



March 2025

## Enabling Pennsylvania communities to thrive through a successful forest products industry.

Hello,

Welcome to Forest 411, our newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed about the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee and promoting sustainable forestry in Pennsylvania. Stay tuned for more valuable insights and information!



In October 1994, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced a landmark program for its membership: the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®). The announcement came during a period of rising national concern and animosity over industrial forestry practices. Across the country, the forest products industry found itself losing ground with public sentiment and spent much of the previous decade on the defensive. In Pennsylvania, new research was beginning to raise concerns that sound

silvicultural practices were lacking throughout the state. While opinions varied on the severity of the issue, public sentiments regarding forest management seemed to be shifting towards litigation and stricter regulations. Recognizing the need for a proactive solution, many in the forest products sector believed a new approach to forest management was necessary.

The announcement by AF&PA was timely. With a goal to enhance the environment and improve public confidence by visibly changing the practice of forestry on industrial and other private forest lands, AF&PA members, who represented the majority of wood manufacturing and industrial timberlands throughout the country, were committing to a program of self-regulation and continuous improvement.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative aimed to strike a balance between environmental protection and the need for forest-based industries to remain economically viable. Its stakeholder involvement and public transparency requirements would pull back the curtain

on the industry's forest management practices. In 1995, AF&PA officially rolled out the guidelines which were to become the foundation of the SFI program, and compliance became a condition of continued membership.

In the early years of the SFI program, the organization recognized that sustainable forestry practices could not be applied in a "one-size-fits-all" manner. Forests across North America vary significantly in terms of ecosystem types, climate, biodiversity, and socio-economic conditions. As a result, a more decentralized, regionally focused component was necessary to address these differences and ensure that the principles of sustainable forestry were applied in a way that was both locally relevant and globally rigorous. Successful implementation of the guidelines would depend upon action by member companies in cooperation with local interests from various public and private forest sector stakeholders. SFI Implementation Committees were thus established in the late 1990s as a means to involve local stakeholders in the governance of the program. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (PA SIC) formed in June of 1995 and began meeting monthly at the now defunct South Ridge Motor Inn in State College. It was quickly decided that the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association of Pennsylvania (HLMA - now the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association) would organizationally house and provide administrative support to the newly formed SIC.

The fledgling PA SIC had their work cut out for them. SFI guidelines required that AF&PA members not only practice sustainable forestry on their own lands, but also reach beyond and include efforts to educate loggers and nonindustrial landowners. It was therefore a challenge, to say the least, to develop the SFI program in a state where the majority of private forestlands are not industry owned and the forest products industry was largely composed of a collection of small sawmills and a large, unorganized workforce of independent loggers. To make matters worse, change did not come easily. Many felt that improvement was not needed and what they had been doing for years was working just fine. Entrenched mindsets and behaviors had to be challenged and changed.

At the outset, questions and details on how to implement the SFI guidelines in Pennsylvania needed to be worked out. The PA SIC made a concerted effort to include a representative cross-section of forest sector stakeholders, which meant members representing often conflicting interests and opinions were sitting at the same table. As Tom Buzby, former SIC member and Chair, recalled, "At times the atmosphere of the SIC was cooperative, other times it was intense, and sometimes downright heated and confrontational. The group had to slowly work their way through a lot of uncharted territory."

Despite the tensions, the committee's efforts created a valuable platform for mutual understanding across the state's forest sector. Dan Evans, former SIC Chairman and an original member who retired from Domtar in 2016, noted, "The SIC meetings provided tremendous benefit in that they created a forum in which all segments of Pennsylvania's forest sector could come together and gain a better understanding of each other. It was apparent that we are all linked together, and each link is important to the sustainability of our forests as well as the industries and people that depend on them."

The early focus of the SIC was on developing landowner and public outreach, establishing a logger training program, and exploring a Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring system for measuring success. These three efforts eventually developed into the core of the PA SIC's programming for many years.

Looking back over the last 30 years, the PA SIC and its partners are very proud of many successes and accomplishments. Too many to list here. Their efforts have helped shine a

light on sustainable forestry and timber harvesting practices across Pennsylvania. They've equipped thousands of loggers and related stakeholders with invaluable education in forest stewardship and logging safety. In 1996, both the Senate and the House of the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed resolutions endorsing the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and advocating for its support. In 2001, the PA SIC was recognized for its outstanding work in implementing the SFI Program and awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SIC Achievement Award by SFI Inc. Pennsylvania went on to receive this honor again in 2015 and 2024.

The organization's success over the past three decades harkens back to the dedication of the Committee's first members, and all those who followed, PA SIC staff members, Strong partnerships with key organizations such as the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State, the Hardwoods Development Council, Hardwood Utilization Groups, and financial support from SFI Certified Organizations and many SIC Partners and Supporters. We owe a great deal of gratitude to these individuals and entities, as well as those who have participated in training programs and who then implement sustainable practices to conserve our forests for future generations.

[Check out our history](#)

## 2025 Annual Assessment Surveys Update

Just a friendly reminder that our 2025 Annual Assessment Surveys were due **March 1, 2025**. There is still time to return your Survey. Please show your support for sustainable forestry and the work of the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee by returning your Assessment Survey as soon as possible.

Thanks to the following companies for their 2025 support!

Horizon Wood Products	Nuveen Natural Capital	Eby Sawmill
WOODBED Corp	Pixelle Specialty Solutions	A.M. Logging
Cummings Lumber Co.	Ordie Price's Sawmill	Wheeland Lumber
JM Wood Products	RAM Forest Products	Cessna Bothers Lumber
FD Timber	Lee Brothers Lumber Co.	Charles Brown Forestry
Remmey-The Pallet Company	C&C Smith Lumber	Cochran & Zandi Lumber
WBL Hardwoods	Mick Brothers Lumber	Dwight Lewis Lumber Co.
Brownlee Lumber	Solt's Sawmill	Gessner Logging & Sawmill
Trumbull Forest Products	Sylvandale Forestry	Laurel Run Pallet

Blue Ox Timber Resources	Manulife Investment Mgt.	P & S Lumber
Weaver Brothers Sawmill	Stotzfus Forest Products	W.J. Cox Associates
Kronospan USA-Clarion Board	Springfield Harwood Product	JT Allegheny
Bingaman & Son Lumber	Metzler Forest Products	Noll's Forestry Services
Heacock Lumber	Domtar Corporation	Frank Krammes Timber Harvesting
Weyerhaeuser	Mark & Olivia Ott	Weaber Inc.
Shade Mt. Forest Products		Renno Brothers Lumber

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## 2025 Spring Training Schedule

➤ To register, please visit: [www.sfiopa.org/register](http://www.sfiopa.org/register), or submit the registration form on the back of this page.

### CORE

➤ Basic First Aid & Adult CPR does NOT qualify for continuing education credit

➤ Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials and/or Game of Logging – Level 1 can be taken for CE Credit, IF you have not already completed the training in the last 5 years

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Go to Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost +	Register By
03/28/25	Fri 9:00 AM	Basic First Aid and Adult CPR (4 hours)	Johnsonburg (Elk County)	\$ 50.00	03/21/2025
04/07/25	Mon 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Blain (Perry County)	\$ 150.00	03/31/2025
04/14/25	Mon 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Reading (Berks County)	\$ 150.00	04/07/2025
04/16/25	Wed 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Aristes (Columbia County)	\$ 150.00	04/09/2025
05/02/25	Fri 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 50.00	04/25/2025
05/05/25	Mon 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 50.00	04/28/2025
05/12/25	Mon 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Kane (McKean County)	\$ 50.00	05/05/2025
05/14/25	Wed 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Wellsboro (Tioga County)	\$ 50.00	05/07/2025

➤ Any employed resident of Pennsylvania is eligible to apply for up to 50% reimbursement of their training registration fees through the AgConnect program. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/3Tm-nM>

➤ Employees insured through Eastern Alliance Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your reg. form.

➤ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact: NTHA at (570) 265-7753.

➤ A Lehigh/Lancaster Utilization Group (A IUS) has generously subsidized the registration fee for Basic First Aid and Adult CPR training.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

➤ One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of training completed. Refer to the Program Policy for complete details on training requirements: [www.sfiopa.org/requirements](http://www.sfiopa.org/requirements)

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost +	Register By
03/22/25	Sat 8:00 AM	Hydraulic System Safety & Maint (8 hours)	Montgomery (Lycoming County)	\$ 150.00	03/15/2025
04/01/25	Tues 12:30 PM	56th Annual Loggers & Saw Millers Spring Safety Meeting (4 hours)	Johnsonburg (Elk County)	\$ 20.00	03/25/2025
04/23/25	Wed 8:00 AM	Non-Commercial Forestry Projects for Timber Harvesters (4 Hours)	State College (Centre County)	\$ 50.00	04/16/2025
04/24/25	Thurs 1:00 PM	Boundary Lines, Maps & Deeds (4 hours)	Montoursville (Lycoming County)	\$ 50.00	04/17/2025
04/25/25	Fri 8:00 AM	Native Plants of Pennsylvania (4 hours)	Huntingdon (Huntingdon County)	\$ 50.00	04/18/2025
04/28/25	Mon 8:00 AM	Pennsylvania Wildlife (4 hours)	Mt Wilson (Lebanon County)	\$ 50.00	04/21/2025
05/06/25	Tues 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 2 (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 150.00	04/29/2025
05/07/25	Wed 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 3 (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 150.00	04/30/2025
05/08/25	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 4 (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 150.00	05/01/2025
05/09/25	Fri 8:00 AM	PA Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (4 hours)	Elverson (Chestnut County)	\$ 50.00	05/02/2025
05/15/25	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 2 (8 hours)	Wellsboro (Tioga County)	\$ 150.00	05/08/2025
06/06/25	Fri 1:00 PM	Timber Show CE Update (4 hours)	PA Furnace (Centre County)	\$ 20.00	05/30/2025

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➤ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact: NTHA at (570) 265-7753.

### OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

Additional training opportunities are available through numerous organizations across Pennsylvania and adjoining states. Training courses taken from other sources may qualify for PA SFI core or continuing education credit, provided the subject of the course is relevant to the SFI program, and if some legitimate form of documentation is provided to the PA SIC office for proof of content and attendance (See section 5.7 of PA SFI Training Program Policy). Outside credits are subject to all Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program Policy requirements. To submit a Non-PA SFI training course please fill out a copy of the Non-PA SFI Course Credit Form (available on our website under "Forms" section or by contacting the PA SIC office) and send it to the PA SIC office with all necessary paperwork and a check for \$20 made payable to the "PA SFI Implementation Committee" for administrative costs. Note that a separate \$20 fee is required for each course submitted. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements.

The PA SIC maintains a listing of all pre-approved Non-PA SFI CE training courses that we have been made aware of. It can be found on our website: <http://sfiopa.blogspot.com>

### SELF-PACED/ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LOGGER TRAINING COURSES

➤ Self-paced/asynchronous online courses give training participants the flexibility to complete training when it is most convenient for them. The user is in control of what they learn, when they learn it, and where they learn it.

➤ Several self-directed training courses for loggers have been approved for continuing education (CE) credit in the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program.

➤ These online continuing education classes require a high-speed internet connection, and a computer or smart phone with functioning speakers.

To learn more and participate in approved online logger training courses go to: <https://sfiopa.org/loggers/virtual-logger-training/>

Click here for more  
information

Upcoming Events



# KANE AREA LOGGER & SAWMILLER SAFETY MEETING

CELEBRATING 56 YEARS OF LOGGING SAFETY



Where:

**Johnsonburg Firehall, Johnsonburg, PA**

When:

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

## Evening Presentation: Rattlesnake Awareness & Safety

**Stacy Foster—Rattlesnake Construction Monitor, Biologist & Snake Advocate**

**Fred “The Snake Man” Tarnaski—Local Snake Expert & Enthusiast**



**Exhibitor Expo & On-site Registration for evening begins @ 4:15 pm**  
**Dinner @ 5:15 pm**  
**Safety Meeting @ 6:00 pm**

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**SFI Class 1:00 — 4:15 pm**

**On site registration 12:30— 1:00 pm**

Please register in Advance at: <https://sfiofpa.org/courses-list/>

(Both afternoon and evening programs must be attended to receive SFI credits)

### SFI Afternoon Program

Intro to Dirt & Gravel Roads—Learn the basics of the Dirt & Gravel Road Program, considerations for in-woods road maintenance, troubleshooting, safety, and related logging BMP's.

\*Dave Creamer & Tim Ziegler—Field Operation Specialists @ PSU Center For Dirt/Gravel Rd Studies

Logging Safety Alerts—A review of 2024 logging injury/accident statistics and the ALIFT program

\*Missie Geitner & Peter Sforno—WJ Cox & Associates

**Register for the  
Class**

# ADVANCED LOGGER RESCUE

## APRIL 5 & 6

This course is geared to prepare EMT personnel, foresters, and loggers in taking action to reduce severity of injury and increase the loggers' chance of survival after a logging accident.

8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Tokishi Education Center  
124 Nypum Drive  
Wellsboro, PA 16901

\$50 registration w/ reimbursement

Lunch provided

2 SFI CE credits available



Students are required to bring personal protective equipment including hardhat, work gloves, safety glasses, safety-toe footwear and work clothes appropriate for the weather.

registration is open on  
[nthardwoods.org/training-events](http://nthardwoods.org/training-events)

[Click to  
register](#)

# ROACH-BAUER FORESTRY FORUM

A series of lectures with discussion on current forestry topics for foresters and related professionals in Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southwestern New York

## PROGRAM

**"20 Years of Learning about Deer and Hunters in the Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative"**

John Dzemyan, Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative Coordinator (KQDC), has over 40 years of experience working for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Cameron, Elk and McKean counties. John is an avid deer hunter and joined the KQDC leadership team over 20 years ago. His insights to deer management will entertain attendees and enhance the information learned over the last 20-plus years on the KQDC.

The KQDC is an on-going demonstration, begun in 2000, of how hunting can be used to meet the goals of multiple publics for managing deer. A partnership of forest landowners, forest managers, biologists, hunters, and local businesses developed the program which relies on hunters to manage deer density on a representative forested area. The 74,000-acre demonstration area is in northwestern Pennsylvania, covering parts of McKean and Warren counties. The KQDC is a managed for Quality Deer and a Quality Forest Ecosystem to provide a Quality Hunting experience.

Program will open with "PA SFI Implementation Committee Celebrates 30 Years" - by Doty McDowell, PA SFI SIC Director of Outreach & Development

**DATE:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 **REGISTRATION:** \*Note Earlier Times 4:30 – 5:30 PM (Cash Bar) **DINNER:** 5:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Wilcox Community Building (Jones Township Community Center), 320 Faries St., Wilcox, PA 15870  
 PARKING AT THIS VENUE IS LIMITED. PLEASE CONSIDER CARPOOLING IF POSSIBLE.



## RESERVATIONS

<b>EARLY RESERVATIONS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 27, 2025</b>	<b>COST:</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 27, 2025</b>		<b>\$35.00</b>
	<i>Full-time natural resource students:</i>	<b>\$15.00</b>

**NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 3, 2025**

**Reservations are required.** Your prompt action with regard to dinner reservations would be appreciated. Please be aware that if you make a reservation and do not attend the meeting, you still must pay for your meal.



### RESERVATION FORM

Detach and mail to: AHUG (Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group), PO Box 133, Kane PA 16735  
Phone: 814-837-8550 Email: [bcarson@ahug.com](mailto:bcarson@ahug.com)

Please reserve \_\_\_ dinner(s) at \$30 \_\_ or \$35\_\_ each for April 10, 2025 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Please reserve \_\_\_ dinner(s) at \$15 each (Full-time Natural Resource Student rate) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

**\*\*\*Please make this additional contribution to the Bob Bauer Scholarship Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

**\*\*\*Please make this additional contribution to offset student registration** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed**

Please make checks payable to: "Roach-Bauer Forum"

NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include your email address to receive forum notices by email)

# INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT

Our monthly newsletter will showcase our SFI-Certified Organizations, and esteemed SIC Partners and Supporters who's support of the SIC are making a positive impact on Pennsylvania's forests. This month we are highlighting Cummings Lumber Company Inc.



Lee William Cummings moved to Troy, Pennsylvania in 1929 to found L.E. Cummings & Son Lumber Company. Because there was no electricity in Troy at the time, he built his mill close to a road and stream and used steam engines for power. Logs were skidded with horses and lumber was shipped on rail cars. Roy W. Cummings Sr. joined his father in 1942, Roy W.



Cummings Jr. joined his father in 1968 and both continued to expand the business. Today Scott Cummings the founder's great grandson directs the company.

Cummings Lumber Company, Inc. is dedicated to providing the finest quality hardwood products while being responsible to our employees, our customers, our community, and our environment, ensuring our forest are here for the future.

Sustainable, Certified, and Green are three critical words that define an environmental movement and one that stimulates the demand for more eco-sensitive products throughout every industry. Cummings is committed to supporting sustainable forestry, believing it is the key to protecting the environment and natural resources our industry depends upon. 100% of our incoming logs are harvested and processed by people that embrace sustainable, environmentally sound practices.

Cummings Lumber Company has been an SIC Partner for the past 27 years.

SIC Partners help to promote sustainable forestry practices throughout Pennsylvania by voluntarily pledging a set contribution annually to the Pennsylvania SIC based on mill production from PA forest resources. While these entities and their products or services are not certified to the SFI Standard, they help promote the wise use of Pennsylvania's forest resources and protect their economic, social, and ecological values for today and generations to come.

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## Who We Are

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee | 211 Barrington Lane | Bellefonte, PA 16823 US

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