

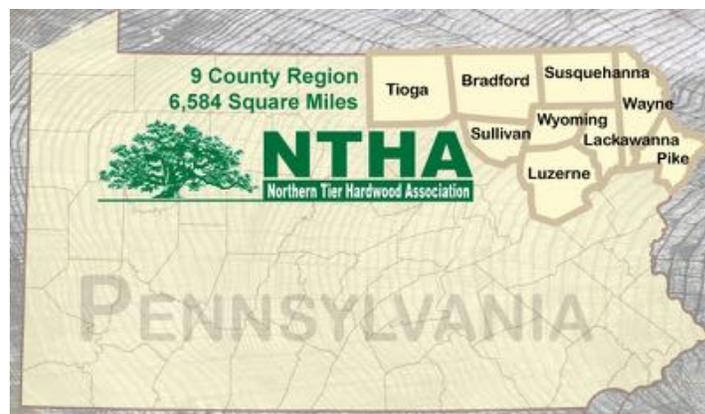


## Year End Report 2018-2019

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 a comprehensive booklet on native and invasive insects, plants, and diseases that are impacting our forests. Provided all of the funding to mass print this resource and distribute throughout the Commonwealth.
- 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.
- Worked on the Township Ordinance Committee led by the Hardwoods Development Council. NTHA assisted HDC in updating and republishing the "Forest Management and Timber Harvesting in PA" resource. This document is intended for townships and the forest product industry and is available on our website. Provided funding assistance to mass print the document for distribution.
- 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 landowners, foresters, and loggers to prepare and implement soil erosion and sediment control plans, and to work around streams and wetlands.
- NTHA provided 15 Game of Logging Chainsaw Safety training classes throughout our region with over 75 industry members, 42 members of the public, and 42 firefighters, emergency staff, municipal, and Penn DOT staff.
- Co-sponsored a Game of Logging Level 1 class for high school students in Tioga County. We plan to expand hands-on training in high schools in the future.
- Program Manager, Sarah Hall-Bagdonas, has been nominated to serve on the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC).

- 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.
- Provided the Spotted Lanternfly training needed to obtain permits to over 100 forest industry members including loggers, foresters, truck drivers, and sawmill staff. NTHA has trained nearly 700 people to date.
- Attended and helped coordinate the Wayne-Pike Conservation Partnership's Legislative Breakfast. This annual event gives NTHA and partner agencies an opportunity to meet with local and state legislators to discuss important issues.
- Attended the PFPA Legislative Reception and met with legislators during hill visits to discuss several important issues such as the HDC/HUG funding, worker's compensation, and their concerns about Spotted Lanternfly.
- 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 and gave a presentation on "Threats to PA Forests" at the Northeast Regional Contractor Workshop held by the Wyoming Conservation District at Keystone College.
- Gave a presentation on Timber Markets at the Eastern Regional Consulting and Industrial Forester Conference in Dauphin County, PA. There were about 70 foresters in attendance.
- 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 Ellen Shultzabarger, Pennsylvania State Forester and DCNR Bureau of Forestry Director.
- Sponsors and promotes the ALIFT (Assisting Loggers Immediately Fund Trust) annual fundraiser events. With funds raised, ALIFT provides financial support to loggers and their families in the event of a logging accident or fatality.
- Sponsors and assists with the 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.
- 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 events and workshops.

### **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.

- Provided Spotted Lanternfly education to hundreds of people at numerous workshops and events in an effort to combat this destructive pest.
- Presented at the Women and Their Woods (WaTW) fall retreat. Presented and co-sponsored the all-day WaTW spring workshop for forest landowners held by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Center for Private Forests in Lake Ariel. We also held a follow-up women's chainsaw safety class.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Designed and updated NTHA's promotional displays. Two new stand-up banners and a tablecloth were purchased to promote the Association and our mission.
- 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.



Met with legislators at the Capitol to discuss important issues impacting the forest product industry



Conservation Partnership Legislative Breakfast with Representative Peifer



Professional Forest Industry Association "Fuel for Friends" program donates firewood to those in need.



15 Game of Logging Chainsaw Safety Classes held



Forestry and invasive species education in our schools



Two college scholarships awarded to students pursuing forestry related careers