLY REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED.***

## Core Training Completed

Since May 2003 the following individuals have completed Core Level training with the SFI of PA. Core Level Courses are First Aid & CPR, Logging Safety, and Environmental Logging.

Matthew Burton	Ridgway
Harry Cathcart	Olanta
Gene Desposito	Bradford
Luke Dillinger	Johnsonburg
Jonathan Hand	Lebanon
Gregory Kirr	Pittsfield
Michael Kocjancic	Kane
David Marzella	Ridgway
Bruce W. Meeker	Moshannon
Paul Neal	Brookville
Bill Niece	Port Allegheny
Wayne Powell	Punxsutawney
Regis Preston	Brockway
Brad Schmader	Lucinda
Byron Seyler	Loganton
Dave Snyder	Reynoldsville
James Strauser	Myerstown
John Urmann, Jr.	Ridgway
Beryl Weaver	Lebanon
John A. Williams	Kane

## Continuing Education

### WILDLIFE (OCTOBER 2002)

Kenneth Abrahamson	Brockway
Frank Bergman	Kane
John Biel	Ludlow
Todd Ference	Atlantic
David Freemer	Brockway
Curtis Hollabaugh	Warren
Alfred Jewart	Austin
David Kriegel	Johnsonburg
Stephen Larson	Port Allegany
Shane Lister	Kane
Mike McEntire	Smethport
John Nobles	North Warren
Budd Paris	Cherry Grove
David Schmader	Endeavor
Lucas Stec	Garland
Kevin Stout	Marble
Dave Taylor	Port Allegany
James Whelpley	Brockway
Scott Wolbert	Kane
Allen Zuraski	Johnsonburg

### LOG TO LUMBER YIELD

Dwane L. Barkman	Clearville
John Bouch	Mahaffey
James Chappie	Central City
Steve Chappie	Central City
Richard E. Clark	Everett
Kevin Croyle	Schellsburg
Kenneth R. Klahre	Clearville
Brian Knox	Bedford
Calvin Leydig	Hyndman
Jody Miller	Lonaconing, MD
Rodger V. Murray	Meyersdale
William E. Murray	Meyersdale
Monte E. Redinger, Sr.	Clearville
Ken Roberts	Cumberland, MD
David A. Shaffer	Hyndman
James H. Shaffer	Hyndman
Rodney Shaffer	Hyndman

## Continuing Education Courses Completed since May 2003

### GPS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Barton, Jr.	Sidmon
John A. Bouch	Mahaffey
Robert A. Boyer	Wilmington
Arnold L. Brode	Saxton
Randy L. Brode	Saxton
Douglas Cessna	Clearville
John Cessna	Clearville
Terry W. Cover	Bedford
William H. Craig	Moorefield
Karl J. Fritz	Bedford
Russell E. Fritz, Jr.	Bedford
Ken Gibbs	Bedford
Thomas Hobson	Earleville
Ron Hocker	Bedford
Dennis Hovermale	Berkeley Springs
Neil Itle	Martinsburg
Gary D. Kirkpatrick	Rimersburg
Brian Knox	Bedford
Natasha N. Kovach	Bedford
Todd D. McCabe	Portage
Mike McNamara	Windber
Jody Miller	Lonaconing
Ronnie Northcraft	Artemas
Thomas J. O'Neal	Bedford
Kenneth R. Rexrode	Kirby
Matt Ross	Meyersdale
George Salyards	Newrey
Charles Salyards, Jr.	Duncansville
Anita Simmons	Delray
Allen Weyant	Claysburg
Michael T. Wolf	Ebensburg
Joshua C. Yusko	Portage

### JOB LAYOUT & PROFITABLE SKIDDING

John Allen	Wysox
John Brucklacher, III	Liberty
John E. Brucklacher, Jr.	Liberty
Brian Carr	New Albany
Arthur R. Chilson	Wysox
Dan Marquardt	Muncy Valley
Todd Monks	Blossburg
Steve Monks	Wellsboro
Jack Murray	Hughesville
Corey Nickeson	Sugar Run
Stephen Pardoe	Dushore
Lester Pardoe	Forksville
John Preston	Wyalusing
Byron A. Pequignot	Blossburg

### SUSTAINABLE SILVICULTURE

John Carvell	New Holland
Andy Gessner	Lykens
Matthew Langan	Zionsville
Matt McCanna	Lebanon
Shawn McCanna	Silver Spring
John Miller	Elverson
James Snyder	Palmyra
Randy C. Watters	Brandamore

### GAME OF LOGGING I

Mark L. Hoffman	Roaring Branch
Christopher D. Moore	Canton

### GAME OF LOGGING III

Brian Carr	New Albany
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### LUMBER GRADING

Robert Matson	Brookville
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## In Brief

### Dave Sienko Certified as GOL Instructor



SFI of PA Implementation Committee member, Dave Sienko, became a certified Game of Logging Instructor after completing training with Soren Eriksson and Dan Hartranft. Dave owns Sienko Forest Products, Inc. and has been logging for over 25 years. He was chosen as PA Logger of the Year in 1999 and Appalachian Division Logger of the Year in 2000. He has hosted several GOL trainings on his family farm in Hallstead, PA. In 2003 Dave was contacted by the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, and awarded an extensive logging job of the property. On an aerial postcard of the Biltmore Estate he wrote the SFI of PA staff, "This is one tough landowner to please! Cleared out 45,000 bd ft. pine right next to the house and working on another 200 acres on the other side of the property. Putting what you teach to good use." —Dave Sienko

## Tyrone Paper Mill Resurrected

Team Ten—a group of Pennsylvania businessmen, seven of whom have experience at paper mills—got state funding to help buy the 123-year-old paper mill in Tyrone, PA. It will become American Eagle Paper Mills and has begun to produce uncoated paper products this summer. The company expects to employ about 170 people within the next six months.

## PA Exceeds 600 Mile Buffer Goal

Pennsylvania continues its commitment to establish and protect stream-side buffers to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, reaching and exceeding its goal of planting 600 miles of streamside buffers eight years early, thanks to the Growing Greener program and hundreds of partners. Pennsylvania's goal was to restore 600 miles of buffers by 2010. Pennsylvania currently has 698 miles of buffer completed or under contract—465 miles of riparian forest buffers over 35 feet wide have been completed in addition to the 46 miles of buffer less than 35 feet. An additional 187 miles are under contract to be planted, which puts Pennsylvania years ahead of schedule in meeting its goal.

## American Chestnut Foundation Meets in PA

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will hold their annual meeting October 17-19, at the Nittany Lion Inn, in State College. State Forester, Dr. Jim Grace will be the keynote speaker. Over 5,000 hybrid varieties of american chestnut and chinese chestnut are planted in the State College area. Call TACF at (802) 447-0110 to register by October 1st.

Register Now! Call (814) 867-9299 or toll free (888) 734-9366

## Managing Logging Risk & Liability Symposium

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Bryce Jordan Center, University Park Campus, Penn State  
\$65. per person

Full-day symposium covering: Site Disturbance, Risk Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards, Contracts, Insurance, and more. Participants qualify for SFI of PA Continuing Education credit.



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
 315 South Allen Street, Suite 418  
 State College, Pennsylvania 16801

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## SFI OF PA TRAINING PROGRAM NEWS

### Save \$ with Training until July 2004!

Our Customized Job Training (CJT) Grant will terminate at the end of June 2004 resulting in course fee increases for all courses formerly covered by the grant. They are: **Environmental Logging, Advanced Environmental Logging, Job Layout and Profitable Skidding, Forest Ecology, Sustainable Silviculture and Wildlife.** Please take advantage of the savings and stay current with your training. We are introducing **Block Scheduling in 2004.** Courses will only be offered during 3 six week periods.

**Block I — February 23 to April 2,**

**Block II — May 17 to June 30**

**Block III — September 7 to October 15**

### SFI of PA Training Courses Updated

The SFI of PA core course, Logging Safety, is in a revision process with new material and updated videos under review for future use. Forest Ecology and Sustainable Silviculture have been "fine tuned" to include updated information with the former slide show now on CD ROM for Power Point presentations. Environmental Logging and Advanced Environmental Logging will be updated when the DEP changes are issued, and will introduce participants to the new SFI of PA Treatment Unit Sustainability Assessment Form (TUSAF). Changes to be incorporated

### SFI of PA 2003 Training Schedule

Call the SFI of PA to register and for confirmation of exact location, (814) 867-9299 or (888) 734-9366. Schedule is subject to change, courses with less than 15 participants may not be held. More courses are added each month. SAF CFE credit available for most courses.

#### September

Job Layout	Friday, September 5	Morgantown
Game of Logging II	Saturday, September 6	State Game Lands 110, Berks Co.
Job Layout	Wednesday, September 10	Richfield, Snyder Co.
Job Layout	Friday, September 12	Chambersburg area
GPS for Forest Management	Wednesday, September 17	Bradford
Sustainable Silviculture	Thursday, September 18	Black Forest Sportsman's Club, Potter Co.
Estimating Standing Timber	Thursday, September 18	Ricketts Glen, Luzerne Co.
Logging Costs	Friday, September 19	Ricketts Glen, Luzerne Co.
Sustainable Silviculture	Tuesday, September 23	Apple Bin Restaurant, Bedford Co.
GPS for Forest Management	Wednesday, September 24	Tioga Co.
Job Layout	Tuesday, September 26	Brookville

#### October

Managing Logging Risk & Liability Symposium	Thursday, October 2	Bryce Jordan Center, University Park Campus of PSU
Environmental Logging	Thursday, October 9	Towanda area
Advanced Environmental Logging	Friday, October 17	Hawk Mt., Luzerne Co.
Forest Ecology	Thursday, October 23	Sullivan Co.
First Aid & CPR	October TBA	Spring Grove, York Co.

#### November

Logging Safety	Thursday, November 6	TBA (north central PA)
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***Take advantage of the savings under the CJT Grant and stay current with your training!***