



Summer Issue 2010

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Amy Doty, SFI, Inc.
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The Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) State Implementation Committee (SIC)

New Beginnings...

The Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program began in 1996 under the direction of a group of volunteers and Ken Manno as Program Manager, all dedicated to the principles set forth by the national SFI® program and promoting sustainable forest management practices through logger training, public outreach, and forest industry support. Today's highly successful and well regarded program has grown over the last 14 years, despite many challenges, thanks to Ken's leadership, past and present SIC members, volunteer instructors, SFI® participating companies, PA SFI® Partners and Supporters, former PA SFI® staff, training program participants, and the efforts of many other individuals and organizations.

With Ken's retirement at the end of 2009, I was humbled and excited to be offered the position of PA SFI® Program Manager earlier this year. A native of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, I spent the past 21 years with the Vermont Forestry Division, most recently as a service forester working with private landowners, municipalities, loggers, consulting foresters, and conservation organizations. My part-time employment as the Business Manager for Northeast Woodland Training, Inc., a Game of Logging franchise owner, offers me the experience of managing training programs and the opportunities learned from working in the private sector.

The recent and continued economic downturn that you all face continues to guide decisions within the program. One of the most notable is the relocation of the PA SFI® office to my new home in Sayre, PA. Please note the new contact information located in this newsletter. Efforts are being made to revise documents as timely and cost effectively as possible, but it will take time to purge the system of old addresses, phone numbers, etc. The reduction in program staff over the past few years from four employees to one, demands that we search for more efficiency in the way we operate while maintaining the integrity and level of service everyone has come to expect. We have several ideas to accomplish this task which include a more useful and user friendly website, increased electronic communication and networking, upgrading some office equipment and software, streamlining some of our office processes, and improving the training record database system. All of these efforts and more are underway while continuing to try to meet the high standards that have previously been set. More detail can be found on the next page in the Program Review.

When I was hired, the SIC asked me to focus on 4 main areas of the PA SFI® program: logger outreach and training; industry outreach; landowner and public outreach; and administering while growing the program through its next phase. Without exclusion to the other segments, the logger outreach and training efforts rise to the top of my priorities and the importance demands that other duties or program requests filter through the sieve of meeting this goal.

Lastly, I would like thank everyone that has helped and supported me and the PA SFI® program through this recent transition. At risk of leaving someone out and making this article too lengthy, I won't mention individual names, but hope that everyone knows how much I appreciate their participation in these *New Beginnings...* Equally important is the Thank You that goes out to program Participants, Partners, Supporters, and training participants for their financial contributions that make this all possible. If we haven't met or communicated yet, I look forward to hearing from you and want you to know that you are always welcome to share your thoughts with me about the PA SFI® program.

Nate Fice
Program Manager

Summer 2010

(Issue #26)

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, which now functions under SFI, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) organization. In order to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry in our state, an Implementation Committee was formed to develop the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®. Today, the PA SFI® program works to ensure the progress of the national initiative, here in Pennsylvania.

SFI, Inc. Program Participants in PA

These PA Companies are affiliated with the SFI® Program at the national level through independent third-party certification and provide direct involvement and support to the PA SFI® Program.

Domtar Paper LLC**Forest Investment Associates****Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co.****Hancock Forest Management****NewPage Corp.****Weaver, Inc.****Weyerhaeuser****PA SFI SIC Program Partners**

Program "Partners" are committed to the SFI® Standards and pay a set fee annually based on mill production from PA forests products.

Appleton Papers, Inc.
Blue Ox Timber Resources
BroJack Lumber Company, Inc.
Brooks Lumber & Timber Harvesting
Clear Lake Lumber
Craftmaster Manufacturing, Inc.
Cummings Lumber
Deer Park Lumber
Heacock Lumber
Hyma Devore Lumber
Kern Brothers Lumber Company
Krumenacker Lumber Company
Lapp Lumber Company
Lee Brothers Lumber Company
Matson Lumber Company
Mick Brothers Lumber Co.
i Ordie Price's Sawmill
P & S Lumber Company
Pine Creek Lumber
R.J. Hoffman & Sons Lumber
RAM Forest Products
Salem Hardwood, Inc.
St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc.
Trumco, Inc.
Wheeland Lumber

Program in Review*Logger Training & Outreach*

The Block 2 Training Schedule and Course Registration form are included as an insert in this newsletter. They can also be found and downloaded on our website, www.sfiopa.org. The training schedule is subject to change with new courses being added as they become available. Please visit the website to view the most updated information.

The PA SFI® Training Committee is reviewing the current training policies which were adopted in 2006. Currently, SFI® trained participants are able to extend their expiration dates to infinity by taking Continuing Education (CE) courses. One potential change is to limit the number of years for expiration dates to 2 years, regardless of the number of hours of CE classes taken. This would ensure that SFI® trained individuals always have access to the latest technology and information, and remain involved with the training program, as well as provide consistency with policies in other states. Current cardholders with expiration dates beyond 2012 would still be honored. To recognize those individuals who go above-and-beyond with their training, we would develop a logger recognition program that would reward participants based on total hours of training received. At the earliest, any training policy changes would be implemented in 2011. We would like to have feedback from loggers on this potential change and hope that you'll contact the office with your thoughts or ideas. We are always looking for new CE training opportunities

The list of "Current Cardholders" found on our website has not been updated since June 27, 2010. We are aware that a few expiration dates on the list are not accurate and a few names do not show. Please be assured that no training records have been lost. Our training record database is being upgraded to meet new demands and improve functionality. Our goal is to be able to update this information on the website more easily and frequently. Hopefully, by the time you read this our goal has been accomplished.

Industry Outreach

Mill visits and face-to-face meetings are an important part of effectively working together and strengthening our program. Economic and time limitations impact the ability and frequency of making these visits. Several mill tours and a few visits with loggers have been conducted. Please extend the invitation if you would like to meet in person. If you were previously a program Partner or Supporter, or are interested in becoming one, we would like to discuss what involvement with the program can mean to you.

Landowner & Public Outreach

We reach out to forest landowners and the general public through a variety of means, including attendance at events like Ag Progress Days, distributing Forest Landowner Packets, partnering with forest landowner associations, our website, writing articles for other publications, etc. We are currently looking at more effective and cost savings ways to deliver the message of sustainable forest management to this user group. One great way is by word-of-mouth through the trained loggers that work with private landowners every day.

Program Administration

With the creation of our new website, www.sfiopa.org, we are hoping to better serve our customers by increasing information sharing. The new user-friendly format will allow for the posting of current material in a timely manner and be a resource for training information, forms, publications, helpful links, contact information, etc. Several of the site pages and documents are up and running. More content and updated material will be added over the next several months. We welcome any and all feedback regarding the website and hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with us. We understand that not everyone has access to the website or has the ability to use all of its functions. The newsletter and other forms of communication will continue to be an important part of our program.

PA SFI® SIC Program Supporters

Program "Supporters" help to promote sustainable forestry practices and pledge meaningful contributions.

A.H.U.G.
Bingaman & Son Lumber
Brownlee Lumber Co.
Clarion Timber
Coastal Lumber Co.
Hobbes Forestry Services
Horizon Wood Prod., Inc.
Keystone Chipping, Inc.
Sylvandale Forestry
W.J. Cox Associates

Important Updates...

Effective August 1, 2010, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry now requires in its timber sale contracts that operators have an oil/fluid spill kit on-site and that they comply with DEP notification requirements for any spills in excess of 5 gallons. Information regarding the development of a spill prevention plan or where to purchase spill kits can be obtained from the PA SFI® office.

Inconsistent Practices Form

Inconsistent practices either cause, or have the potential to cause, problems associated with a timber harvest. Likely issues are soil erosion, failed regeneration, or poor residual stand conditions; all have negative consequences on forest sustainability. The Inconsistent Practices program provides a venue for reporting and addressing these concerns. The form can be downloaded at www.sfiopa.org under "Forms" or by contacting the PA SFI® office.

Revised Regulations Result in Additional E&S Plan Requirements

Timber harvesters and practitioners will see requirements for additional information in timber harvesting E & S plans as early as next year. The changes are part of a significant revision to Pennsylvania's Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management regulations, which were recently finalized and take effect on November 19, 2010.

Additions to E&S plans includes additional information on the location of surface waters, the location of riparian forest buffers, geologic features and certain thermal information. It is the intent of DEP that this information and the E&S plans for timber harvests can still be completed by trained loggers and practitioners. DEP has invited PA SFI and PFPA to participate in the necessary revision of the Timber Harvesters Action Packet. This new information and any associated revisions to BMPs will be incorporated into PA SFI training courses.

The overall Chapter 102 revision is comprehensive, with most changes focused on major construction and development activities and compliance with federal regulations. A vast majority of timber harvests will not be directly impacted by the major new provisions in the new regulations. This is because the Chapter 102 revision maintains the current requirement that a timber harvest have a minimum of 25 acres of earth disturbance before a timber harvest E & S permit is required.

One reason that DEP did not lower the timber harvest permit threshold or focus more attention on timber harvesting was the good, on-the-ground performance by PA SFI trained loggers and the effectiveness of timber harvesting BMPs.

One of the more controversial aspects of the Chapter 102 revision is riparian buffers. Permitted activities under the Chapter that occur in an EV or HQ watershed will be required to protect riparian buffers around perennial and intermittent streams, and in some cases be required to create and protect riparian forest buffers. These buffers will be protected in perpetuity from development and earth disturbance activities. Exemptions and waiver opportunities to the buffer requirement exist for a variety of activities, such as those that are temporary or linear in nature. Again, only timber harvesting activities requiring an E&S permit (more than 25 acres of earth disturbance) will need to adhere to these buffer requirements.

Once established, some timber harvesting and forest health activities will still be allowed within these protected buffers in future years. Forestry is one of the few activities allowed in buffers by the new regulations. Buffers and streams can also still be crossed with Chapter 105 permits. The new regulations did not satisfy some environmental groups, who sought mandated buffers on all streams in the state and a reduction in the timber harvesting permit threshold to 5 acres.

Paul Lyskava, PFPA

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Extended

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recently announced a significant expansion of the state's Emerald Ash Borer quarantine, to now include a total of 43 counties covering west and central Pennsylvania (See Quarantine Map on Page 4). This summer, EAB was found in six additional counties in Pennsylvania – Bedford, Cumberland, Centre, Fulton, Somerset and Union. In total, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in 17 counties in western and central PA.

The announced quarantine expansion was based upon the new EAB detections, as well as recent detections and quarantines in neighboring states. The purpose of the quarantine is to slow the spread of EAB to other areas.

The quarantine order prohibits the movement of certain materials from the quarantine region. This includes Ash nursery stock; any Ash logs, limbs, branches or roots; green Ash lumber; and wood products (such as pallets) containing green lumber. Due to the problems in distinguishing material, the order also prohibits the movement from the quarantine area of all hardwood chips and all hardwood firewood.

Logs and lumber from species other than Ash are not impacted.

Transport of regulated ash materials, hardwood chips and firewood between counties in the quarantine region of the state is allowed. Transport to a contiguous county in an adjacent state requires approval by USDA. Mills, loggers and other businesses within the quarantined counties are able to minimize the impact on their operations by obtaining compliance agreements from the Pa. Department of Agriculture and USDA. Under a compliance agreement, mills will ensure processing or other necessary steps are taken to prevent the spread of EAB. There is no cost for these compliance agreements.

Ash logs and other regulated materials can also move outside the quarantine area during EAB non-flight period of October 1 – March 31 with agreement of the regulators and assurance that the material and residuals will be fully processed and made EAB free by March 31.

EAB was first found in Pennsylvania in 2007. Past experience has shown that the impacts of the quarantine on company operations have usually been temporary and minimal. Violation of the quarantine order could result in criminal penalty and civil fines.

For questions on how to obtain compliance agreements contact Walt Blosser at Pa Dept. of Agriculture, (717) 772-5205 or wblosser@state.pa.us.

Ash makes up about 3.6% of the forests of Pennsylvania, accounting for about 300 million trees and nearly 5 billion board feet of sawtimber. Ash is also a popular street tree.

Paul Lyskava, PFPA



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The SFI® Program is a service of SFI, Inc.

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Map of Counties Quarantined for Emerald Ash Borer July 30, 2010

