



*Spring/Summer  
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& Paper Association

# The Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> of Pennsylvania



## Where's the Green Steel?

by  
**Patrick Moore, Ph.D.**

*March 26, 2002*

It has become a principle of the environmental movement to insist that wood and paper products be certified as originating from sustainably managed forests. They even created their own organization, the Forest Stewardship Council, to make the rules and hand out the certificates. And Lord help those who don't fall in line, as big-box retailers and builders found out when Greenpeace and the Rainforest Action Network became their judge and jury – hanging corporate reputations from the rafters with the TV cameras rolling. Many corporations have felt compelled to accept restrictive buying policies for wood and paper products in order to demonstrate loyalty to the cause. This appears very green and politically correct on the surface, but as with so many environmental issues, it's not that simple, and the result may damage the environment rather than improve it.

As an idea, certification is an excellent way to provide independent verification of compliance with sound principles of sustainability. The consumer doesn't have to trust the manufacturer because third-party audits are used to test claims made about the product, much in the way protective helmets or small appliances carry safety seals from a certifying body. If only forest product certification were working this way in the real world. Instead, the environmental movement's campaign to force industry into accepting them as the only judge of sustainable forestry is pushing consumers away from renewable forest products towards non-renewable, energy-intensive materials such as steel, concrete and plastic. This is happening for two reasons.

First, anti-forestry groups such as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace make endless and unreasonable demands restricting forest practices. This is mainly why the Forest Stewardship Council has certified less than 2% of the wood and paper produced in North America. Meanwhile, the same environmental groups refuse to recognize other legitimate certification programs such as the Canadian Standards Association and the US Sustainable Forestry Initiative even though both include independent audits of sustainable forestry and have collectively certified the largest area of managed forests in the world – over 200 million acres so far. They won't even acknowledge that there are some regions – like California – where strict government regulations meet or exceed guidelines imposed by the Forest Stewardship Council. This situation has led the US Green Building Council to adopt a policy that eliminates 98% of the wood produced in North America from recognition in their program.

Second, even though wood is proven to be the most renewable and sustainable of the major building materials, it is required to meet a much higher test for sustainability than other materials. On all measures comparing the environmental effects of common building materials, wood has the least impact on total energy use, greenhouse gases, air and water pollution, solid waste and ecological resource use. So, why isn't the environmental movement demanding that the steel and concrete industries submit to an independent audit for "sustainability"? Where's the green steel, concrete and plastic? These materials are all non-renewable, require vast amounts of energy to manufacture and are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. **continued next page**

## Spring/Summer 2002

(Issue #10)

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

Kevin Stout, Chairman  
Georgia-Pacific Corp.\*

Matt Andrews, Deer Park Lumber

John Bouch, Pro. Timber Harvesting Inc.

Bill Bow, Appleton Papers, Inc.

Charlie Brown,  
Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co.\*

Tom Buzby, Weaver, Inc.\*

Blair Carbaugh, Private Landowner

Dan Evans, Weyerhaeuser\*

Jim Finley, Penn State University

James Grace, Bureau of Forestry

Bob Hobbes, Hobbes Forestry

Jeff Kochel, Forest Investment Associates\*

Dave & Mark Krumenacker,  
Krumenacker Lumber Co.

Rich LaBrozzi, RAM Forest Products\*

Paul Lyskava, PA HDC

Ken Manno, SFI of PA

Scott Morgan, Georgia-Pacific Corp.\*

Ray Noll, SFI of PA

Gene Odatto, Bureau of Forestry

Joe Glover, Plum Creek Timber Company

Ken Roberts, Mead Westvaco\*

William Robie, HLMA

Dave Sienko, Sienko Forest Products

Sue Swanson, AHUG

Susan Stout, USDA Forest Service

Todd Waldron, Craftmaster Manufacturing, Inc.

Mark Webb, Webb Forestry Consulting  
Jay Farrell, AF&PA Liaison

\*DENOTES AF&PA MEMBER COMPANY

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## Where's the Green Steel? continued

Steel's environmental defense is that it is recyclable. That's great, except we never hear about the massive amounts of energy needed to melt scrap steel in electric-arc furnaces. Concrete doesn't have an environmental leg to stand on. Wood, on the other hand, is produced in forests by renewable solar energy.

Why shouldn't steel and concrete manufacturers be required to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions or face boycotts, demonstrations, bans and restrictions? Why does the environmental movement stand silent in the face of aggressive promotional campaigns by steel and concrete that leverage mythical environmental claims against wood for their own commercial benefit? Because emotive images of forests sell memberships whereas steel and concrete are cold and boring.

The environmental movement has unfortunately led the public into believing that when they use wood they cause the loss of forests. This widespread guilt is entirely misplaced. In his book, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, Danish scholar Bjorn Lomborg has clearly demonstrated that North America's forests are not disappearing as is commonly alleged. In fact, there is about the same amount of forest cover today as there was 100 years ago, even though we consume more wood per capita than any other region in the world. Isn't this proof positive that forests are renewable and sustainable?

The fact is that when we buy wood we are sending a signal to plant more trees to satisfy demand. If there were no demand for wood then landowners would clear away the forest and grow something else instead. That's the opposite of what science tells us is good for the environment.

One of the most powerful tools at our disposal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the threat of climate change is to grow more trees and then use more wood as a substitute for the very fossil fuels and materials like steel and concrete that are responsible for excessive emissions in the first place. If only the environmental movement would recognize this one fact, it would turn their anti-forestry policy on its head and redirect membership dollars to where they are most needed – promoting sound environmental choices. ■

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### SFI of PA Honors Joe Zehr First Master Logger of Lancaster County

SFI of PA held a ceremony at the Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center to honor Lancaster County's first Master Logger, Joe Zehr. In attendance were thirty-five friends, family, peers, and forest industry representatives. Joe was recognized with a special citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives presented by State Representative John E. Barley. SFI of PA program manager, Ken Manno, presented Joe with the Master Logger certificate, a red jacket with the Master Logger logo, and mud-flaps and decals also bearing the logo.

Joe Zehr met all the criteria for being named Master Logger including; evaluating perspective regeneration on a harvest site, harvest planning and minimizing damage to the residual stand, streams and soil. His consideration to the visual appearance of his harvest sites, safety procedures



Joseph Zehr, center, receives a citation from the PA House of Representatives presented by State Representative John Barley, right, and is joined by SFI of PA program manager, Ken Manno, left.

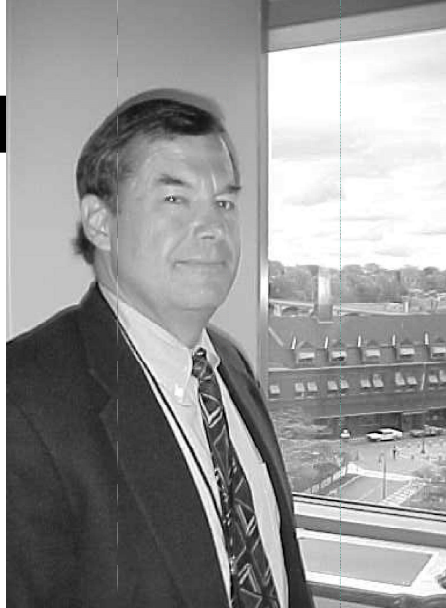
while harvesting and maintenance, efficiency and safety of his logging equipment all contribute to Joe's high level of professionalism. Over the years Joe has built his business through a philosophy of honesty and integrity, and treating every job as though it was conducted on his property. Joe has conducted tree-cutting demonstrations for students at local high schools. He has served for ten years on his community's Zoning Hearing Board, and has been a township supervisor for four years. ■

## SFI of PA IC Member

# Jim Grace State Forester of Pennsylvania

Jim Grace grew up in the industrial town of New Britton, Connecticut which had forested park property in the city where he could go hiking. Those experiences, and his summers in Vermont, formed his decision to become a forester after high school—a vocation he didn't fully understand at the time. Jim majored in Forestry at the University of Vermont, and after four years he decided he wanted to know more. He went on to Yale's School of Forestry and got a master's degree. The main focus of his studies was silviculture. Jim became enamored with the academic side of forestry and decided he wanted to teach. That decision brought him to Penn State in 1972, where he began work on a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology. Afterwards he was hired at Rutgers University to teach Forest Ecology, Dendrology, and Silviculture. At that time (late 70s) it seemed to Jim like every kid in New Jersey wanted to be a forestry major and he was swamped with undergraduates. As one of three Forestry faculty members, he enjoyed the teaching part of his job but not the demands of research. As a result Jim got into Forestry Extension at Rutgers and became the extension forester for New Jersey. At the end of 1982, the Forestry Extension Specialist job opened up at Penn State which he applied for. He found forestry in New Jersey to be somewhat limited. From 1983 to 1987 Jim served as the Extension Coordinator at the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. In 1987 he became Deputy Secretary for the Department of Environmental Resources (DER). In 1993 Jim became State Forester, where he remains—serving one of the longer terms in that position in recent history. It is without doubt the most interesting and challenging job he has ever had. Jim reports to the Executive Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, John Plonski.

Jim sees the Bureau of Forestry as being responsible for managing 2.1 million acres of state forestland—for all the citizens of the commonwealth. He elaborates, "To carry out the management of the state forests, our mission is to provide a sustainable supply of timber, to protect water resources and to provide healthful, outdoor recreation opportunities. This is a very challenging, dynamic activity, and it dominates a large part of our time. We also have a responsibility to work with the private forest landowners, who own



**State Forester Jim Grace, in his office in the Rachel Carson Building over looking the train station in Harrisburg.**

12 million acres of woodlands in the state, to ensure we do have a sustainable forest for a long period of time."

Jim feels any program that encourages the sustainable management for uses and values like clean water, outdoor recreation and forest products, is one the Bureau of Forestry wants to assist. He clarifies his point, "We felt that the activities, purpose, and function of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative are worth supporting because it is extremely important that we get it established in Pennsylvania. The things we value can't continue unless we get our forests under proper forms of management and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a very good means of doing that." This is done primarily through the education components of both SFI of PA, the Bureau of Forestry (BOF) and Penn State Forestry Extension, which work together to compliment each other's courses. Jim says, "If you look at the resources available for education and assistance to private forest landowners, there is not enough to go around under any scenario. Education requires a private/public partnership. SFI has been a private initiative with government participation. I don't think we can accomplish the goal of providing sustainable forestry to private forest landowners without having active private participation. There is plenty of work to do with very few people doing it—we have to coordinate our efforts with SFI and the Forest Stewardship program, so we are not duplicating our efforts."

The list of issues confronting Jim Grace for maintaining sustainable forests in the Commonwealth are complex and time sensitive. Jim elaborates, "My premiere concern for the sustainability of the forests of Pennsylvania is regeneration. The impact the deer population is having on regeneration is of primary importance. We cannot have a sustainable forest if

we are not replacing the forest we cut. Ours is a mature hardwood forest with a lot of merchantable trees that have reached a harvestable age. The hardwood silvicultural system we rely on requires natural regeneration. We are carrying out harvesting practices that stimulate the regeneration of desired species—those species which will have value in the future. But due to the impact of the deer we are not getting sufficient amounts of regeneration of the appropriate species. On state forest land we have been spending an enormous amount of money putting up deer fence, using herbicides to deal with competing vegetation, and even going as far as planting trees and fencing them. But on private land only a small amount of this is being done, though harvesting is happening at a fairly rapid rate. If we do not bring the deer herd down so we can regenerate naturally or carry out some of these other practices, which are expensive and complicated—there is concern for sustainability. Clearly if the deer population were down we could harvest more timber than we are harvesting now."

Jim cited harvests done on lands in the northern tier twenty years ago where no trees have grown back and forests were essentially converted to open meadows because of deer browsing. He says, "What we are growing are species that are not palatable to deer—that is what is becoming dominant. So you have a predominance in the understory of plants like sweet fern, beech brush, and striped maple—these will never develop into a mature forest."

The BOF dialogue with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which is charged with deer herd management, is ongoing. Currently the deer harvesting techniques recommended to the Game Commission by deer researcher Gary Alt, will not be introduced on public lands—as if the problem exists only on private land. Jim feels the deer issue is a long way from being resolved and encourages greater vocal participation from SFI of PA, the forest products industry, and anybody managing forest lands in order to keep the pressure on the Game Commission to take responsible action.

After the deer problem Jim feels diameter limit cutting is the next biggest threat to forest sustainability. Under the guise of cutting the older more mature trees to let the young ones grow, diameter limit harvests take the large, high value species and the smaller, poor value species are left behind. He has found that the premise of diameter limit cutting is an entrenched cultural philosophy, that over the years has been agreed upon by many of the industry and also by others on the environmental side who can agree with "selective" cutting. "Unfortunately," Jim says, "the smaller ones aren't younger ones, they are the same age. If you don't understand that stand dynamic, then you don't

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## Jim Grace continued

understand how cutting will result in future stands being of poorer quality than existing stands. Combine that with the regeneration problem, and things don't look so good for growing high quality sawlogs in the future. And the forest products industry in this state are very dependent upon high value sawlogs. Industries basing their existence on low value hardwoods have been dropping out of existence. In recent times we have lost the International Paper Plant in Erie, the Proctor & Gamble plant in the northeast—so that we have fewer markets for the low value hardwood. My concern is for the industry—because the environmental side doesn't care. Most citizens want green forests, they don't care if it is made up of poor quality red maple logs or high quality red oak logs or black cherry logs.”

Jim points out that Pennsylvania has 17 million acres of forest, much of which is reaching maturity at the same time. This large, even-aged forest has been harvested fairly hard in recent years, but since most of it has been done on private forest land, there is no way to monitor how much has been cut. This has given rise to the FIA (Forest Inventory Analysis) developing an annual analysis which will produce a complete inventory every five years. This will generate data for all of Pennsylvania's forest lands that will determine where we are. Jim is also concerned about low-grade utilization and markets, since we need those to be cut as part of sustainable forest management.

Jim states that the composition of forest species is in flux. Our present forest sprang from intense harvesting with frequent brush fires and virtually no deer over a period of twenty years around 1900. The forest that preceded it didn't look like the one today, and the forest a hundred years from now will not likely look like the one today. As a result, the BOF philosophy is try and do the best you can with what you've got. He says, “We can't always promote the existing types of trees in some areas. We are dealing with natural manipulation—trying for both diversity and value. Hopefully we can have a greater age class and species diversity in the next hundred years. Certainly promoting and conserving the native biodiversity is an important part of managing the forest.”

Addressing harvesting on state lands Jim says, “We are regulating the timber sales and putting them consistently on the market over time. Our management may not provide everybody with as much as they want at a given point in time, but at least in the future we can ensure that will continue to happen year after year and be sustainable over time. I hope people in the industry realize that private forest lands that are under the whims of changing landowners will have difficulty ensuring a sustainable supply of timber compared to public lands.

I am as concerned as anyone that there is a supply of wood products into the future, that's a main part of my responsibility.”

Jim sees the detrimental effects of lawsuits trying to control public land management (as on the Allegheny National Forest) as compounding the distrust rural people have of government. There is also a distrust of the forest products industry and what they do on private or public land, from other components of the public. With so much distrust among the stakeholders, Jim sees the need for overall common goals of understanding on what sustainable forestry is, and then understanding what are the best means to attain it. He elaborates on his point, “In order to receive broad public support, everyone needs to be involved; the general public, the legislature, government entities, local government, environmental groups, and industry organizations. Once these groups have an understanding of sustainable forestry they can work together to focus on accomplishing society's needs and doing it in an environmentally sensitive manner. That is my vision for the state forest. You can manage forests for wood, wildlife, recreation and water quality—in an environmentally sensitive way. It doesn't have to be, cut it to oblivion or don't touch it at all. But right now we are not always working together and that is my goal and SFI's as well. It will take a lot of effort to get people actively on the same page when it comes to a common definition of sustainable forestry. Because now there are misunderstandings, job constraints, and with some, a lack of knowledge among those who need to be involved. The bad news is we are not doing it yet. The good news is I think it is doable—we can reach a consensus. But what is absolutely essential is that the various component groups in the forestry community develop a trust and work together rather than be in opposition to one another. On my agenda, the deer have a capital “D” and trust has a capital “T”. The lack of trust that has developed between public and private sectors over time still needs to be overcome. SFI is one vehicle to make inroads and give the people a common vision, because already there are people who have this vision of sustainable forestry in industry, government, and among consultants and private landowners. They have a vision of what needs to be done. What keeps dumping into our court is the national anxiety where environmentalists are 100% at odds with industry. What is happening in Oregon and Alaska is not what is happening in Pennsylvania. Hopefully SFI can serve as one of the bridges that is going to unite the two extremes by providing some middle ground where a dialogue can begin.”

## In Brief

### PA Legislator Introduces Ecoterrorism Bill

Joseph Scarnati (R), a Pennsylvania State Senator representing counties around the Allegheny National Forest, has introduced an ecoterrorism bill that aims to make environmentalists pay for damages to timber companies whose business is disrupted by staged protests. The legislation defines “environmental terrorism” and provides for a penalty to any person who commits or threatens to commit an act of violence against another person or cause an interruption in a business for the purpose of expressing a perspective on an environmental or natural resource issue. Environmentalists say the bill is a shallow attempt to intimidate them by aligning legitimate protestors as terrorists. For more information, visit Senator Scarnati's website at: <http://scarnati.pasenategop.com/ecoter.htm>.

### New PA Environment & Ecology Standards Ready for Schools in 2002

There are two new sets of education standards to be implemented in Pennsylvania schools in 2002-2003. One is for science and technology and one for environment and ecology. Each outlines what students should know and be able to do by the end of grades four, seven, ten and twelve. School districts must implement the standards into their curricula.

Specific areas of instruction for the environment and ecology standards include watersheds and wetlands; environmental health; agriculture and society, threatened, endangered and extinct species; and humans and the environment. School districts will establish their own curricula to meet the standards.

The standards were developed by parents, teachers and other experts from across the Commonwealth. The complete set of PA standards can be viewed at [www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us) under Academic Standards.

### Harry Potter Books Printed on Glatfelter Paper

SFI of PA Partner, The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, was awarded the contract for supplying the paper for all the hardback books printed in the popular Harry Potter series. The paper for the books is manufactured at Glatfelter's Spring Grove Pennsylvania mill and their Neenah Wisconsin mill. Glatfelter's foresters are actively involved in SFI of PA training and have facilitated seven SFI of PA courses this year. Glatfelter forester, Charlie Brown, is also a member of the SFI Implementation Committee.

## Partners Program Spotlight:

# Champion Lumber Company

As a third generation sawmiller in the abundant hardwood forests of Somerset County, Rich Naugle says he cut his teeth on a 2 X 4 and grew up with a high regard for tradition and hard work. He can clearly recall his Grandpap logging with a team of horses, skidding the logs to his steam powered sawmill. His family were combination farmer/sawmillers raising beef cattle and producing lumber. Rich worked at the sawmill during his summers off from school. The values and business skills he learned from his father and grandpap have helped him maintain a steady course in the uncertain market climate of today. As a tribute to his family's legacy, Rich is building what he calls a "heritage cabin" which will contain old photos, documents and logging equipment chronicling his family's history.

Champion Lumber now produces two million board feet of lumber a year and employs eighteen people. Rich has two brothers in the business with him, Donny is his sawyer and Scot runs his woods crew. Another member, David, grades the lumber and runs the log and lumber yard. Rich's wife, Tammy, runs the office and keeps them all in line. With a long standing reputation in the region, Champion is able to procure all their wood within a 50 mile radius of the mill. On procuring wood Rich says, "We go out and mark and tally purchased stands. The days of guessing are over. The margin between profit and loss is too fine a line to take chances." In his dealings with landowners Rich's philosophy is, "It is good to be fair. Because if you are honest you always have somebody saying something positive about you, like 'If you have timbering you ought to see Rich.' or 'Go to Champion Lumber.' That makes you feel good." As a result, word-of-mouth is Champion's best advertising.

Champion's solid reputation for doing quality harvesting also serves as good advertising. They put their landings back, grade and seed the site, put in diversion ditches, and chop up the tree tops. Rich was implementing these good stewardship practices long before there was an SFI, often while butting heads with his father. In those days, his father's philosophy was "get in and get out", while



**Rich Naugle, owner of Champion Lumber Company, outside his mill in Champion, PA.**

incurring the least expense. Eventually his dad began to see that if you take care of the land, the owners will recommend you to someone else and it will be good for business. Rich remembers his father's pattern of business with his portable sawmill being somewhat erratic, "He was in and out of the timber business (during the 1960s). I guess he would get burned out and say, "That is it, I am quitting!" He would lay the men off and bring the mill home and farm for awhile. Two or three months later he would rehire his crew and get back to the sawmill business."

Rich is appreciative of the loyalty of his employees. His biggest issue is affordable health care for his employees when the profit margins are so thin. He elaborates, "It all boils down to paying too much for timber. Where is it written we aren't allowed to make a profit? It's not. If we didn't pay \$500 for red oak, if we paid \$400 or \$350 there would be money to pay the banker and entitle your employees to a better living." Rich provides food for his workers at lunch and break, everyday. The menu rotates between hot dogs, hamburgers and sausage served at cost to the employees. It saves time and money for the workers and helps with the general attitude. Rich has the ability to identify with his employees' problems and helps them if he can.

Beyond the usual grade lumber Champion specializes in landscape timbers and mining materials. Rich likes to keep a seven to eight month cushion of procured inventory standing in the woods. That alleviates the costly necessity of buying out of desperation to keep the mill running. There is also peace of mind that comes with

low debt and having purchased months of inventory. Rich declares, "If I was a million dollars in debt worrying about where I am going to find the resource to feed the mill, I couldn't sleep at night. I might have to take the (exhaust) pipe." (laughs)

Rich sees continuous improvement in the forests through both SFI training and competition between mills who want a good reputation and the word-of-mouth business. Rich says, "In the woods there are a lot of people doing a lot of good work—certainly far better than ever before. SFI and other organizations along with sawmillers are working in the right direction. It is a slow process but it is happening." Rich feels increased landowner awareness also has helped with resource improvement because they are realizing the need to leave a tree seed source behind for the next generation. "Sometimes," Rich says, "It takes a great deal of convincing (the landowners), especially when they are retirement age or want to take an Alaskan Cruise."

Champion Lumber utilizes their low grade materials through the production of cribbing block, mining material and pallet material. Rich says, "I was raised to clean my plate. Nothing is wasted, you take the good with the bad and hope you break even (financially)."

Rich Naugle takes advantage of every opportunity to educate the public. For 15 years they been giving woods and sawmill tours to school groups, colleges, and foreign visitors. Visitors to Champion Lumber are always impressed with how well the forest grows back, and the dedication and enthusiasm Rich has for the industry.

# The Poor Habitat Paradox

by

Susan Stout, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, Forestry Sciences Laboratory and Jim Finley, Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources, Pennsylvania State University

Fifth in a Series

Over the last year, we have focused in this series on regeneration problems in Pennsylvania's forests. We have shown that those problems arise in many parts of the Commonwealth because of too many white-tailed deer browsing on forest understories for far too long. In fact, a soon-to-be-published report on a 10-year study of deer impact on managed forest understories shows what some observers have been saying all along – that hungry deer have negative effects on the habitat on which they depend. In this article, we'll describe two paradoxes (a paradox is a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true) that arise from the negative impacts of deer on forest ecosystems.

Both of these paradoxes arise from the interaction of deer with their habitat. The first paradox is that in some areas of badly damaged habitat, the best way to increase deer numbers in the long run may be to increase hunting pressure in the short run; the second paradox is that in forests where deer browsing is a severe problem, managers can't conduct the kinds of cuttings that would improve deer habitat unless they erect fences to keep deer out. The solution to both paradoxes is to manage habitat and herd together, with hunters helping resource managers sustain the habitat, which in turn, leads to a healthy deer herd.

Let us explain the first paradox. Deer can do so much damage to their habitat that the only way to increase deer numbers in the long run is to decrease them in the short run. Here's how this works. There are parts of Pennsylvania, especially in the "Big Woods" country of the northwestern and north-central parts of the state, where deer have been damaging habitat for so long that they've actually reduced the forest's carrying capacity. We've all seen the kinds of forests showing excessive deer browsing—those with a severe browse line where it seems that you can see for miles under the lowest branches of the trees, or those with a carpet of beautiful and dense fern as far as the eye can see. Research shows that deer can create the second condition—fern definitely increases as deer density increases. Both of these kinds of forest offer remarkably little for deer to eat, since deer avoid ferns. They are not like the forests on which the calculations of carrying capacity for the state were based. In those forests, there were seedlings of many species and a diverse population of wildflowers and shrubs. Forests with a browse line or a fern understory have lower carrying capacity. Fawn survival in such forests is relatively poor. The recent study of fawn survival conducted under Pennsylvania Game Commission leadership showed that predators such as bear increase in importance in these changed forests – they, too, can see better in these open understories, so they kill more fawns.

With reduced fawn survival and little for deer to eat, the population of deer in these areas has declined slowly over time. One dimension of the paradox is that responsible landowners

and forest managers can only harvest trees in these areas if they use area fencing, so new timber harvests are expensive. And since fences exclude deer from the harvest areas, they don't really add deer food to the landscape. If timber harvests were left open to even the low numbers of deer left in these forests, these deer would have devastating impacts on the new seedlings that germinated.

What does this mean for deer managers in these "Big Woods" counties? What if hunting were suspended in these areas? Deer numbers are not limited by hunting now, but by poor habitat, and increases in deer abundance would be unlikely. The only way to increase the carrying capacity of the landscape is to reduce deer numbers still further, temporarily, to allow habitat restoration and recovery. With lower deer numbers, some tree seedlings would survive in the open forest. Partial cuts to stimulate such seedlings would no longer be foolhardy, because deer numbers would allow the seedlings to survive. In time, our research suggests, seedlings would begin to survive in uncut areas as well. This process takes a long time. Over the course of a decade, many woody species can become reestablished, but it takes even longer for shrubs and wildflowers to resume their rightful abundance in the forest. But if deer numbers are held at low levels for a decade or so, the carrying capacity of the landscape—the health of the habitat—would increase, and managers could begin to allow deer numbers to go back up, carefully, to levels above those found in some "Big Woods" areas today.

The second paradox might be called the habitat improvement paradox. In previous issues of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Newsletter, we explained that most tree species in Pennsylvania's forest depend on advance regeneration to reestablish forests after harvests. That is, landowners and forest managers with a commitment to forest sustainability will count the number of seedlings on the forest floor and only plan harvests—or habitat improvement cuts—in areas where seedling numbers meet threshold levels identified through research. The forest's ability to establish those numbers of seedlings is affected by the density of deer found in the forest. Where deer densities are high, habitat improvement or harvest cuttings may not be possible, as a recent research study shows.

A report to be published soon in *Ecological Applications* reports results from a 10-year study in which fences enclosed deer in northwestern Pennsylvania managed forests at densities ranging from 10 to 64 deer per square mile. The forest inside each enclosure included some complete harvest (10 percent of each area) and some thinnings (30 percent of each area) to stimulate growth of deer forage and to represent the conditions in a managed forest; the remainder (60 percent) of each area was uncut. The US Forest Service research team measured vegetation, including seedlings and herbaceous



**"Standing to Browse" —Some forest understories are completely covered with plants that deer can't or won't eat. When that situation is combined with a severe browse line, as in this photo, habitat is likely limiting deer numbers.**

plants, four times during the study. The deer densities studied represent the range that has been found in these forests from pre-European settlement days through the peak densities of the 1960s and 70s. It took five years or more for the differences in the forests at different densities to become apparent. Study results show that:

- The number of woody species found in partial and complete harvests and in uncut areas decreased as deer density increased. Species preferred by deer were selectively removed by browsing.
- The percent of the forest floor covered by ferns, grasses, and sedges—species that interfere with the establishment and growth of tree regeneration—increased with increasing deer density.
- The percent of the forest floor covered by black berry species, highly preferred as food by deer, decreased with increasing deer density.
- The height growth rate of many species decreased as deer density increased.

The study was conducted on four tracts of mostly public land—two sites on the Allegheny National Forest, one on a State Game Land, and one on a tract that included some private land and some State Forest. Visitors to the study sites and scientists and co-operators who worked there were often struck by the contrast between the study areas and the forest outside the study. Outside the study areas, deer impacts were often as severe as those associated with the highest deer densities tested in the study – 64 deer per square mile – even though deer densities were closer to those in the 38 deer per square mile enclosures. This is the second poor habitat paradox.

US Forest Service scientists and their co-operators designed this study to represent the conditions of an intensively managed forest on a 100-year rotation. In such a forest, 10 percent of the area would be harvested each decade to maintain an even distribution of age classes, and the older age classes would also be thinned each decade. So inside the study enclosures, foresters clearcut 10 percent of the forest and thinned 30 percent, leaving 60 percent uncut. For study purposes, they did this regardless of the amount of advance regeneration present in the forest at the start of the study. Outside the study areas, however, managers were following the advance regeneration guidelines that we have discussed in previous Sustainable Forestry Initiative Newsletters. As a result of high deer densities, areas with sufficient advance regeneration were hard to find. So outside the study areas, where managed forest had harvest levels closer to four percent clearcut and 15 percent thinning, the impact of any given number of deer seemed to be more severe than it was in our study areas.

Is there a lesson to be learned from this research and the paradoxes that it illustrates? We think so. The fate of deer and forests are tightly woven together, and our management of either resource must take these interactions into account. To sustain the forest and the deer resource, managers of both must cooperate, managing deer numbers to ensure healthy habitat and managing deer habitat to support healthy herds. Increasing deer abundance without careful regard for the impact that deer have on their habitat is not good for the habitat or the herd; increasing timber harvest without careful regard for deer numbers is equally foolhardy. ■



**A forest like this one has probably had too many deer for many decades. Note both the severe browse line and the slightly reduced stocking.**



**Previous SFI research articles have focused on the impact of fern on regeneration. Fern is almost never eaten by deer, so forests with dense fern understories provide very poor deer habitat.**



## Partners Program Spotlight:

# Ed Johnson of Edwin Johnson & Sons

Ed Johnson has been increasingly aware of an uncomfortable irony. The Pennsylvania white-tailed deer, the animal he has enjoyed hunting since a boy, is destroying his livelihood as a sawmill. Ed notices the negative impact the deer have on hardwood regeneration every time he goes into the woods—which is often, since he procures all the wood for the mill's annual one million board feet of production. Ed reflects, "We live to hunt. That is our thing. When you go hunting, it doesn't appear like there are too many deer, compared with when I was growing up. But from the regeneration standpoint there are too many deer! On one tract of 800 acres we were trying to manage for deer, they ate every new stump shoot and anything an acorn put out until all we had were striped maples. But the striped maples got thick enough to keep out the deer and let the acorns grow. I didn't think it would work but at least it got them started. Whether the oaks will make it or not remains to be seen."

Observing a noticeable decrease in white oak in the woods Ed says, "It is hard to find a young white oak tree anywhere. The deer and turkey prefer the white oak acorn. We have a lot of turkeys, between the two of them the white oak doesn't have a chance." On the positive side, Ed sees an abundant regeneration of black cherry trees in many stands that didn't exist twenty years ago. He is projecting that in fifty years they may be as an abundant cherry country as Sullivan County. Ed has hauled three trailer loads of cherry out of his local procurement area this year.

Not far behind the deer in terms of tree destruction in Ed's neck of the woods is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, a nearly microscopic mite that kills hemlocks. One of Johnson & Son's marketing niches is hemlock lumber, which is sold in the company's lumber yard to neighboring farmers and builders. Hemlock makes up nearly a third of their total sales. Ed elaborates, "I get my best hardwood in a stand where it is mixed with hemlock. Most everybody in this area passes it up, there are lots of trees, so why not?"

Located on the edge of fern country, where every opening created in the forest invites more ferns instead of trees, Ed would like to see the development of an SFI course that would address invasive plant species as well as insects such as the gypsy moth and woolly adelgid.



*Ed Johnson outside his family's sawmill in Columbia County, PA.*

"I would like to be able to tell the landowner what we are up against and what we need to do to keep their woods sustainable. Right now all the woods have just a little of these pests. People are asking me what to do. I need to be educated in these things as a land manager so I know what to recommend."

Edwin Johnson began running the sawmill in Columbia County in 1948, to augment his farm income. As his sons grew up, they joined him in logging and sawing, beginning with Ed in 1960. Edwin and his three sons would log for several days, then saw everything they had cut, then return to logging. They maintained this pattern of work until 1985 when they added four more employees and updated the mill. In 1990 they installed an automatic mill with a de-barker and a vertical edger and had all the buildings enclosed. Today, Ed and his brother, Reginald are the remaining partners in the mill. Each has a son that works at the mill and everybody does more than one job. The mill is situated on ten acres of his father's original farm. With fifty years of good community relations, Edwin Johnson & Sons has no need to advertise. They rely on reputation, word-of-mouth, and phone calls to attract sales. Their decades' long reputation for good forest stewardship among local landowners has allowed them to enter several stands for as many as three cuttings over the years. Ed says, "We like being able to see good timber a second and third time we enter a stand. It shows the benefits of being pretty selective on the previous cuts."

Edwin Johnson & Sons rarely travel beyond a 30 mile radius from the sawmill to procure timber. Ed bought one tract of timber through a consulting forester last year, which was his first in ten years. The average size tract he encounters is about forty acres. He keeps a two year inventory standing in the woods.

The forestry practices Edwin Johnson & Sons have always maintained were very close to the objectives of the SFI program, making them a natural partner to come on board when the program was introduced. Typically, when it rains, Ed will keep his SFI trained woods crew working in the sawmill, to avoid mud and tearing up the current logging site. Ed tries to utilize the low-grade wood he encounters by cutting and selling firewood.

Commenting on the company's use of low grade wood Ed says, "We saw a low-grade log for pallet lumber and we have a good pole length firewood market—filling a twenty ton tri-axle load every two weeks. We could use the whole woods! But that is not our goal. We try to use up the tree we cut and save the nice young ones."

One of the benefits of having a state partnership with a national organization like the SFI program is that Ed feels his company is connected in a larger chain that links small, rural sawmillers with policymakers in Washington and that his actions count. It is known he and others use responsible practices in the woods and that in turn effects legislation. Ed relates, "Our industry had free rein and was used to doing as it pleased. Those days are over, and it is not wrong they are over. I've seen things loggers have done that didn't suit me and didn't represent us as an industry very well."

Economically, Ed is seeing a definite improvement in market conditions for the company. He feels the uncertainty has lessened in 2002 and the economy is returning towards normal. High insurance rates are hurting the company, especially on the three man logging crew which often works at the mill. They are not continuously out in the woods, yet they are charged a higher rate as if they are full-time loggers. ■



*We live to hunt. That is our thing. When you go hunting, it doesn't appear like there are too many deer, but from the regeneration standpoint, there are too many deer!*

—Ed Johnson

## Participation in the SFI of PA Program

The SFI of PA program can continue to grow with your support. We encourage everyone to participate through a variety of ways. Call the office for details, (814) 867-9188.

### Partners Program

This program is designed primarily for sawmills. It requires the company to formally commit to abide by and promote the use of sustainable forestry practices wherever and whenever possible. The annual financial fee paid by the company is based on the amount of sawmill lumber production during the prior year of operation and which came from logs procured in Pennsylvania.

### Supporters Program

Supporters are those companies, primary or secondary processors, that want to support the efforts and activities of the SFI of PA. Supporters Program participants pledge to promote the use of sustainable forestry practices and commit to make a meaningful financial contribution each year to the SFI of PA.

### Loggers/Foresters Participation

The SFI of PA has a program specifically for professional loggers and foresters. Membership is on a company basis. If, for example, a company consisting of an individual logger or consulting forester wants to join, the fee is \$100.00 annually. For each additional employee the fee increases by \$50.00 per person per year.

### Individual Membership

Anyone who wants to financially support the SFI of PA can do so by becoming an Individual Member. The cost is \$50.00 per year and entitles the person to receive the SFI of PA Newsletter and the Annual Progress Report.

## 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.*

Baker's Lumber Company, Inc.  
 Blue Ox Timber Resources  
 Bonham Log & Lumber, Inc.  
 Brode Lumber Company  
 BroJack Lumber Company, Inc.  
 Brooks Lumber & Timber Harvesting  
 Brookville Wood Products  
**C.J. Charles Lumber, Inc.** ☒ ☜  
 Carl Hunsberger's Sawmill ☒ ☜  
 Champion Lumber Company, Inc.  
 Clear Lake Lumber ☒ ☜  
 Cornerstone Forest Products ☒ ☜  
 Cubbon Lumber & Land Co., Inc.  
 Cummings Lumber ☒ ☜  
 Custead's Sawmill, Inc. ☒ ☜  
 D & D Wood Sales ☒ ☜  
 DA-JAC Lumber  
 Deer Park Lumber  
 \*Dwight Lewis Lumber Co.  
 James Doliveira Lumber  
 Edwin Johnson & Sons  
 C.A. Elliot Lumber  
 Forest Investment Associates  
 Georgia-Pacific Corp.  
 The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co.  
 Heacock Lumber  
 Hoffman Brothers Lumber, Inc.  
 R.J. Hoffman Lumber  
 Hyma Devore Lumber ☒ ☜  
 International Paper Co.  
 Kern Brothers Lumber Company  
 Gerald King Lumber  
 Krumenacker Lumber Company  
 Kuhns Brothers Lumber ☒ ☜  
 L & H Lumber Company, Inc.  
 L & S Lumber Company  
 Lapp Lumber Company  
 Lauchle Lumber ☒ ☜  
 Lee Brothers Lumber Company  
 \*Randy Leeper Lumber  
 Matson Lumber Company  
 Mountain Hardwoods ☒ ☜  
 Mt. Valley Farms & Lumber Products, Inc. ☒ ☜  
 Ongley Hardwoods  
 Ordie Price's Sawmill  
 P & S Lumber Company  
 Patterson Lumber Co. Inc.  
 Pine Creek Lumber  
 Plum Creek Timber Co.  
 RAM Forest Products  
 Solt's Sawmill  
 St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc. ☒ ☜  
 Sterling Forest Products  
 Tuscarora Hardwoods, Inc.  
 W. B. Shaffer Lumber  
 Weaber Inc. ☒ ☜  
 Westvaco ☒ ☜  
 Wheeland Lumber ☒ ☜  
 Weyerhaeuser ☒ ☜  
 \*denotes new company  
 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.*

Antietam Forestry Consultants  
 Babcock Lumber  
 Bailey Wood Products, Inc.  
 Bingaman & Son Lumber ☒ ☜  
 \*Catawisa Lumber & Specialty Co.  
 Coastal Lumber  
 Hobbes Forestry Services  
 Horizon Wood Products  
 Keystone Chipping, Inc.  
 Noll's Forestry Services, Inc.  
 Penn State University  
 (Forest Land Management Office)  
 TimberLeads, Inc.  
 Red Rock Enterprises LLC ☒ ☜  
 Sylvandale Forestry  
 \*Woodland Forest Products  
 \*denotes new company

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 Suite 418, State College, PA 16801

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Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## In Brief

### Lethal Formula Proves Fatal for Gypsy Moths

Entomology Scientists at the University of Wisconsin, Madison have discovered that the antibiotic *zwitermicin A* increases the lethality of *Bacillus thurgienis* (Bt), an insect-killing bacterium used to control the gypsy moth and other forest pests. It is hoped that the combination of *zwitermicin A* and Bt will prolong the pesticide's effects, because the widespread use of Bt alone has raised concerns that the gypsy moth and other pests may develop a genetic resistance to the BT bacterium.

A native of Asia and Europe, the gypsy moth was introduced to America in the 1860's and is responsible for defoliating thousands of forestland acres each year. Learning how the antibiotic works may pave the way for improved pest control strategies.

### Popular FRA Safety Alerts Now Available on the Web

The National Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation (THATS) has developed and launched an important on-line archive of safety resources at a dedicated web site, [www.loggingsafety.com](http://www.loggingsafety.com). Apart from many other features, it contains an oft-requested archive of FRA Safety Alerts, available for free download in either .html or .pdf formats, complete with printable safety meeting report form, dating from the beginning of 2000. It is the FRA's hope that this resource will make it easier than ever for loggers and safety training managers to get the resources they need with the least difficulty, in service of our common goal to drive the rate of logging injuries and fatalities further toward zero incidence.

### PA Regional Game of Logging Competition Held in July

#### Professional

The Game of Logging PA Regional for professionals will be held Friday July 26th at the Troy Fair in Troy, PA. Any logger who has completed all four levels of the Game of Logging is eligible to compete and may register by calling Dan Hartranft at (570) 326-0300.

#### Landowner

The Game of Logging PA Regional for landowners will be held Saturday July 27th at the Troy Fair in Troy, PA. Any landowner who has completed the three levels of the landowner training is eligible to compete and may register by calling Dan Hartranft at (570) 326-0300.

## SFI of PA Training Schedule - June 2002

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 will not be held. More courses will be added throughout the year. SAF CFE credit available for most courses.

#### June

Environmental Logging	Wed., June 26	Mc Elhatten, Clinton Co.
Environmental Logging	Thurs. June 27	Penfield BOF Office, Clearfield Co.

#### July

Sustainable Silviculture (SF II)	Tues., July 9	Blackforest Sportsman's Club, Potter Co.
Business Management	Tues., July 9	Penfield BOF Office, Clearfield County
Environmental Logging	Tues. July 30	Kane Community Center
Wildlife	Tues., July 30	Erie Wildlife Refuge, Crawford Co

#### August

Logging Safety	Wed. August 7	Mifflintown
Sustainable Silviculture (SF II)	Thurs. Aug. 8	Penfield, Clearfield Co.
Sustainable Silviculture (SF II)	Thurs., August 22	Huntingdon
Wildlife	Wed. August 21	Kane Experimental Forest

#### September

Forest Ecology (SF I)	Mon., September 9	Warriors Mark Methodist Church
Forest Ecology (SF I)	Wed. September 11	Chambersburg
GOL I	Sat. September 14	Roland Hall's farm, Bucks Co.
First Aid & CPR	September (TBA)	Berks Co. Red Cross
Logging Safety	Thurs. September 19	Kane
Logging Safety	Fri., September 20	Penfield BOF, Clearfield County
Advanced Environmental Logging	(TBA) September	Kane
Log Grading & Bucking	(TBA) September	Brookville

#### October

Forest Ecology (SF I)	Tues. October 8	Spring Grove
Environmental Logging	Wed. October 9	Spring Grove
Logging Safety	Thurs. October 10	Spring Grove
Environmental Logging	October (TBA)	Kane area
Environmental Logging	October (TBA)	Clearfield area

#### November

Estimating Standing Timber	November/December	Kane area
Estimating Standing Timber	November/December	Clearfield area
Business Management	November (TBA)	Brookville

### Core Training Completed

Since January 2002 the following individuals have completed Core Level training with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania. Core Level Courses are First Aid, CPR, Logging Safety, and Environmental Logging.

Dale Adams	Herndon	Ralph Knott, Jr.	Clarks Summit
Andrew Buehler	Ridgway	Roy E. Longenecker	Mifflinburg
Jay Charles	Unityville	J. Tom Lumadue	Loretto
Ted Graybill	Richfield	Paul E. Noll	Loretto
Neil Itle	Martinsburg	George E. Rabenstein	Orbisonia
William Kephart	Woodland	Jude Richardson	Cogan Station
		William Richter	Meyersdale
		Matt Ross	Meyersdale
		Dewey M Russell	Rome
		Lloyd Sheaffer	Richfield
		Charles E. Wood	Tyrone

## Continuing Education courses completed since January 2002

### Business Management

John Ainey	New Milford
Gary L Alexander	New Albany
Jeanette Alexander	New Albany
Norman Asel	Kane
Travis Asel	Kane
Larry R Boob	Aaronsburg
John Bouch	Mahaffey
Mark Bozic	Tallmansville
Alton J Britton	Nicktown
Charles F Brown, Jr.	Seward
Julius O Carey	Frostburg
James Chappie	Central City
Steve Chappie	Central City
Richard E Clark	Everett
William B Curran	Meyersdale
Randy Davidson	Mahaffey
Greg Denochick	Morrisdale
Randy Depto	Kane
Harry Dotts	Osceola Mills
Roy Duffy	Smethport
Barbara Farabaugh	Loretto
Jim Friday	Tyrone
Bryon Gregori	Johnsonburg
Stephen Grow	Factoryville
John Holt	Kane
Jeff Howard	Wilcox
Tim Iraca	Coalport
Kenneth R Klahre	Clearville
Curlee Miller	Cumberland
Jody Miller	Lonaconing
Gregory Moore	Emporium
Dale A Moyer	Emporium
Philip L Neff	Julian
Paul E Noll	Loretto
Ray Noll, Jr.	Pleasant Gap
RonnieNorthcraft	Artemas
Daniel L Rieppel	Mansfield
Daniel Sarver	Confluence
Brian Severcool	Tunkhannock
Charlotte Severcool	Tunkhannock
Patrick D Sherren	Warriors Mark
Todd Smith	Smethport
Louie J Stone	Thompson
Jason Taylor	Johnsonburg
John A Williams	Kane
Charles W Wormuth	Susquehanna
Scott W Zimmerman	Wilcox

### Game of Logging 1

Steve Banks	La Jose
Dylan Bauchman	Fallentimber
George Beitzel	McHenry
Ronald Beitzel	Accident
Charles Burts	Montrose
Jason Cameron	Kingsley
Raymond T Cicon	Susquehanna
Adam Clark	Tyrone
Kenneth L Donaldson, Jr.	Melcroft
Shay Durandetta	Olanta
John Elick	Cherry Tree
Robert J Elick	Cherry Tree
Joe Esposti	Grampian
Ken Eyer	Tyrone
Jerry P Grimaud	Tunkhannock
Robert Heed	S. Montrose
Rory Hogan	Greensburg
Timothy Hogan	Greensburg
John Holt	New Millport
Stephon L Hughes	Aurora
John J Jackloski	Tunkhannock
Alan Joll	White
Robert Klim	Kingsley
Jim Kustenbauder	Tyrone
Chris Leiden	Coalport
Charlie Lewis	Kirkwood
Fred Mack	South Montrose
Andrew Marshall	Warriors Mark
Robert Martynowych	Bloomsburg
Gary E McClintock	Grantsville
Mike McGivern	Kingsley
Joe McKennas, Jr.	Tunkhannock
Ken Merritt	Uniondale
Mark Miller	White
Kerry R Morrison, Jr.	White
Reed Perkins	Rome
Randy L Piper	Latrobe
Philip G Rodel	Wyalusing
Ronald J Rohall	Rector
Terry Schwanbeck	Williamsport
David A Shaffer	Hyndman
James H Shaffer	Hyndman
Robin Shomo	Fallentimber
Joseph M Shultz	Northern Cambria
Wilbur F Sines, Sr.	Friendsville
Ron Steyer	White
Michael Storm	Fallen Timber
Glenn Taylor	Gatlinburg
Jeff Voll	Springville
Joe Wentzell	Susquehanna
Floyd F Wilhelm	Frostburg
Henry R Wiltout	White
TravisWright	Nicholson

### Game of Logging 2

Joe McKennas, Jr.	Tunkhannock
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### Game of Logging 3

Eric A Brown	Tunkhannock
Raymond T Cicon	Susquehanna
Charlie Lewis	Kirkwood
Joe McKennas, Jr.	Tunkhannock
Charles W Wormuth	Susquehanna

### Forest Ecology

Jeffrey L Aungst	Pine Grove
Don Berrier	Mifflin
Harry Bohlman	Pipersville
Charles R Brown	Spring Grove
Steven N Bucks	Robesonia
Lawrence R Campbell	Lewisberry
Scott R Cary	Northumberland
Bruno Couture	Cortland
Robert A Fitez, Jr.	Fairfield
Andrew L Gessner	Lykens
Vernon Gessner	Lykens
Jason Goshorn	Newport
Jeff Goshorn	Newport
Paul M Iampietro	Chambersburg
Christian K Kauffman	Spring Glen
Ronald E Kauffman	Mifflintown
Stephen W Kolva	Elizabethville
Matthew Langan	Zionville
Jeff Llewellyn	Cortland
Rodney Locke	McDonough
David A Nelson	Spring Grove
John D Nissen	Quakertown
Ray Noll, III	State College
Ray Noll, Jr.	Pleasant Gap
Todd Parson	Honey Grove
Gregory Powers	Dalmatia
Travis Rawl	Kingville
Helen Riggins	Pipersville
James C Snyder	Palmyra
Tony Striedieck	Gradyville
JoAnn A Webber	Schuykill Haven
Andrew M Whitehill	Fredericksburg
Daniel F Wolf	Bernville
David Wolfe	Schuykill Haven
Kenneth L Wolfe	Schuykill Haven
Kevin T Zimmerman	Pine Grove
John Zwald	Shermans Dale

### Hardwood Log Grading

#### (Penn State University)

Edward Dix	Harrisburg
DaveTrimpey	Kane

### Wildlife

Paul Kowalczyk	Hawley
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## SFI OF PA TRAINING PROGRAM NEWS

### **Current Perspective on Training Courses**

In recent weeks we have heard of a handful of companies that have issued letters to their wood suppliers, notifying them of the need to be current with their training by a certain point in time. We support such a requirement and applaud those mills for their commitment to sustainable forestry practices and trying to improve the image of our industry with the public. We hope and fully expect that in time this requirement will become commonplace across our industry.

We have also heard from a few individuals who disapprove of this requirement. They feel that it places an unfair burden on timber harvesters. We respectfully disagree with this appraisal. To the contrary, it is obvious to us that those professional timber harvesters who see this situation clearly are able to recognize that being current with our training requirements gives them opportunities they otherwise would not have. As more and more mills adopt this requirement, those timber harvesters who looked ahead and took the necessary steps to meet the requirements will benefit.

We want to encourage you to be among those who do not allow opportunity to pass them by. So far this year we have had to cancel a number of training programs for lack of registrants. This, in spite of having many individuals in the area who needed the course that was

being offered. Don't wait until later in the year to try to get the training you need. If something happens where the course gets canceled or you can't get in, it may create problems for you which could have been prevented. With a little forethought and planning, you can make sure your future as a professional timber harvester remains promising.

### **Change of Policy**

CE credit will no longer be awarded for First Aid/CPR recertification.

### **Cancellation Notification— Preregistration is Important!**

Courses will be held or canceled depending on the number of paid registrations in hand one week prior to the course. If a course is canceled all preregistered participants will be notified prior to the date. The importance of registering and paying early cannot be overstressed!

### **Training Status Reports Available**

Training status reports on who is current and up to date with their SFI of PA training. The Reports are available through the SFI of PA Office at (814) 867-9299. Reports are compiled by each of the 13 training regions throughout the Commonwealth. Ask for the counties you are interested in.

*Varying Course Fees will be stated on the Training Program Announcements sent out by the SFI Office.*

### **Participant Responsibility**

Responsibility is still on the participant to get proof to the SFI of PA Office of other training they have recently taken for credit, like First Aid and CPR, approved Continuing Education courses from New York, Ohio and Maryland's Environmental Logging. Also approved Penn State courses and Game of Logging classes. CE Credit will be granted for conferences & industry events that promote or enhance the ability of those in attendance to practice sustainable forestry.

### **Check Your SFI Card's Expiration Date**

In order to keep your SFI of PA Training Card current you must take one 8 hour Continuing Education class per year.

### **Core Level Courses Offered by Demand**

Call the SFI of PA office (toll free, 888 734-9366) to be put on a regional list to offer Core Courses in your area. Courses will be scheduled with 15 participants.

### **Core Training is: Logging Safety, Environmental Logging, First Aid/CPR**

Core courses will be on a sign-up basis. If you or your employees need a course, call the SFI Office to register. When an adequate number of people have registered, the course will be scheduled & held at a location that is as centrally located as possible.