



Northern Tier Hardwood Association

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

NTHA Activities in 2013

Serving the Northern Tier counties of Bradford, Tioga, Susquehanna, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A&D Logging

Helen Beichel

Amy Butler

Bevan Forestry, Inc.

Buehring Logging

Dave Sienko Forest

Products, Inc.

Endless Mountains

Land Services

Farm Plus

Jeff Gagnon

Gays True Value

Hemlock Farms

Ian Ernst, Inc.

Journey's End Farm

Justick & Justick Inc.

Lumberjack Cacc's

Logging

William Maitland Jr.

Mattern Logging &

Tree Service

Beau Ponsoll

Gerard M. Poppo

North Mountain

Forest Products

R. C. Bloch Timber

Harvesting

Chris Robson

Mike R. Rynda

Shrandor Mountain

Farm

Slabtown Woodworks

Steve Bott Logging, LLC

Stryker Forest Products

Brackman Sylvandale

Forestry

Zehr.net

CONTACT US:

200 Lake Road, Suite C
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-7753
www.nthardwoods.org
Email:
nthapa@frontiernet.net

During the past year NTHA has participated in several public outreach programs. The main focus is to promote the wood industry. In addition to this, information was given on NTHA and what we have to offer our members and the community.

We had the opportunity to participate in career minded programs with the Northern Tier Industry Education Consortium in May and October 2013. The focus was to introduce students to the wood industry in our area. NTHA held small group discussions with juniors and seniors to find out what they are looking for in a career, then outlined the many opportunities the wood industry has to offer. Some of the opportunities discussed were

logging, forestry, and wood industry, as well as many other supporting fields that benefit the wood industry.

NTHA participated in Ag Progress Days in August and Sullivan County Fall Foliage Festival in October. Many visitors took advantage of informational packets on environmental issues and upcoming trainings sponsored by NTHA which supports landowners, professionals in the industry, and the general public.

NTHA teamed up with Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council (PHDC), Keystone Wood Products Association (KWPA), American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) and others to participate in

Greenbuild 2013 held in Philadelphia. Greenbuild is the largest expo of its kind in the world hosting tens of thousands of building professionals. Its purpose is to promote green building. This was an opportunity for us to discuss with the manufacturers on several main points in why American Hardwoods is a good idea for green building, for the environment and good for business. Linda Jovanovich, Executive Vice President of Hardwood Manufacturers Association (HMA), has written a full article on the subject in the November 2013 issue of the National Hardwood Magazine.

NTHA Annual Meeting 2013

On December 10, 2013 NTHA held its annual meeting and dinner at the Shadowbrook Inn and Resort. It was well attended by 90 people who included members of NTHA along with members of the community. Among those attending were representatives from Karen Boback's office, County Commissioner Thomas Henry Jr., PFPA Executive Director Paul Lyskava, and Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council President, Keith Craig.

Jeff Nichols presented Mark Ridall and Mike Lovegreen with a pen set and certificate of appreciation for their years of service on the NTHA board.

NTHA would like to thank our guest speaker, Thaddeus Taylor from Ag Choice FC for his presentation. Thad works closely with forest landowners, timberland investor groups, forest products manufacturers and allied service providers to enhance financial solutions. His presentation gave an overview on the growth of the forest product industry today and gave a business management plan as it pertains to the wood industry.

Jeff Nichols, president of NTHA, opened the meeting. Nominated board members Sarah Hall, Wayne County Conservation District, Ian Ernst of Ian Ernst Inc., Mike Kovalick from S&K Forest Resources, and Dean Harshbarger of Wyoming

Conservancy were voted in. Jeff gave an activities report of the past year and goals set for 2014. After the meeting door prizes were given out which included hardhats, safety chaps, bar oil and other assorted logger accessories. NTHA would like to thank JW Cox Insurance for their donation of \$50.00 Gift card and Gays True Value for their donation of a logger safety kit. The recipient of the gift certificate was Amy Butler of Wyoming County. The logger safety kit was awarded to Art Carpenter also of Wyoming County. NTHA would like to thank all our members for supporting us as we continue our efforts in promoting the Wood Industry.

Establishing Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Training



Carl Graybill leads site visit

**GOLDEN -
WINGED
WARBLER
HAS
DECLINED
5.5% EACH
YEAR
SINCE
1966.**



Darrel explains benefits of creating early successional habitat

"Establishing Golden-winged Warbler Habitat" training was given at the Wayne Conservation District office and the Reining farm. Why focus on the Golden-winged Warbler? It is estimated that the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) has been on a steady decline of 5.5% annually since 1966. In an effort to help the song bird's population grow, several agencies have banded together to supply qualifying landowners with grants to establish this habitat on their property.

Emily Bellush, (Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Planner and Project Manager, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Natural Resources Conservation Service) spoke to the group about Golden-winged Warbler breeding ecology. She explained that this migratory songbird prefers to breed in young forest habitat and shrublands throughout Appalachia and the Great Lakes region. Public and private landowners within Appalachia are encouraged to take advantage of an excellent opportunity to create healthy young forest habitat on their property. Landowners can apply for cost share funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) for technical and financial assistance to create Golden-winged Warbler Habitat.

Carl Graybill, Habitat Biologist for Wildlife Management Institute, gave a presentation discussing the various wildlife that also benefit from the presence of young forest habitat, including the American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, the Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, and White-tailed Deer.

Darren Wolfgang, Golden-winged Warbler forester for northeast Pennsylvania (Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Natural Resources Conservation Service) and Carl Graybill, led the site visit to the Reining property, showing the group prime examples of habitat that will attract the GWWA, American Woodcock, and various other species. The group discussed strategies to create healthy, regenerating young forest habitat, including which trees to remove and which trees to retain for the long-term health of the forest stand. Ultimately, these treatments may result in the presence of breeding Golden-winged Warblers as well as other young-forest dependent species. Darren also explained that creating sustainable early successional habitat while retaining healthy residual seed-producing trees can be beneficial to the landowner in the future.

If you are interested in more information or creating healthy young forest habitat on your property, please feel free to contact Emily Bellush by mail (315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, PA 16801), phone (office: 814-234-4090 ext. 245, cell: 201-317-6847), or email (emily.bellush@pa.usda.gov).



Darren discusses potential GWW site

Presenting Winners of NTHA Scholarship Program!

Scholarships were given out this year to qualifying high school and college students. Garrett Krout of McClure, PA of Mifflin County is attending Pennsylvania College of Technology. He is anticipating graduating with a Forest Technology degree which will help realize his goal of being a state forester and eventually a park ranger. His studies will also include entomology which focuses on ways to protect the forest from harmful insects.

Aaron Andrews is a graduate of James M. Coughlin High School in Luzerne County. He is attending Penn College of Technology and pursuing a degree in Forestry. He is an avid outdoorsman and appreciates not only the beauty of the forest but its importance in our lives as a source of recreation and industry. As a forester, his goal is to insure Pennsylvania forest survive and thrive well into the future.

Julian Maza graduated from Mid Valley High School in June and is now attending Penn State University. His major is in Forest Science. His goal is to work in the public sector as a forester. His love for forestry blossomed when he had the opportunity to intern with DCNR. After college he feels he will have a better understanding of the forest industry and intends on dedicating his career to the field. NTHA is proud to support these young minds in their endeavors as they prepare for a career in the forest and wood industry.

USDA Conservation Farm Bill Programs

Bradford & Sullivan County

Want to implement your Forest Stewardship Plan? Need help? Need \$\$?

Tree planting, mast tree releases, controlling invasive plants, and fixing gullies on logging roads can be expensive to implement. Implementing your Forest Stewardship Plan can be costly and time consuming, but very rewarding. Your forest stewardship plan is designed to ensure the health and productivity of your forest. The goals of your plan may be for financial, environmental, aesthetics, wildlife, and/or recreational. There are various USDA Farm Bill Programs, which are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which offers technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to address natural resource concerns on their land. NRCS and PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, have partnered together to promote USDA Farm Bill Programs to forest landowners.

Depending on the program, Conservation Farm Bill Programs can offer an incentive payment, which are a fixed payment rate based on the average costs of the practice; or an annual payment for conservation practices completed and maintained on your property. These payments can offset the cost of implementing your Forest Stewardship Plan. There are a variety of programs that can assist forest landowners, but there are three main programs to discuss: Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - Targeted towards Forest Landowners with higher priority

given towards landowners that have a forest stewardship plan. Provides an incentive to implement conservation practices with an emphasis in reducing soil loss and sedimentation, improving water quality, improving forest health, and the promotion of at-risk species habitat.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) - Targeted toward landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land.

Currently there is an initiative to target Golden Wing Warblers. The Golden Winged Warbler has undergone significant population declines in the Appalachian region. Golden-winged warblers (GWW) and many other species depend upon shrubby, early successional habitats. Provides an incentive payment to implement conservation practices with emphasis on improving wildlife habitat.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Targeted toward landowners that have been active in implementing

their forest stewardship plan and have addressed resource concerns on their property. Provide an annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.

If necessary, forest landowners with a stewardship plan should update their 10 year plan of activity to reflect future activities. This can be done in consultation with their consultant or service forester.

Contacts: Chad Gadsby, Service Forester, DCNR, (570)946-4049 Bradford/Sullivan County

Michael Hanawalt, District Conservationist, NRCS, (570)265-6969 Ext. 103 Bradford/Sullivan County

If anyone outside of these counties are interested in this program please contact your county service forester.



Northern Tier Hardwood Association is a non-profit organization serving the wood industry and its supporters throughout Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming counties of Pennsylvania. We at NTHA take great pride in providing our members and surrounding community with worthwhile programs. If you have any questions, please

CONTACT US:
200 Lake Road, Suite C
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-7753
www.nthardwoods.org

www.nthardwoods.org

Upcoming Trainings:

Setting up website, having it work for you-Brad Zehr-**February 15**, 6:00-8:00PM
Stoll Recourse Center- 200 Lake RD Towanda, PA 18848,
(2 hrs-SFI credit available)

CPR & First Aid - **February 20**, 8:00-11:30AM
Work Well building- 221 W Tioga St, Tunkhannock PA18657
(across from Tunkhannock Library)

Advanced Logger Rescue-

Wellsboro Fire & Ambulance Company- **March 21**, 8:00-3:00
21 Crafton ST, Wellsboro, Pa 16901

Dallas Fire & Ambulance- **March 22**, 8:00-3:00
184 Center Hill RD, Dallas PA18612

Madisonville Fire Co- **March 23**, 8:00-3:00
3131 Madisonville RD, Madison Township, PA

Laser Tech training -Brian Ferry & Laser Technologies- **April 26**, 10:00-2:00
Dear Park Lumber Co, Inc. 3042 SR6 Tunkhannock, PA 18657
(SFI and SAF credits available)

GOL 1 & 2, Level 3 & 4(pro & non pro), Storm Damage, Essentials- As classes fill

Landowner's Workshop-TBA

Brochure for workshops are available on our website www.nthardwoods.org

****members of NTHA receive 50% reimbursement for all trainings****