

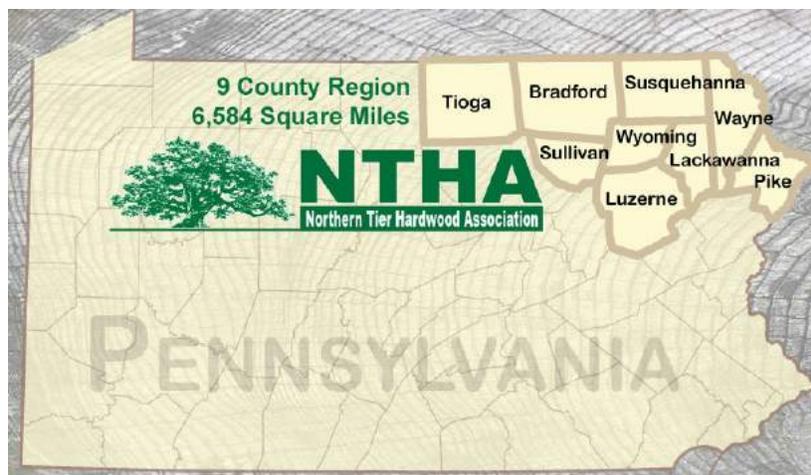


Year End Report 2019-2020

Grant ME# 44144858, Promotion of Regional Hardwood Companies

The mission of the Association is to promote long term economic development in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania through intelligent forest management, careful expansion of secondary wood processing, improved manufacturing methods, regional hardwood promotion and education.

The Northern Tier Hardwood Association serves over 130 members throughout a nine-county region in the Northern Tier, but our efforts positively impact other members of the industry and the general public through our commitment to offering all activities to everyone regardless of membership status. The Association works with numerous agencies, organizations, government, and academia to maximize the outreach and benefit to the industry and the public.



Industry Outreach, Support, Promotion, and Training

The forest product industry has historically remained one of the region's stable and leading sources of employment and is essential to the local rural economy. NTHA is committed to providing opportunities for industry members to train and grow professionally through continuing education and support. The NTHA continues to engage and inform the industry and the public through outreach, support, promotion, and training.

- Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council (HDC) member and supportive of all HDC activities, committees, domestic and international trade shows, FFA Forestry Tour, Farm Show, and WoodMobile events. Provides financial support to HDC for "Research and Development" which includes funding trade shows, education, and promotional items such as the WoodMobile, displays, brochures, etc.
- Partnered with the HDC to develop and publish *Threats to the Forest*, a comprehensive booklet on native and invasive insects, plants, and diseases that are impacting our forests. Provided all of the funding to do a second mass printing of this resource and distribute throughout the Commonwealth.
- NTHA provided 15 Game of Logging Chainsaw Safety classes throughout our region that trained 161 industry members, forest landowners, and emergency and municipal personnel.
- Submitted a Values Chain Study Proposal and Application for EDA Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant through North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission. While AHUG is the applicant, the core team partners include KWPA, NTHA, DCNR, and the HDC. The grant application is for \$150,000 with a 20% match including in-kind contributions from core team members.
- Awarded a \$10,000 Commonwealth Specialty Crop Block grant to publish and mass distribute a "What Will My Woods Look Like" booklet. This booklet will show some typical forest stands before and after different kinds of logging operations. The pictures and descriptions are intended to help start a pre-harvest discussion between forestry professionals and forest landowners about post-harvest results. The forest scenes also help tell the story of woodland stewardship, forest management and the professionals who make it happen.
- Awarded a \$12,500 Commonwealth Specialty Crop Block Grant in partnership with the Keystone Wood Products Association, Allegheny Hardwoods Utilization Group, the Hardwoods Development Council, and the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association for the Forever Forests exhibit at the Reading Public Museum. This exhibit has already reached thousands of people despite Covid-19, and will continue until February 7th, 2021. Forever Forest teaches children and adults how their everyday lives are connected to

forests, through the ways they live, work, and play.

- Co-sponsor and member of “The Real American Hardwood Promotion Coalition”, a national industry-wide initiative to promote U.S. hardwoods and improve the domestic market. The Program Manager attended the RAHPC board meeting in Indianapolis and continues to attend and contribute virtually due to Covid-19.
- In partnership with the Keystone Wood Products Association, NTHA coordinated and co-sponsored a CPR and First Aid class for 30 Penn College forestry students. Students will now graduate with all of the core classes needed to be SFI Trained/Qualified.
- As the Covid-19 pandemic hit and the Governor issued non-essential businesses to close, NTHA advocated and appealed to legislators and the Governor’s office to permit the forest product industry to re-open as essential businesses. NTHA kept forest product industry members and the public abreast of any and all updates on business closures and available financial assistance.
- Serves as Secretary for the Professional Forest Industry Association, a local industry group of loggers and foresters that meet monthly to address industry issues and provide public outreach and education. The annual “Fuel for Friends” program donates firewood to those in need.
- Serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee and supports and promotes the SFI Timber Harvester Training Program. Contributed \$5000 to the program amid projected budget shortfalls.
- NTHA is instrumental on the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Committee led by the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative to revise and republish DEP’s “Timber Harvest Operations Field Guide for Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control”. The purpose of this publication is to assist loggers and foresters to prepare and implement soil erosion and sediment control plans, and to work around streams and wetlands. NTHA also serves on the DEP led committee to develop and publish timber harvesting training videos for Conservation District staff.
- Awarded a \$1000 NTHA Educational Opportunity Grant to North Penn-Liberty High School for a Game of Logging Level 1 class for high school students in Tioga County. This class was postponed due to Covid-19. We plan to expand hands-on training in high schools in the future.
- Sponsors and assists with the Narrowsburg Logging Days, Wayne County Woodsmen’s Competition at the Wayne County Fair, as well as sponsoring and exhibiting at the Woodsmen’s Competition at the Sullivan County Fall Festival. These events were cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

- Program Manager, Sarah Hall-Bagdonas, was nominated and serves on the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC).
- Member and co-lead of the Woodland Stewardship Innovation Team.
- Serves on the Worker's Compensation Committee to address worker's compensation issues for loggers.
- Assisted the HDC and other industry groups in developing and distributing the Spotted Lanternfly Best Management Practices document for the forest product industry and landowners. We continue to distribute this document as the SLF expands farther north into our region.
- Continue to provide Spotted Lanternfly outreach, education, and training to combat this destructive pest. NTHA has trained and educated over 1,700 people to date. The Program Manager participated as a panelist at the SLF Summit in Harrisburg to present industry impacts, and also presented a "Forest Products Industry Update on SLF" for a Penn State webinar that reached nearly 1000 registrants.
- Provided CPR and First Aid training to our members and the public. We offer these courses semi-annually so industry members can fulfill their PA SFI Core training requirements.
- Exhibited at the Northeast Regional Contractor Workshop held by the Wyoming Conservation District at Keystone College.
- Was scheduled to exhibit at the Susquehanna County Contractors and Loggers Workshop that was cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Publication and distribution of our bi-monthly newsletter that highlights upcoming events and training, current industry issues, and recent activities.
- Held the annual dinner meeting for members, guests, and partner agencies. 130 industry members were in attendance to discuss industry issues, learn about NTHA's yearly activities, and a guest speaker presentation by Van Wagner on the history of Pennsylvania's timber industry.
- Sponsors and promotes the ALIFT (Assisting Loggers Immediately Fund Trust) and their annual fundraiser events. With funds raised, ALIFT provides financial support to loggers and their families in the event of a logging accident or fatality.
- NTHA continues to exhibit at regional and state events such as the PA Farm Show, PA Forest Landowner Conference, PA Timber Show, Ag Progress Days, Logger Plus Expo, PA Association of Township Supervisors Conference and numerous other events and workshops. Due to Covid-19, NTHA has participated in such events virtually as scheduled.

Education and Outreach:

The NTHA continues to be the one of the leading sources of forestry and forest product industry education throughout our nine-county region and statewide. The Association has continued its work with local schools and partner conservation agencies and organizations to deliver important education to students, landowners, and industry members in order to sustain access to the forest resource and the sustainability and continued success of the forest product industry in Pennsylvania.

- Awarded a \$1000 NTHA Educational Opportunity Grant to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to educate private forest landowners at the Women and Their Woods workshop and retreat. NTHA also provided educational packets for the virtual retreat.
- A team effort amongst the Commonwealth's Hardwoods Development Council (HDC) and the state's three Hardwood Utilization Groups (HUGs), was responsible for a new exhibit entitled, "Imagine the Opportunity of a Smaller Carbon Footprint," showcased at the PA Farm Show. This project was made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Farm Bill through the Specialty Crop matching grant. The display addresses the environmental benefits of using wood and forest products. This display can also be repurposed for other events in the future.
- Exhibited at the Women in STEM Symposium held by the Wayne-Pike Workforce Alliance and Lacawac Sanctuary. There were nearly 300 young women from several school districts in attendance who learned about forest related careers.
- Was featured in several local papers to inform people about the Spotted Lanternfly and other invasive threats and how to combat them.
- Partnered with the DCNR to develop a "Threats to PA Forests" presentation that has been and will continue to be presented throughout our region by local DCNR Service Foresters and the NTHA Program Manager. The presentation focuses on invasive insects that are impacting our forests. It is also available as a PDF to be used by other partner organizations statewide.
- Continue to hold "Meet and Greet" events for industry members and the public. This gives us the opportunity to expand our reach to new audiences while giving guests an opportunity to speak with the board of directors and other members, collect information, and learn about the association's activities. We discuss issues impacting our forests and the forest product industry, as well as how the association can better serve our region and growing membership. A planned Clay Shoot Meet and Greet event was cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Continues to work with local schools and Conservation Districts throughout our region to provide forestry education for Envirothon, Conservation Field Days, Arbor Days, Ag Days, and Earth Day events. We continue to provide this education virtually due to Covid-19.

- Works with several other agencies and organizations to plan and provide the Conservation Leadership Academy week-long camp for kids age 12-15 at Lacawac Sanctuary each year. We sponsor and present the forestry day to students, as well as assisting with other conservation education throughout the week. This camp was cancelled due to Covid-19, but NTHA is working with partners to develop educational videos to be released throughout the year.
- Continue our long relationship with local schools to present at numerous Career Days throughout our region. NTHA utilizes and promotes HDC's PA Forest Career website to educate students about potential careers in the forest product industry. NTHA continues to provide career education virtually due to Covid-19.
- Awarded two \$1500 scholarships for a high school and college student from our nine-county region that is pursuing a degree in forestry or a related field of study. NTHA is able to provide these scholarships annually through our membership and scholarship funds raised.

2019-2020 Photos



Program Manager, Sarah Hall-Bagdonas educates children at the Pennsylvania Farm Show



HDC and HUGS assist at the Farm Show



Professional Forest Industry Association “Fuel for Friends” program donates firewood to those in need



15 Game of Logging Chainsaw Safety Classes held



Exhibited at the “Women in Science Symposium” for high school students





Two college scholarships awarded to students pursuing forestry related careers



130 members and partners attend the NTHA Annual Dinner Meeting