

# The Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> Implementation Committee (SIC)



Summer  
Issue 2004

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## Reality Check

by Eric A. Johnson\*

I've been doing a lot of talking in recent weeks to people on all sides of the wood procurement equation. And while they don't all agree on everything, everyone does concede that an adequate supply of affordable wood is essential to the health of this industry. But as you might expect, they tend to part company when the discussion gets beyond the theoretical, and into just how to bring that about. Nobody wants to shoulder the burden of supplying more of what they produce for less money. And that's not hard to understand or appreciate. Unfortunately, since one man's profit is often another man's loss, it's tempting to blame the other guy for being greedy.

Maybe we can find a good place to balance out the equation. Let's start at the stump, with the landowner.

Forest landowners make a pretty good case for maintaining or even increasing the price of standing timber. They've taken the sole risk on their forest crop for all these years, paid increasing property taxes, and managed their forests to maximize the kind of timber the industry needs and wants. They resisted the temptation to liquidate their holdings when prices were at historically high levels, and have shown all would-be developers the door. All this was done in part because they have always expected to be rewarded by the market for doing non-industrial forestry the right way.

So why should they be the ones to sacrifice?

Well, it looks like we struck out with landowners. What about logging contractors? Surely there's something they can do to help the industry out of the jam that it finds itself in. Maybe loggers can become more efficient. Or, perhaps they can work more hours. Or mechanize some more. Or find a way to cut expenses. Or take a pay cut. Anything.

Whether they have the statistics handy or not, logging contractors will assure anyone who will listen that they've done all of the above over the past decade, and there's nothing left to cut, trim, slice or dice. In fact, loggers argue that they are grossly underpaid for their wood, given the level of their investment in

\*Eric A. Johnson is the Executive Editor of *The Northern Logger and Timber Processor*.

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**Summer 2004**

(Issue #16)

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 PA SFI program works to ensure the progress of the national initiative, here in Pennsylvania.

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**Matt Andrews**, Deer Park Lumber

**John Bouch**, Timber Management Inc.

**Bill Bow**, Appleton Papers, Inc.

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



**Reality Check**  
*(continued)*

equipment, stumpage and the knowledge, experience, risk and hard work they devote to getting it into the customer's yard.

Almost to a man, logging contractors will tell you that their prescription for a successful future involves some combination of lower prices for standing timber and higher rates for logs at the mill.

OK, since we're not getting any help from the loggers or landowners, let's stop by a sawmill and see if there's any extra cash laying around that we can use to ease the burden on the people who grow and harvest the logs. Everybody knows there's a big markup from what the mills pay for logs and sell lumber for, so maybe we're on to something.

The mill owner is polite enough at first, until we explain what we're looking for. Then she laughs bitterly and says she can't believe anybody would be so stupid. Lumber is a commodity, and stumpage and log prices are out of control, she says. People tend to forget that most sawmills are mom and pop operations, she explains. They have to keep enough logs in the yard to stay open. This means huge sums tied up in log inventory and stumpage, not to mention higher costs for just about everything else, from trucking to utilities, to keeping employees. When the price of lumber drops in the international market, she notes, none of these other fixed costs declines, and the difference comes out of whatever is (or isn't) on the bottom line.

Alright, enough with this mom and pop sob story stuff. Let's head over to the paper mill for a chat with the procurement forester. After all, he represents a big, multi-national corporation with deep pockets and markets all over the world. Surely he can help.

Well, if you didn't like hearing what the sawmill owner had to say, don't bother talking to anyone at the paper company. Not only is it crippled by confiscatory taxation, cutthroat international competition, an unreasonable union contract and unfair environmental regulations and lawsuits, but the price of logs is way out of whack. And so on.

I don't know much about economic theory, but I know a zero-sum game when I see one, and the forest products industry is a prime example. There's only so much income generated by a log from the stump to the customer, and it's divided up among the players listed above. And, in classic zero-sum fashion, for one group to make more, another group or groups has to make less.

I have my own ideas about how the wealth in this industry should be distributed, but it's a pie-in-the-sky fantasy. Our industry is a free market, where people and companies will continue to operate—first and foremost—in their own self interest. Keep that in mind as you plan for the future. ■

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# Sudden Oak Death Case Causes Worries in Pennsylvania

By Jeff Mulhollem

Writer/Editor, Penn State Agricultural News & Information

"It is not paranoia that people are feeling," says Donald Davis, professor of plant pathology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "It's just that we are wary because we know how serious this disease could be for our forests. We saw what happened to the American chestnut trees."

It is an ironic quirk of fate that sudden oak death most threatens the very tree that grew into the forest niche previously filled by the chestnut. Oak trees provide acorns and high-quality timber so important to wildlife and Pennsylvania's economy. And foresters already were concerned about the oak's future in Pennsylvania because some combination of deer overbrowsing, forest fire control and soil acidification from acid rain seems to be preventing oak trees from regenerating at historic levels.

But despite the name, it is not just oaks that are threatened by sudden oak death, says Seong-Hwan Kim, a Penn State adjunct professor of plant pathology who runs the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg. Kim, who has studied the disease since about 1995, points out that sudden oak death can infect a wide variety of hosts. "It can infect both overstory trees and understory plants such as rhododendron and mountain laurel," he says. "It doesn't kill every plant. That's what makes it so dangerous and easily spread. Some plants, such as camellia, are simply carriers of the fungus."

Plant fungi have had major impacts around the world. A fungus in the same genus (*Phytophthora*) as the one that causes sudden oak death was responsible for causing the great potato famine in Ireland in the mid-1800s, according to Davis. This same fungus that caused the Irish potato famine is still around after 150 years, reducing Pennsylvania's potato and to-

mato harvest in wet years. However, scientists are not even sure that this organism is a fungus. Most scientists agree that *Phytophthora* is a "fungus-like" organism, but actually may be in a class of organisms separate from fungi.

"We're not even sure where this fungus comes from," Davis says. "It may be native to the United States, or it may be introduced. And we aren't sure about its potential for destruction here in the Northeast. I'm a forest pathologist who has worked with oaks quite a bit, but I honestly don't know what to expect. We do know that in certain areas of California it has killed oak trees in forests. Of course, it is a big problem on ornamental plants such as rhododendrons and similar plants in nurseries. Pin oak and red oak seedlings that were sent to California and inoculated with the sudden oak death fungus were capable of being infected with it."

Just how much of a threat is sudden oak death in Pennsylvania? "That's the million-dollar question," Davis says. "In Pennsylvania, the disease could range from an epidemic like chestnut blight to some weak disease — such as oak wilt or oak decline — that kills some oak trees, but many trees survive with these diseases for many years."

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*Plant fungi have had major impacts around the world. A fungus in the same genus (*Phytophthora*) as the one that causes sudden oak death was responsible for causing the great potato famine in Ireland in the mid-1800s.*

--- Donald Davis

*Once it is introduced, under the right conditions, the fungus can spread very quickly.*

--- Seong-Hwan Kim

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The infected camellia with the confirmed sudden oak death has been kept indoors since arriving in Pennsylvania. Agricultural Department officials are confident that there was virtually no opportunity for the disease to escape to the outdoors. However, Kim said that samples are being taken from the surrounding area to verify it is contained. So this time Pennsylvania apparently dodged the bullet. "But we may not be so fortunate next time," says Kim, who points out sudden oak death could be transported into the forest on an unsuspecting hiker's boot and then splashed up onto the leaves of mountain laurel or other low-growing plants. "Once it is introduced, under the right conditions, the fungus can spread very quickly."

Kim believes, however, that Pennsylvania's weather may offer its trees some protection from sudden oak death. "The fungus doesn't survive well in weather extremes," he says. "It grows well at about 68 degrees Fahrenheit. But when it gets warmer than 80 degrees, it slows down. When the temperatures drop below about 59 degrees, it also slows down."

So in Kim's opinion, sudden oak death poses the greatest threat in the southern portions of the state. "However, that is really hard to determine," he says. "It all depends on the micro-climate conditions, such as average temperature, relative humidity and rainfall. The fungus needs free water for disease development. The threat is enormous if sudden oak death starts. Although the window is narrow, if it gets into, say, rhododendron in a wetland, it will be a serious situation." ■

*Reprinted with permission from Jeff Mulhollem, June 16, 2004.*



# FRA Safety Alerts Online: DECELERATING CHAIN SAW LACERATES UNPROTECTED LEG

*Reviewed by:*  
**Melanie Mathieson**  
FRA Field Consultant

**BACKGROUND:** An individual in the Lake States with many years of chain saw operating experience was cutting some logs for firewood for personal use in the late afternoon after his regular job. The temperature was high that day, and the operator was feeling heat discomfort.

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** The operator stated that he had many years of experience operating a chain saw and was well aware of the safe operating practices explained in his safe operating procedures manual.

**UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION:** The operator, after a long shift in the mill, decided to cut firewood in the woods after his shift. He was feeling tired after the long shift and the heat of the day was adding to his fatigue. The operator was working in regular clothes and was not wearing any safety gear.

**ACCIDENT:** The chain saw operator finished a cut and then stood up with the saw at waist level and turned to walk away. The chain was decelerating as the operator walked away. The saw flopped downward and cut into the left side of his left knee. The saw coasted to a stop when he lifted it back up. The operator stated, "What amazed me the most is that it cut through me and my jeans as easily as peeling potatoes."

**INJURY:** The operator received a large cut requiring many stitches. He claims that he will have a scar the width of the saw to remind him of the accident.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:

- The operator should have rested after his shift, rather than cutting while fatigued or feeling severe heat discomfort.
- When finished making the cut, the operator should have engaged the chain brake to stop and lock the chain before taking his attention away from the saw. Users of chain saws should be sure their saws are equipped with properly functioning chain brakes.
- The operator should have been wearing personal protective equipment, whether he was cutting commercially or not. He should have been wearing leg protection, as well as work boots, face protection, gloves, and hearing protection. ■

## Facts and Figures about Chain Saw Injuries

- Chaps are designed to protect the leg, where most chain saw injuries occur.
- The average chain saw injury requires 110 stitches.
- Medical costs for chain saw injuries amount to about \$350 million per year.
- Associated Workers' Comp costs can be estimated at \$125 million annually.
- Loss of production as well as loss of quality of life for the injured cannot be adequately quantified, but may in fact represent the single largest cost.

## Accident location and frequency related to chain saw use (totals for 1999)

- Head Area - 2,686
- Upper Body - 2,452
- Hand Area - 10,200
- Upper Leg, Knee, Lower Leg - 10,310
- Foot Area - 1,872

TOTAL - 27,520

Statistics - US Consumer Product Safety Commission Report on Chain-Saw Related Accidents in 1999

*Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.*



# PA SFI Training Event: Teaching The Teachers

by Ken Manno  
Program Manager, PA SFI SIC



Matt Keefer, PA DCNR BOF, reviews what topics will be covered through the wildlife training program.

On Monday, July 12, 2004, the PA SFI SIC, in cooperation with the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, held a training program for teachers. The group was comprised of Biology, Science, and Agriculture teachers from high schools and Vo-tech schools across the state. A total of eighteen teachers participated in this pilot project, which was conducted at the Somerset Technology Center near Somerset, PA.

For this particular workshop, the Wildlife course that is part of the PA SFI Continuing Education series was used. The primary instructor was Matt Keefer, Forest Resource Planner for the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, who as a grad student at Penn State developed the Wildlife course for us. He was assisted in the training by Professor Jim Finley of the Penn State School of Forest Resources and Autumn Sabo, an Environmental Review Botanist with the PA DCNR BOF.

The purpose of this project was to see how the SFI training programs can help teachers to better understand the role timber harvesting and sustainable forestry practices play in effectively conserving our forest resource for the long-term future, so they can share this information with their students. In addition, this information can be helpful as the teachers work with students to identify possible career paths. The accompanying photographs show the teachers both in the classroom and in the field.

The response to this workshop was extremely positive. The teachers expressed a high level of interest in being exposed to other programs in the PA SFI Continuing Education arsenal. That was exactly what we hoped would happen. Several teachers from the Vo-tech system also indicated that they want to work with us to arrange for the students who graduate from their programs to meet our core level training requirements. We look forward to working with them to accomplish this. All in all, we had a very positive outcome to the first step in a process that seemingly offers many benefits to teachers, students, our forest resource and our entire forest products industry.



These photographs show the teachers participating in a field exercise to identify species composition and age class structure of the stand being analyzed.



Field work being conducted in Advanced Forest Management in Towanda on June 23, 2004.



PA SFI SIC members tour the Kane Experimental Forest at a special SIC meeting in June 2004.



PA SFI training participants were particularly active in central PA in June 2004. Shown here is a GPS course held June 18 (left) with instructor Jim McQuaide. Above, participants learn First Aid and CPR from an American Red Cross instructor on June 15. Both programs were held in Warriors Mark.

SFI training participants learn about recent changes to DEP regulations in an Environmental Logging course on June 29. This program was held at the Kane Community Center and was led by Joe Glover of Glover Forestry & Fiber.



## CORE TRAINING COMPLETED

Since January 2004, the following individuals have completed Core Level training with the PA SFI. Core Level Courses are First Aid & CPR, Logging Safety, and Environmental Logging.

Donald Allen	Unityville
Josiah W. Bailey	Benton
Michael Bobek	Hatfield
Michael Brewer	Reynoldsville
Brian D. Bricker	Leola
Tim E. Brown	Ebensburg
Jason S. Bullers	Ridgway
Chris Cameron	Homer City
Brandon Carkuff	New Stanton
Brian M. Deeb	Hershey
John E. Fadler	Macungie
Derek Folmer	Meyersdale
Gerry Gardner	Ridgway
Sheldon J. Graybill	Belleville
Richard Hartlieb, Jr.	Warnersville
Steve Hawkes	Brookville
Alvin Jackson	Philadelphia
Michael Krause	West Decatur
Josh J. Lenker	Lebanon
Richard Lydick	Reynoldsville
Nathan Magargle	Hughesville
Adam Manzer	Nicholson
Alan Metzler	Belleville
Simeon L. Musser	Lititz
Ken Paros	Rome
Christopher S. Peck	Pennsburg
Eddie Phillips	Reynoldsville
Robert Plank, III	Belleville
Mark C. Potter	Laurelton
Robin Reitmyer	Coalport
Dustin Rowles	Reynoldsville
Brent Schoonover	Shinglehouse
Kendall J. Scott	Montrose
David P. Seliga	Ebensburg
Craig Snyder	Pleasantville
Kevin Snyder	Pleasantville
James Snyder, Jr.	Ridgway
Jeff Stover	Paradise
Adam Tegano	Ridgway
Anthony Tegano	Ridgway
Paul Webster	Bradford
Ronald Westover	Nicktown
George Williams	Reynoldsville
Paul Winter	Muncy
Dane M. Wodrig	Muncy
Samuel C. Yoder	Belleville
Bryan Young	Brackney
Joshua Yusko	Portage

## Continuing Education Courses Completed Since January 2004

### ADVANCED FOREST MANAGEMENT

Dale L. Adams	Herndan
Gary L. Alexander	New Albany
Roy Bucher	Reedsville
Bill Capwell	Rome
Nelson Clayton, Jr.	Meshoppen
Michael Dreese, Jr.	Lewisburg
William A. Eberhardt	Laceyville
Jeff Edsell	Wyalusing
Craig McCarty	Forksville
Martin Melville	Centre Hall
James Shuler	Barton
Greg Simons	LeRaysville
James Snyder, Jr.	Kane
David Vanderpool	Warren Center
George Wagner	Little Meadows
Albert Weaver	Springville

### GPS: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Steve Bimber	Corry
Michael Bobek	Hatfield
Ray Coates	Olanta
John Daugherty	Knox
Jeffrey A. Deems	Volant
Gene Desposito	Bradford
William Eberhardt	Laceyville
Bill Fenton	Greenville
John Fenton	Adamsville
Phil Frantz	Friendsville
Joseph Glover	Strattanville
Steven Hawkes	Brookville
Charles Hemphill	Genesee
Jerry Himes, Jr.	Milroy
Abram Hoffman	Mt. Pleasant Mills
Stephen Hoffman	Mt. Pleasant Mills
Jon Hoffner	Morrisdale
Rick A. Hoover	Huntingdon
Jeff Howell	Southington
Bob Hunt	State College
Tim Iraca	Coalport
William P. Kirkpatrick	Rimersburg
Lois Lavoie	West Middlesex
Lee McCoy	Grove City
Bruce Mick	Corry
Mark A. Miller	Spring Grove
James Olczak	Youngstown
Charles Pearson	Warren
Harvey Reckner, Jr.	Confluence
W. Marc Reese	Adamsville
Ronald J. Rohall	Rector
James Savitz	Pittsfield
David W. Shaffer	Boswell
Levi Shaffer	Boswell
Rick Shaffer	Brookville
Ron Weisenstein	Sharpsville
David Worden	Titusville

### LOG TO LUMBER YIELD

Bradley J. Allen	Grand Valley
Charles S. Allen	Pleasantville
DeWayne Allen	Titusville
Robert Anderson	Clarendon
Norman Asel	Kane
Richard Asel	Ludlow
Travis Asel	Kane
Richard Asel, Jr.	Ludlow
Dave Barnett	Johnsonburg
Patrick R. Bright	Kane
Ryan Bright	Mt. Jewett
Joseph W. Britton	Smethport
R. Sidney Clevenger	Hopwood
Dan Davidson	Sheffield
Mike Depto	Kane
Randy Depto	Kane
John Dickey	Mill Hall
Stephan Eck, Sr.	Jersey Shore
Ray Eckstrom	Ludlow
Matthew Engel	Mill Hall
Greg Felmlee	Wilcox
Darick Graham	Mill Hall
Michael L. Graham	Morris
Shawn Graham	Morris
Josh Hobbins	Mill Hall
John Holt	Kane
Charles E. Housler	Kane
William F. Houtz	Mill Hall

### LOG TO LUMBER YIELD (CONT.)

Carl A. Houtz, Jr.	Lock Haven
James Hulings	James City
Ed Johnson	Kane
Gale Kamp	Lonaconing
Galen G. Kamp	Lonaconing
Gary Karlene	Kane
TomKinner, Jr.	Hazel Hurst
Tom Kinner, Sr.	Wilcox
Larry Kness	Hazelhurst
Mark Lapp	Port Allegany
Paul L. Lepley	Meyersdale
Dan Long	York
Gregg Lucas	Hyner
Rod Luchs	Ridgway
Thomas Luchs	Ridgway
John Luchs, Jr.	Ridgway
William Mann	Mill Hall
Gordon McClintick	Byrnedale
Ronald V. McGarvey	Port Allegany
Allan Moon	Annapolis
Richard Park	Erie
Francis E. Patterson	Ridgway
Shannon Probst	Mill Hall
Clark H. Ream	Somerset
Gary Rossman	Kane
Scott Sallack	Punxsutawney
Loren Sallack	Johnsonburg
Kirt Saulter	Port Allegany
David W. Shaffer	Boswell
Levi Shaffer	Boswell
Mark Stairs	Meyersdale
Larry Stark	Ridgway
Willis F. Swope, Jr.	Lock Haven
Dave Taylor	Port Allegany
Chris Tripp	North Bend
Dave Wahlberg	Kane
Steve Weaver	Mill Hall
Shane Wildnauer	Johnsonburg
John A. Williams	Kane
Paul Williams	Johnsonburg
Michael Wingard	Sigel
Jonathan Wirth	Mill Hall
Marty Zimmerman	Wilcox
Scott Zimmerman	Wilcox
Stanley Zimmerman	Wilcox
Steven Zimmerman	Wilcox

### ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL LOGGING

Richard Clark	Everett
Fred Cleland	Centerville
Terry Cover	Bedford
Jeffrey A. Deems	Volant
Derek Folmer	Meyersdale
Mark Furman	Grantsville, MD
Randy Furman	Frostburg, MD
Allen Hathaway	Ripley
Steve Hawkes	Brookville
Kenneth Klahre	Clearville
Lee McCoy	Grove City
Paul Neal	Brookville
Charles F. Pearson	Warren
Monte Redinger, Sr.	Clearville
Dan Shick	Evans City
Donald H. Shick	Evans City
John Shick	Evans City
David C. Siegel	Knox
Ron Weisenstein	Sharpsville

### ENVIRONMENTAL LOGGING

David Aumen	Williamsport
Dwane Barkman	Clearville
Kevin E. Black	Chambersburg
Dennis Brehm	Lebanon
Charles Brown	Spring Grove
Doug Brumbaugh	Mapleton Depot
Jason Bullers	Ridgway
Samuel Byler	Luthersburg
Roy Callihan	New Paris
Scott Cary	Northumberland
Douglas Cessna	Clearville
John Cessna	Clearville
Clyde J. Cisney	Orbisonia
Richard E. Clark	Everett
R. Sidney Clevenger	Hopwood
Richard Conrad	Corsica
William Corbin	Brookville
Jeffrey Deems	Volant
Richard Deppen	Quakertown
Brian Fabian	White
Jim Friday	Tyrone
Larry S. Gantz	Biglerville
Calvin Gardner	St. Marys
Dean J. Geiman	Hanover
Ken Gibbs	Bedford
Joseph Glover	Strattanville
Walt Graham	Hopwood
Jerry Himes, Jr.	Milroy
Rick A. Hoover	Huntingdon
Bradley Houseknecht	Muncy Valley
Dennis Hovermale	Berkeley Springs, WV
Jeffrey Howard	Wilcox
Paul M. Iampietro	Chambersburg
Tod Jensen	Bruceeton Mills
James Karpinski	Ridgway
Kim Kern	Spring Grove
David G. Krumenacker	Carrolltown
Mark Krumenacker	Carrolltown
Ralph W. Laughman	Spring Grove
Lois Lavoie	W. Middlesex
Josh Lenker	Lebanon
Russell Leonard	Bruceeton Mills
Dan Long	York
Ben Martilotta	PA Furnace
Matthew McCanna	Lebanon
Shawn McCanna	Lebanon
Rodney D. McKenzie, Sr.	Grantsville, MD
Ronnie Northcraft	Artemas
Adin Otto	Carlisle
Donald Payne	Kane
Dave Platt	Lewisburg
Charles Poust, Jr.	Muncy
Richard E.C. Powell	Bethel
Anthony Quadro	Stahlstown
Monte Redinger, Sr.	Clearville
Thomas Respet, Jr.	Smithton
Kenneth Roberts	Cumberland, MD
Jody Rotz	Spring Run
David Shaffer	Hyndman
James Shaffer	Hyndman
Brian Sheetz	Lebanon
Patrick Sherren	Warriors Mark
Gregory Shultz, Jr.	Scottsdale
Anita Simmons	Delray, WV
David Steward	Clarion
Brian Stiber	Lewisburg
Theodore J. Summers	Shippensburg
George Thompson	Breezewood
Michael D. Waldron	Biglerville
Mark Wansack	W. Middlesex
Elvin Weaber	Lebanon
Michael Weaber	Schaffers town

(continued on page 11)

## Change in Species Makes Pennsylvania Forests Less Flammable Fire Suppression Brings Decline of Oak, Increase in Maple

Many researchers, policymakers, and lawmakers have blamed the recent spate of devastating fires in the West on America's history of overzealous fire suppression, but a researcher at Penn State University Park has concluded that in the East, fire suppression has made the region's hardwood forests less likely to burn.

"Ironically, both our situation here and the one in California have been caused by forest fire suppression," says Marc Abrams, professor of forest ecology and physiology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "Forest fires, often caused by lightning and Native American burning in the past, have been a natural factor in forest ecology across North America for thousands of years, and when we suppress fire we change the natural order. The eastern forests have become less flammable; out West, they have become infernos waiting to happen." The change that has resulted from fire suppression, says Abrams, is evident in the decline of oak and white pine and the increase in red maple and other shade-tolerant tree species that now dominate Pennsylvania's forests.

"Oak and pine are inherently more flammable than the maple, birch, cherry, and beech that have replaced them," he said. According to Abrams, maple grew primarily in swampy areas that rarely burned, whereas oaks—a fire-dependent species—grew in the open forests. "When forest fire was suppressed, red maples became more common in the open forests, away from the swamps," he said.

Abrams says, however, that this change in species may be attributable to more than just fire suppression. "Suppression of forest fire is the major reason for species change in Pennsylvania forests, but it is not the only reason," Abrams said. "Timbering practices, selective deer browsing, and acid rain are also factors."

Abrams says many of the high-valued oaks and white pines in the area were logged during the past century and that browsing by white-tailed deer—an animal that prefers oaks to maples as a food source—has taken its toll on the tree species. In addition, Abrams says acid rain may be responsible for increasing the acidity of forest soils—another factor that could hamper the growth of oaks.

The change in dominant tree species in the forests of Pennsylvania and the East is significant, says Abrams, because it could have far-reaching ecological effects. "In the past, eastern forests burned every 5, 15, or 20 years, and the region's wildlife depends on these once-dominant, fire-dependent species and evolved with this fire regime," said Abrams. "Changing to a new dominant species is of great concern."

For information, contact Marc Abrams, professor of forest ecology and physiology, School of Forest Resources, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University, 004 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802; (814) 865-4901; agl@psu.edu. ■

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## PA SFI SIC Program Partners

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

- Appleton Papers, Inc. (7)
- Blue Ox Timber Resources (6)
- Bonham Log & Lumber, Inc. (6)
- Brode Lumber (6)
- BroJack Lumber Company, Inc. (4)
- Brooks Lumber & Timber Harvesting (7)
- Champion Lumber Company, Inc. (5)
- Clear Lake Lumber (6) ☒☒
- Cornerstone Forest Products (7) ☒☒
- Craftmaster Manufacturing, Inc. (3)
- Cummings Lumber (6) ☒☒
- Deer Park Lumber (7)
- Dwight Lewis Lumber Co. (3)
- James Doliveira Lumber (4)
- Edwin Johnson & Sons (6)
- C.A. Elliot Lumber (5)
- Georgia-Pacific Corp. (8)+
- The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co. (8)+
- Heacock Lumber (4)
- R.J. Hoffman Lumber (4)
- Hyma Devore Lumber (6) ☒
- International Paper (8)+
- Kern Brothers Lumber Company (4)
- Gerald King Lumber (7)
- Krumenacker Lumber Company (6)
- Kuhns Brothers Lumber (7) ☒☒
- Lapp Lumber Company (6)
- Lauchle Lumber (7) ☒
- Lee Brothers Lumber Company (3)
- Matson Lumber Company (4) ☒☒
- Mead Westvaco (8)☒☒+
- Mountain Hardwoods (7) ☒☒
- Mt. Airy Lumber Co. (2)
- Ongley Hardwoods (4)
- Ordie Price's Sawmill (4)
- P & S Lumber Company (4)
- Patterson Lumber Co. Inc. (4)
- Pine Creek Lumber (6)
- RAM Forest Products (6)
- Salem Hardwood, Inc. (2) ☒☒
- Solt's Sawmill (5)
- St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc. (6) ☒
- Sterling Forest Products (4)
- Tuscarora Hardwoods, Inc. (5)
- W. B. Shaffer Lumber (7)
- Weaver Inc. (8) ☒☒+
- Wheeland Lumber (7) ☒☒
- Weyerhaeuser (8) ☒☒+

\*denotes new company  
+ denotes AF&PA Member Company  
( )= years as participant

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

## PA SFI SIC Program Supporters

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

- Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (2)
- Babcock Lumber (5)
- Bailey Wood Products, Inc. (4)
- Bingaman & Son Lumber (5) ☒☒
- Catawissa Lumber & Specialty Co. (3)
- Coastal Lumber (5)
- Custead's Sawmill, Inc. (6) ☒
- Forest Investment Associates (4)
- Hobbes Forestry Services (4)
- Horizon Wood Products (4)
- Keystone Chipping, Inc. (3)
- \*Long Forestry Services, Inc.
- Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc. (2)
- Penn State University (3)
- (Forest Land Management Office) ☒
- Pennco International, Inc. (2) ☒☒
- Red Rock Enterprises LLC (5) ☒☒
- Sylvandale Forestry (4)
- TimberLeads, Inc. (2)
- Timber Management, Inc. (2)
- Viking Energy/Tractebel, Inc. (2)
- Woodland Forest Products (3)

\*denotes new company

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

PA SFI SIC, 315 South Allen Street,  
Suite 418, State College, PA 16801  
Name:

Company:

Street Address:

City, State, & Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

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

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



## BUNN LOGGING: 2004 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LOGGER

Rockville, MD – The Forest Resources Association honored Nipper and John Bunn, owners of Forsyth, Georgia's Bunn Logging, Inc., as the National Outstanding Logger for 2004 at its annual Awards Dinner, March 28 in New Orleans, Louisiana. FRA Chairman Allen Bedell presented Nipper and John with an axe plaque and noted a generous cash award from Stihl.

Nipper Bunn accepted the award, remarking, "I'm grateful to be here and grateful to stand up here as a logger, an American logger. I am grateful to be a resource provider. This is a family business, and the keyword is 'family.'" He also stated, "For too long, our only contributor to the industry has been the load at the mill gate. It's time to get involved, on behalf of our family and Bunn logging."

Nipper's brother and partner John added, "In a business that's ever evolving, I still love to cut trees. The obstacles are too many to name but not too many to overcome. We're going to succeed because it's our business, and it's a great American tradition." He also thanked Weyerhaeuser—"They pushed us; they made us better."

Bunn Logging has been a leader in middle Georgia's timber harvesting community for more than 50 years. Today the company employs seven workers with four months' to twenty years' experience, performing all types of harvesting, from first thinnings to regeneration harvests. Teaming with Quality Forest Products, another distinguished Forsyth-based timber harvesting firm, Bunn Logging created a sister procurement enterprise, Resource Improvements LLC, to provide timber.

For Bunn Logging, safety is the most vital part of every logging operation, and communication is key. Nipper and John encourage every crew member to identify hazardous situations, so they may address them before an accident occurs. For the past ten years, Bunn Logging has received unannounced third-party audits to ensure achievement of safety, environmental, and industry standards—always receiving an above-par rating.

Nipper is now Vice President of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association and will assume the presidency this August. In addition, he co-chairs SWPA's Inconsistent Practices Committee and participates actively on Georgia's SFI State Implementation Committee. He also finds time to chair the Georgia Forestry Association's Logging and Transportation Committee.

A Weyerhaeuser representative has commented, "Bunn Logging's focus on safety, employee growth and longevity, a customer-focus for all parties involved in business interactions, and the willingness and ability to adapt to the challenges of the forest products industry today has kept their business in the forefront of logging operations."

FRA has honored 15 National Outstanding Loggers since establishing the national award in 1990. Recent National Outstanding Loggers include Jim Carey of Michigan (1999), Travis Reed of Georgia (2000), Randy Pew of California (2001), Michigan's Dave and Sue Sidell (2002), and Ken and Lynetta Griner of Florida for 2003. Nominees for this year's award passed through state-level



**John Bunn, Nipper Bunn and Allen Bedell**

recognition to regional award programs administered through FRA's Technical Division structure. A jury of 25 national-level leaders in forestry and conservation selects the winner.

The other nominees for this year's National award were:

Don and Willie Cole, Trees Ltd., Sidney, Maine  
Leroy Conley & Ken Laubon, L.A. Conley Forest Products, Oscoda, Michigan  
Robert and Carol MacMillan, MacMillan and Company, Montesano, Washington  
Jim and Randy Studer, Studer Management Services, Dunlap, Tennessee  
Caskey Terral, Terral Logging, Farmerville, Louisiana

The Outstanding Logger program is designed:

1. to recognize outstanding logging contractor performance;
2. to raise the visibility of competent, professional independent logging contractors in the forestry community;
3. to encourage other independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of the award winners; and
4. to improve forester-logger relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

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## Continuing Education Courses Completed since January 2004 (continued from page 8)

### ENVIRONMENTAL LOGGING (CONT.)

John Whitfield Bedford  
Henry Wiltrout White  
Dane Wodrig Muncy  
Harold Wodrig, Jr. Hughesville

### FOREST HEALTH 2004

Joseph M. Baker Fayetteville  
Michael D. Baker Fayetteville  
Alan D. Benner Brookville  
Roy Bucher Reedsville  
James A. Chapman Youngsville  
John Daugherty Knox  
Richard Deppen Quakertown  
Gene Desposito Allegany, NY  
Lucas Dillinger Johnsonburg  
Christopher Guth Endeavor  
Mike Hale Westfield  
Steve Hawkes Brookville  
Bob Hobbbs Tunkhannock  
Curtis Hollabaugh Garland  
Conrad Hultman Youngsville  
Neil J. Itle Martinsburg  
Tom Kase Kane  
James T. Kauffman Fayetteville  
Bruce W. Kile Fayetteville  
Fred Kilmer, Jr. Tunkhannock  
Jay Lindemuth Youngsville  
Michael McEntire Smethport  
Paul Neal Brookville  
Ken Paros Rome  
Mark C. Potter Laurelton  
David B. Schultz Wellsboro  
Doug Walker Tunkhannock  
Malcolm D. Waskiewicz Coudersport  
Ronald A. Weisenstein Sharpsville

### JOB LAYOUT & PROFITABLE SKIDDING

Kenneth Abrahamson Brockway  
Richard Andrus Emporium  
Scott Andrus Emporium  
Al Bartels Reynoldsville  
Steve Bombardier Bradford  
John Bouch Mahaffey  
Nathan Brown Lise  
James Buehler Ridgway  
Robert Bumbarger Woodland  
Michael Burkholder Falconer  
Joe Canfield Damascus  
Andy Carlson Kane  
Larry Cleaver Howard  
Tom Clopp Warren  
Charles L. Conner Emporium  
Dick Cooney St. Marys  
Brent Courtright Hamlin  
Matt Engel Mill Hall  
John Fassett New Albany  
Greg Felmler Mill Hall  
David Freemer Brockway  
Sam Gates Howard  
Curt P. Gosnell Ridgway  
Darick Graham Mill Hall  
Bryon Gregori Johnsonburg  
Jerry P. Grimaud Tunkhannock  
Tom Hanes St. Marys  
Troy Hanes Benezette  
Frank Hartnett Brick  
Robert G. Haynes Snow Shoe  
William Haynes Snow Shoe  
Mitch Higley Dushore  
Scott H. Hinkson Palmerton  
Josh Hobbins Mill Hall  
William Houtz Mill Hall  
Carl A. Houtz, Jr. Mill Hall  
Paul Hultman Kane  
Carl Huss Brookville

### JOB LAYOUT & PROFITABLE SKIDDING (CONTINUED)

David Jaynes Falconer  
Edward Johnson Bloomsburg  
James Johnson Muncy  
Joe Kehoe Bloomsburg  
Brad Keltz Bradford  
Allan Kowalczyk Hawley  
Andrew Krompasky Hamlin  
Stephen K. Larson Port Allegany  
Doug Lee Grampian  
Allen Leigey Benezette  
Dave Lewis Emporium  
W.E. Lyon Emporium  
Clayton Maines Woodland  
Doug Maines Woodland  
Mark Maines Morrisdale  
David M. Malsom Hamlin  
William Mann Mill Hall  
Joseph P. Martini Newfoundland  
Bruce Meeker Moshannon  
Martin Melville Centre Hall  
Paul L. Mott Honesdale  
Craig A. Olver Honesdale  
Jim Pearson Russell  
Mark Ridall Mehoopany  
Harold Ridall, Jr. Mehoopany  
Jeremy Robinson Nicholson  
Tim Robinson Honesdale  
Dan Rorabaugh Burnside  
Jim Rowe Honesdale  
Brian Severcool Tunkhannock  
Randy Shaffer Bradford  
Pat Sherren Warriors Mark  
Jeff Sleeman Sheffield  
James Snyder, Jr. Ridgway  
Jedidiah R. Sorg Emporium  
Richard T. Sorg Emporium  
Louie J. Stone Thompson  
Glen Strausser Millville  
Perry Swanson Kane  
Terry Swanson Kane  
Jason Swatsworth W. Decatur  
Richard Swatsworth Woodland  
Troy M. Townsend Smethport  
Mark Wansack W. Middlesex  
Paul Webster Bradford  
Ron Weisenstein Sharpsville  
Andy Wermuth Mt. Jewett  
Robert L. Wetherill Lake Ariel  
Brian H. Williams Tafton  
Jonathan Wirth Mill Hall

### GAME OF LOGGING 1

Michael Becker Laurelton  
Lewis Bundy Dubois  
Andrew Carlson Kane  
Bruce Christine Tyrone  
Chuck Kindervater Bradford  
Greg Kirr Pittsville  
Stephen K. Larson Port Allegany  
Bill Niece Port Allegany  
Mark Potter Laurelton  
Matt Skok Bradford  
Perry Swanson Kane  
Malcolm D. Waskiewicz Coudersport  
Ron Weisenstein Sharpsville

### GAME OF LOGGING 4

Alfred Jewart Austin  
Allen Zuraski Johnsonburg

### MISCELLANEOUS COURSES

Walt Graham Hopwood  
Joe Zehr Lancaster

## In Brief

### Logging is Most Dangerous Job –

*Timberline 11/03*

Logging is the most dangerous occupation in the U.S. Loggers experienced the highest on-the-job mortality rate in 2002, and their rate was 26 times higher than the average U.S. worker. The mortality rate among loggers was 118 death per 100,000 workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics. One hundred and four loggers were killed in 2002.

The fishing industry was second on the agency's list of the 10 most dangerous jobs with 71 fatalities per 100,000 workers; the most common cause of death was drowning. Commercial pilots were a close third with 70 fatalities per 100,000 workers. More truck drivers, 808, died on the job than in any other vocation in the top 10 list. However, because there are so many truckers, their fatality rate is only 25 per 100,000, which puts the occupation at 10<sup>th</sup> on the list.

### Green building projects sweeping the nation –

*USA Today/AF&PA Smartbrief, 4/2/04*

The Henry, a Portland, Oregon condominium project that features amenities like hardwood floors made from sustainable forests, is the latest product of the wave of popularity currently being enjoyed by environmentally friendly buildings. More than 1,100 buildings have applied for certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, perhaps signifying that the trend is going mainstream.

### Potlatch Corporation announces FSC certification, completing Pinchot Institute FSC and SFI pilot projects -

*SFI Program Newsletter, 4/04*

As part of a Pinchot Institute project comparing FSC and the SFI program on the ground, Potlatch recently completed an FSC certification on 600,000 acres in Idaho (land also certified to the SFI program). The project included a comparative analysis by Potlatch of the SFI and FSC programs. This analysis documents a high degree of similarities in the two programs as well as important differences such as the SFI program's outreach and procurement system audit, something FSC lacks. This report can be found at (<http://www.pinchot.org/policy&change/certification/potlatch.htm>). For more information, please contact Michael Virga.

### SFI Part of European Forestry

*Conference – SFI Program Newsletter, 4/04*

SFI representative Michael Virga discussed U.S. market demands for certification at a conference on the "Future Issues for Forest Industries in Europe" held April 28 – May 1, 2004 in Dublin, Ireland and sponsored by the Irish forest industry. The conference focused on the European forest and wood chain and included discussions on the effects of market demand on the forest and the development of policy in response to that demand, including certification. Participants included government policy makers throughout the expanded EU. This conference presented an important opportunity for the US forest industry to learn more about EU wide policy on emerging forestry issues, particularly with regards to the development of public procurement systems for wood.



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## PA SFI TRAINING PROGRAM NEWS

### Check out our website!

#### [www.sfiopa.org](http://www.sfiopa.org)

Do you have access to the internet? If so, the PA SFI SIC website harbors a wealth of training information! Here are some things that you can find out by visiting our site:

- Is your PA SFI training status current? Visit the *Current Cardholders* page to see if your name is listed.
- The PA SFI training calendar is on our website and is updated weekly. Check it out for the most current information!
- Visit the *Course Descriptions* page to get a summary of all of our training programs.
- View past issues of the PA SFI Newsletter in PDF format!
- Find links to many of the PA SFI Partner and Supporter companies' websites.
- View and print several of our important forms such as the Timber Unit Sustainability Assessment Form (TUSAF), Timber Harvesting Assessment Form (THA) and the Inconsistent Practices Form.
- Find out more about the PA SFI's Master Logger Program and Forest Landowner Outreach Program!

### Block 3 Is Approaching!

Are you in need of CE credits? Or do you need

to complete your core training? Please check out our newest training schedule on page 3. If you are not sure of your training status, please feel free to call the PA SFI office or check out the *Current Cardholders* page on our website: [www.sfiopa.org](http://www.sfiopa.org). We would be more than happy to assist you.

### PA SFI Training Courses Updated

New and exciting things are happening with the PA SFI training programs! **Environmental Logging** has been updated with new important information from the DEP. If you have taken this core course prior to 2004, you may retake it for continuing education credit. This new information is very essential and we hope that all people in the fields of logging and forestry will attend.

Also, **Logging Safety** is in the process of being updated. A new instructional video and new trucking regulations have been added. Check it out this fall for the most up to date information on logging safety!

A training program summarizing last Fall's **Managing Logging Risk and Liability** Symposium is in the works. We hope to roll this new program out in early 2005.

Information regarding **Threatened and Endangered Species** is being added to the Wildlife program. This new section will cover all the basics of

what to do and what to look for when faced with the challenge of Endangered and Threatened Species.

### Name Change

As you may have noticed, we are in the process of making a slight name change. While we were formerly called the SFI of Pennsylvania, we will now be referred to as the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). We are in the process of altering several of our printed materials, including training program handout materials, letterhead and our many brochures. Due to budget constraints, this process may take awhile. We apologize for any confusion as we make this small but important transition.

### Please Note:

As the CJT grant has expired and our new budget year is beginning, some training program fees have been adjusted. They are as follows:

- Logging Safety, \$55.00
- Environmental Logging, \$55.00
- Job Layout & Profitable Skidding, \$100.00
- GPS For Forest Management, \$75.00
- Intro. to Forest Management, \$60.00
- Advanced Forest Management, \$60.00
- Wildlife, \$60.00
- Business Management, \$60.00
- Advanced Environmental Logging, \$55.00