



PENNSYLVANIA

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(Issue # 38)

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* Denotes SFI® Certified Program Participant

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

USGBC Announces New Pathway to Encourage Environmentally Responsible Forest Management in LEED

The range of legal and responsible forest products available for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit has grown in a positive direction. This is welcome news for architects, builders and consumers seeking legal, responsibly sourced and certified products from well-managed forests

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has issued a LEED alternative compliance path (ACP) that recognizes wood and paper from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program as part of an integrated approach to encouraging environmentally responsible forest management and eliminating illegal wood from the building material's supply chain.



"We applaud leaders from the U.S. Green Building Council as this change across all LEED rating tools takes a stance against illegal wood and reinforces the value of certified and responsibly sourced forest products," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. "SFI employs rigorous standards that ensure not only a responsibly managed forest, but also that only legal sources of fiber are brought into SFI-certified supply chains."

Wood is an increasingly popular choice for construction because of its aesthetic qualities, and numerous environmental benefits — including renewability and a lower carbon footprint than other materials. Because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, they sequester and store carbon, reducing greenhouse gases, improving air quality and reducing the construction sector's contribution to global climate change. However, many of wood's positive attributes depend in part on whether the forest resource is responsibly managed and renewed. Third-party forest certification standards like the Sustainable Forestry Initiative offer a proof point that the forest has been managed for multiple environmental, social and economic values — today and into the future.

The new LEED alternative compliance path pilot recognizes SFI, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and programs that are endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Forests certified to the SFI Standards are found in 42 states and provinces in the US and Canada. Pennsylvania currently has just over 105,000 acres and two wood manufacturing mills certified to the SFI program standard.

Ultimately, SFI's success under the LEED pilot program will depend on demand from the people in the design and construction community who are pursuing LEED credits. Before the USGBC decides to issue an updated version of LEED, it always examines who is using the credits and assesses the demand for them. If the SFI community comes together to encourage the use of wood and paper products certified to SFI in LEED projects, it will ensure SFI is recognized in the next version of LEED.

For more information visit: <http://www.sfioprogram.org/markets/green-building/>

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program

SFI Inc. (www.sfiprogram.org) is an independent non-profit organization that is solely responsible for the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program. The program promotes sustainable forest management, improved forestry practices, and responsible purchasing of forest products through its forest certification standard.

SFI is the largest single forest certification standard in the world, with more than 250 million acres certified. At the heart of the SFI Program are SFI Implementation Committees (SICs). The Pennsylvania SIC is one of 34 spread across North America that responds to local needs and issues through the SFI Program at the local level. This grassroots network is unique to the SFI Program.

Since 1995, the Pennsylvania SIC's active presence on the ground has resulted in significant contributions to individual communities through activities such as training loggers and sponsoring outreach to landowners on responsible forest management.

Learn more at www.sfiopa.org

Certified SFI® Program Participants Supporting the PA SIC

These companies participate in the SFI® Program and are certified to be in conformance with the SFI 2015-2020 Standard. They provide direct involvement and financial support to the PA SFI® Implementation Committee (SIC).

Domtar Paper Co., LLC

Forest Investment Associates

Georgia-Pacific, LLC

Glatfelter

Hancock Forest Management

The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC

Verso Corporation

Weaber, Inc.

Weyerhaeuser Co.

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PA Approves Sales Tax Exclusion for Logging Equipment

By Paul Lyskava, PFPA

The new tax revenue bill approved by Governor Wolf in July includes provisions that expand the current sales tax exemptions for agricultural equipment to include equipment and material used in commercial timbering operations.

For many years, both farms and manufacturers have been granted sales tax exclusions for the purchases of equipment, materials and services used in production. The new legislation expands this to cover logging.

The legislation adds "timbering" to the current definition of farming. This definition includes "the business of producing or harvesting trees from forests, woodlots or tree farms for the purpose of commercial production of wood, paper or energy products derived from wood by a company primarily engaged in the business of harvesting trees."

"All operations prior to the transport of the harvested product necessary to for removal of timber and forest products from the site, in-field processing of trees into logs or chips, complying with environmental protection and safety requirements applicable to the harvest of forest products, loading of forest products onto highway vehicles for transport to storage or processing facilities and post-harvest site reclamation, including those activities necessary to improve timber growth or ensure natural or direct reforestation of the site." The term does not cover the harvesting of trees for clearing land for access roads.

The legislation will provide loggers with the sales tax exclusion that has been available to both farmers and forest product mills related to the purchase of equipment, material and services.

The legislation also eliminates confusion among sawmills and farmers on what purchase are subject to sales tax.

State Rep. Matt Gabler (R-Elk) fought to ensure the provision made it into the tax bill. He had sponsored a stand alone bill in the House which had been approved by House last year and in previous legislative sessions.

PFPA worked to assist Rep. Gabler in getting this sales tax exemption for loggers into law this year.

This new sales tax exemption for loggers will take effect on July 1, 2017.

Until now, loggers have been required to pay

sales tax on purchases of equipment that is similar or even identical to tax-exempt equipment used at both farms and sawmills. This exemption will allow loggers to more easily update and modernize their equipment and save loggers significant dollars during the purchase of equipment such as skidders, feller bunchers, harvesters and forwarders.

New Logger Survey to be Conducted

Building on a 2009 survey of timber harvesters in Pennsylvania, a new survey will be conducted this fall to provide both updated information about the state of the logging industry in Pennsylvania and a comparison to see how the industry has changed over the last seven years.

Loggers are a crucial sector in the supply chain of wood products. The continued strength of the hardwood industry in Pennsylvania requires vital and successful loggers. Understanding and documenting the factors that affect logging businesses in the state will help the industry develop strategies to minimize and offset the negative effects of changing conditions.

If you receive a survey in the mail or by email we ask that you please respond. The survey will only take a few minutes of your time to complete. All responses will remain strictly anonymous. The information you provide will be critical in determining the current state of Pennsylvania's logging industry and what can be done to improve the success of loggers.

Many Thanks!

We would like to thank the many SFI Program Participants and SIC Partners and Supporters listed in this newsletter who generously support our efforts. They believe that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can coexist to the benefit of present and future generations.

We would also like to recognize our new and returning SIC Partners and Supporters: **Superior Lumber, Inc., BWP Hardwoods Inc., and Gerald King Lumber.**

PA SFI® Implementation Committee Partners

SIC Partners are not SFI certified, but help to promote sustainable forestry practices throughout Pennsylvania and pledge a contribution annually to the Pennsylvania SIC based on mill production from PA forest resources.

Brojack Lumber Co.
Cowan Lumber
Deer Park Lumber, Inc.
Dwight Lewis Lumber Company, Inc.
Firth Maple Products, Inc.
Heacock Lumber Company
Hoffman Brothers Lumber, Inc.
JM Wood Products LLC
Jeld-Wen, Inc.
Kern Brothers Lumber Company
Kort Forestry
Lee Brothers Lumber Company
Matson Lumber Company
Mick Brothers Lumber, Inc.
Mt. Airy Lumber Co.
Ordie Price's Sawmill, Inc.
Patterson Lumber Company, Inc.
Pine Creek Lumber Co.
RAM Forest Products, Inc.
Renno Brothers Lumber Co.
Salem Hardwood, Inc.
Superior Lumber, Inc.
Trumco Forest Products
Wheeland Lumber

PA SFI® Implementation Committee Supporters

SIC Supporters are not SFI certified, but help to promote sustainable forestry practices and pledge meaningful contributions to the Pennsylvania SIC.

Appvion, Inc.
Bingaman & Son Lumber Co., Inc.
Blue Ox Timber Resources, Inc.
Brooks Site Services, LLC
Brownlee Lumber, Inc.
BWP Hardwoods, Inc.
Cochran & Zandi Lumber, LLC
Cummings Lumber Co, Inc.
Frey Pallet Corporation
Gerald King Lumber
Hobbes Forestry Services
Horizon Wood Products, Inc.
Klinger Family Sawmill
Metzler Forest Products, LLC
P & S Lumber Company
RJ Hoffman & Sons, Inc.
Rorabaugh Lumber Company
Soap Stone Sawmill
St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc.
Sylvandale Forestry
W.J. Cox Associates

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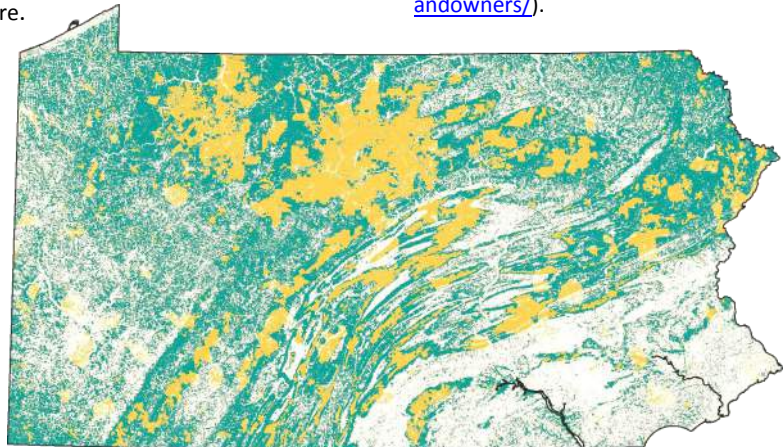
Family Forest Owners are Key to Future of Penn's Woods

By Sarah Butler, FFRC

If we are interested in the conservation of the forests and woods of the United States, we must be interested in those who control its fate: the forest and woodland owners. Woodland owners make decisions related to land use and forest management that impact the forest and, and these decisions influence the wealth of benefits these forests and woodlands provide, from timber supply to water supply to carbon sequestration to wildlife habitat.

The USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis program, through the Family Forest Research Center (FFRC; www.familyforestresearchcenter.org), conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS; www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/) to better understand: who owns the woodlands, why they own it, what they have done with it, and what do they intend to do with it. The results presented below are based on responses from 214 randomly selected woodland ownerships with 10+ acres in Pennsylvania that participated in the NWOS between 2011 and 2013.

- **Family Forest Owners Dominate:** Woodland ownerships control 52% of Pennsylvania's woodland, more than any other ownership group.
- **Size of Holdings Makes a Big Difference:** The average woodland ownership in Pennsylvania has 45 acres of wooded land. 68 percent of the ownerships have relatively small holdings between 1-9 acres, but 89% of the woodland area is owned by ownerships with 10 acres or more.



Private (■) and public (■) forest land across Pennsylvania. Source: Hewes, J.H., Butler, B.J., Liknes, G.C., Nelson, M.D., and Snyder, S.A. 2014. Public and private forest ownership in the conterminous United States: Distribution of six ownership types – geospatial database. USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station: RDS-2014-0002.

- **Beauty, Wildlife, and Nature are What Matter:** The most commonly cited reasons for owning woodland in Pennsylvania are related to beauty and wildlife, as well as the privacy the wooded land provides and nature protection.
- **They Love Their Land, but they are not Engaging:** The vast majority of owners, 92%, agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I want my wooded land to stay wooded." But most are not involved in traditional woodland management practices.
- **They are Old(er):** The average age of woodland owners in Pennsylvania is 61 years with 47% of the woodland owned by people who are at least 65 years of age.

Family forest owners control more forestland across the U.S. than any other group, including the federal government or the forest industry. There are an estimated 11 million family forest owners, across the U.S. who collectively control 286 million acres of forestland, or 36% of the nation's forestland. Locally, family forest owners play just as important of a role, providing benefits to the community, such as clean air and water, green space, recreational areas, benefits to the local economy, and much more.

For more results from this survey, visit the U.S. Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey website at www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos.

To learn more about the services and resources available to woodland and forest owners in your state, contact your local forestry agency or association (<http://www.familyforestresearchcenter.org/landowners/>).



Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee
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The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a service of SFI, Inc.

PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

The PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program is geared towards commercial timber harvesters; however, it is open to any individual interested in participating. Courses are offered in the spring (mid-March through mid-May) and the fall (mid-September through mid-November) at locations across Pennsylvania each year.

Learn more:

www.sfiopa.org/requirements

Register for classes:

www.sfiopa.org/register

Find SFI Trained Loggers/review your training records:

www.sfiopa.org/search



[Facebook.com/PennsylvaniaSIC](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaSIC)

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

4-H Forestry Field Day

The 2016 4-H Wildlife and Forestry Field Day, held at Rock Springs, PA on April 23rd, was another “wild” success! 4-H youth and adults from across the state explored the wildlife and forestry sciences and over 100 individuals participated. The event featured an Exploratory Tract for younger 4-H youth and a Science Tract for teens. The event also included a competitive knowledge and skills test for teens hoping to attend national 4-H competitive events in wildlife and forestry.

The top four winners in forestry judging (in order) were Ella Miller, Riley Roslund, Hilary Fernandes, and Eva Olufson. These top scoring individuals will represent Pennsylvania at the 2016 National 4-H Forestry Invitational on July 31-Aug 4 at Jackson’s Mill 4-H Conference Center in Weston, West Virginia.

The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee is proud to sponsor the 4-H Forestry program in Pennsylvania.

New PA Conservation Explorer

Conserving biodiversity and protecting threatened and endangered species is a fundamental principal of the SFI Program. That's why we are encouraging everyone to learn more about PA Conservation Explorer. This new online tool was launched earlier this year as a conservation planning and environmental review tool for evaluating potential impacts to threatened and endangered species in Pennsylvania. An environmental review is necessary for any activity that requires a state permit (e.g. stream crossings on a logging operation). This new tool replaces the old PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) environmental review tool. For the first time, species habitat information will be available online, and applicants can submit projects electronically, offering an alternative to the cumbersome process that previously required paper submissions to four different agencies.

<https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/>



Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee

Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

2016 Fall Training Schedule

SAVE TIME, REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.sfiopa.org/register

*To avoid course cancellations, pre-registration and payment for all classes is required by the registration deadline.
Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis*

CORE TRAINING

Individuals must complete *Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials*, *Game of Logging - Level 1*, and provide proof of current *First Aid & CPR* certification within a 2-year period to receive a PA SFI® Professional Timber Harvester Training Card. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements at: www.sfiopa.org/requirements.

- *Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials and Basic First Aid & Adult CPR do NOT qualify for continuing education credit*
- *If you have not taken Game of Logging – Level 1 in the last 5 years, you can attend GOL-1 for CE Credit*

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost ✦	Register By
09/13/16 Tues	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Titusville	\$ 95.00	09/06/2016
09/14/16 Wed	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Port Allegany	\$ 95.00	09/07/2016
09/15/16 Thurs	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Punxsutawney	\$ 95.00	09/08/2016
09/21/16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Johnsonburg	\$ 85.00	09/14/2016
09/28/16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Penfield	\$ 85.00	09/21/2016
10/04/16 Tues	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Hills Grove	\$ 95.00	09/27/2016
10/05/16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Laporte	\$ 85.00	09/28/2016
10/18/16 Tues	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Aristes	\$ 95.00	10/11/2016
10/19/16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Laurelton	\$ 85.00	10/12/2016
11/02/16 Wed	8:30 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Harrisburg	\$ 85.00	10/26/2016
11/15/16 Tues	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Alexandria	\$ 95.00	11/08/2016
11/16/16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Huntingdon	\$ 85.00	11/09/2016

- ✦ Employees insured through Eastern Forestry Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your registration form.
- ✦ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact NTHA at (570) 265-7753.

CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

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

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost ✦	Register By
09/19/16 Mon	12:00 p.m.	PA Wildlife (4 hours)	Mercer	\$ 50.00	09/12/2016
09/20/16 Tues	8:00 a.m.	Business Management for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)	Irvine	\$ 40.00	09/13/2016
09/21/16 Wed	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 2 (8 hours)	Chaneyville	\$ 95.00	09/14/2016
09/23/16 Fri	12:00 p.m.	PA Wildlife (4 hours)	Galeton	\$ 50.00	09/16/2016
09/28/16 Wed	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 2 (8 hours)	Penfield	\$ 95.00	09/21/2016
09/29/16 Thurs	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 3 (8 hours)	Penfield	\$ 95.00	09/22/2016
10/06/16 Thurs	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 3 (8 hours)	Titusville	\$ 95.00	09/29/2016
10/11/16 Tues	8:00 a.m.	Electric and Pipeline Right of Way Safety (4 hours)	Penfield	\$ 40.00	10/04/2016
10/12/16 Wed	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 2 (8 hours)	Brickerville	\$ 95.00	10/05/2016
10/13/16 Thurs	8:00 a.m.	Vernal Pool Ecology & Management (4 hours)	Blain	\$ 40.00	10/06/2016
10/21/16 Fri	8:00 a.m.	Sustainable Forestry (8 hours)	Laporte	\$ 40.00	10/14/2016
10/27/16 Thurs	12:00 p.m.	PA Wildlife (4 hours)	Greensburg	\$ 50.00	10/20/2016
11/03/16 Thurs	8:00 a.m.	Outdoor Survival Skills for Timber Harvesters (4 hours)	Reading	\$ 50.00	10/27/2016
11/05/16 Sat	8:00 a.m.	Hydraulics System Safety & Maintenance (8 hours)	Montgomery	\$ 75.00	10/29/2016
11/16/16 Wed	7:30 a.m.	Game of Logging – Level 4 (8 hours)	Shade Gap	\$ 95.00	11/09/2016

- ✦ Employees insured through Eastern Forestry Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your registration form.
- ✦ 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 in 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. To submit Non-PA SFI training credits 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. 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>

Visit www.sfiopa.org for additional details and the most current training schedule. Programs may be added or cancelled at any time.

For additional information, please contact the PA SFI® Implementation Committee at: (814) 355-1010, or Toll Free (888) 734-9366, pasfi@sfiopa.org

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®
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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee

Professional Timber Harvester Training program

2016 Fall Course Registration Form

SAVE TIME, REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.sfiopa.org/register

- Registration fees are **non-refundable and non-transferrable** after the course registration deadline if the course is held and you do not attend.
- Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Your space in a course will not be reserved until the registration fee is paid. Please do not delay in making payment or your space could be given to another participant.
- Courses may be cancelled if a minimum number of students are not registered by the registration deadline. Please register on time.
- For a full description of the Training Program Policies, please visit www.sfiopa.org/requirements or contact the PA SIC® office.

ATTENDEE	COURSE DATE	COURSE NAME	COURSE LOCATION	COST
(Please Print Clearly / One Course Participant Per Form)				
Name: (Full First, Middle Initial, Last)				
Home Mailing Address:				
Home or Cell Phone: () _____ - _____				
Email:				
Occupation (circle one): • Forester • Logger-owner • Logger-employee • Landowner • Office personnel • Truck driver • Other _____	Make checks payable to: "Pennsylvania SIC" Mail to: PA SFI Implementation Committee 748 Gravel Point Road Howard, PA 16841		Total Amount Enclosed:	

2016 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE TRAINING:

Required to receive a PA SFI® Professional Timber Harvester Training Card. All 3 requirements must be completed within 2 years.

- **Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)** - Covers general safety considerations, chainsaw safety, logging equipment safety (harvesters, loaders, skidders, etc.), trucking safety and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards that apply to timber harvesting and related activities. Also covers pertinent aspects of Pennsylvania's Clean Streams laws and other water resource protection regulations, Best Management Practices (BMPs), hazardous material control, and logging aesthetics. DOES NOT COUNT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT.
- **Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)** - Focuses on introducing the participant to the "open face" felling technique and the development of skills to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. Participants need safety equipment (hard hat, chaps, eye protection, ear protection, and sturdy boots), water, lunch, and should be prepared to spend the day outside (rain or shine). Participants are not required to provide their own chainsaw. If you have not taken Game of Logging – Level 1 within the last five (5) years, you can attend GOL-1 for continuing education credit.
- **First Aid & CPR (4 hours)** - Because timber harvesting is a hazardous occupation, OSHA regulations require that everyone who works in the woods maintain current First Aid & CPR training from a provider who can issue a certificate or a card as documentation of hands on training (i.e. no online certifications will be accepted). Individuals do not need to complete this training through the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program; however, they must provide proof of First Aid & CPR certification to receive their initial training card (we cannot accept the MSHA 5000-23 form as satisfaction of this requirement). DOES NOT COUNT FOR CE CREDIT.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE):

One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of CE training completed. CE credits can only extend your card date a maximum of three (3) years from the current calendar year. CE credit will not be awarded for taking the same class more than once in a five (5) year period.

- **Business Management for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)** - Profitability of a timber harvesting businesses is key to long term viability and implementing sustainable management practices. Participants are introduced to business plans, documents used for financial analysis, key people, sources of assistance, employee management, and other components of running a successful business. This is a great class for new loggers starting their own business or established loggers looking for a refresher.
- **Electric and Pipeline Right of Way Safety (4 hours)** - Falling trees and heavy loads don't always mix well with utility right of ways. Serious injuries or death, as well as significant property damage and service outages could result from logging caused damage to utilities. This workshop will address safety concerns when logging over or near underground pipelines and overhead electrical right of ways.
- **Game of Logging (8 hours, each Level)** - These courses cover chainsaw safety and safe/efficient harvesting techniques. They MUST be taken in order. **Level 1** (see description under Core Training section). **Level 2** focuses on saw maintenance, chain sharpening techniques, releasing spring poles safely, and directional tree felling. **Level 3** focuses on handling difficult trees. Topics covered include limbing, wedging techniques and hinge placement. Level 4 focuses on ways to maximize a harvest plan for safety and productivity. Felling is practiced at working speed using all the techniques from the previous levels.
- **Hydraulic Systems Safety & Maintenance (8 hours)** - This hands-on course will introduce participants to the theory of hydraulic operation, nomenclature and function of associated components, safety practices, general maintenance, and diagnostic troubleshooting of hydraulic systems. It is taught at Penn College of Technology's heavy equipment lab.
- **Outdoor Survival Skills for Timber Harvesters (4 hours)** - This course covers various aspects of dealing with outdoor survival situations. A major emphasis is placed on being prepared for unexpected emergencies and preventing hypothermia. Items to have, compass and map skills, and shelter/fire building techniques are among the many aspects discussed in detail. Participants receive hands on experience in compass/map and fire building exercises.
- **Pennsylvania Wildlife (8 hours)** - a comprehensive four hour course on common wild birds and mammals found in Pennsylvania with a specific emphasis on the habitat needs of white-tailed deer, black bears and wild turkeys. Included will be segments on identifying wildlife foods, tracks, other sign and calls. The legacy of Pennsylvania's premier wildlife artist, the late Ned Smith, will also be covered.
- **Sustainable Forestry (8 hours)** - How do you know that a timber harvest is "sustainable?" What are the consequences of high-grading and diameter limit cuts? This course covers the elements of sustainable harvesting practices and how to assess a stand. It focuses on the forest that remains as a result of the harvest.
- **Vernal Pool Ecology & Management (4 hours)** - This course will introduce participants to vernal pools, how to recognize them, and their importance. It will also cover wetland regulations and how they relate to vernal pools, and BMPs for operating around vernal pools. Participants will also observe vernal pools in the field.

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