



May 2024

Enabling Pennsylvania communities to thrive through a successful forest products industry.

Hello,

Welcome to Forest 411, our newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed about the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee and promoting sustainable forestry in Pennsylvania. This month, we're featuring part 3, the **Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee**, as part of our three-part series that explains **Forest Certification**, **SFI Inc.**, and the **Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee**. Stay tuned for more valuable insights and information!

## What is the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee?



At the heart of the SFI community is a unique network of **35 SFI Implementation Committees** (SICs) that work locally to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations. The Pennsylvania SIC is a nonprofit organization established in 1995. Our diverse Committee of volunteers bring together sawmills, pulp mills, forest landowners, loggers, consulting foresters, the Bureau of Forestry, the

Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, Conservation Districts, Penn State, the PA Forest Products Association and others from across the state into a unique forum unlike any other in Pennsylvania.

Our purpose is to promote wise forest stewardship, enabling Pennsylvania communities to thrive through a successful forest products industry.

We work hard to support business operations by training and developing the logger

workforce, educating the public about the value of working forests, promoting SFI forest certification, and assisting with regulatory issues. Our alliance of deeply committed professionals from across the forestry community builds partnerships with many other conservation organizations who depend on the forest industry to advance their own missions. These relationships allow us to serve with great impact.

[Visit the SIC Website](#)

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## Accountability within the SFI Program

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) upholds its commitment to responsible forest management and maintains the integrity of its certification standards through the Inconsistent Practices Program. This program provides a publicly accessible process for individuals and organizations to bring forward questions and concerns about the management and practices of SFI-Certified Organizations, or other entities engaged with SFI, that appear to deviate from the SFI standards' principles and objectives. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee has maintained an Inconsistent Practices program for decades. By identifying and addressing these deviations, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee aims to ensure that companies adhere to sustainable forestry practices promoting responsible and environmentally appropriate forest management. Refer to the document below for more information.

[Inconsistent Practices Document](#)

Likewise, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee has also operated the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Logger Training Program within the state since 1996. This program has reached out to more than 7,000 loggers, foresters and others with a mission to equip participants with knowledge and skills related to safe and sustainable forest management. Those that complete the required core training and maintain their qualification by completing mandatory continuing education are recognized as SFI Qualified Logging Professionals (SFI QLPs). However, this recognition comes with a level of accountability. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee expects SFI QLPs to follow and implement the skills and practices learned in the training program to the extent possible during their operations. Therefore, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will thoroughly investigate and address reports made about SFI QLPs through our Inconsistent Practices Program. If necessary, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee may act upon reports commensurate with the findings and may take actions such as requiring a SFI QLP to complete additional training or revoke training credits. These expectations and accountability have been written into a recent revision of the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee's training program policy. All training participants should take time to familiarize themselves with this policy language and with the Implementation Committee's Inconsistent Practices program.

[Training Program Policy](#)

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# Got to Bat for the SIC and Win Big!

**Step up to the plate by supporting the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee!**



**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE PENNSYLVANIA**  
SFI-01141

By financially supporting\* the PA SIC you will be entered into a drawing to win a luxury suite at PNC Park in Pittsburgh on Sunday July 21st for the game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies.

**Package Includes: (\$4,000 Value)**

- 15 Tickets
- 4 Parking Passes
- Food and non-alcoholic beverage package
- PA Hardwood Bat with Company Logo engraved by BWP Bats of Brookville

Great for entertaining current or future clients, customer appreciation or rewarding top tier employees!



Brought to you by:



TM \* Minimum support of \$500.00

By supporting the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, you have the incredible opportunity to bask in the excitement of a day at PNC Park. Perfect for commemorating a milestone or impressing a valued client, the Luxury Suites at PNC Park promise an unparalleled "home-field advantage" experience. Nestled on the prestigious Suite Level, these suites provide a sweeping view of the entire infield, ensuring an unforgettable time. The winner will also receive a meticulously crafted baseball bat made from premium Pennsylvania hardwood, skillfully manufactured in the heart of Brookville, PA by BWP Bats. Simply click on the 2024 Annual Assessment button below, and fill out the 2024 assessment form and submit it with a minimum commitment of \$500.00 to automatically be entered into the drawing. Winner will be chosen on **Friday July 12, 2024.**

*If you have already submitted your 2024 Assessment Form and you've reached the \$500 minimum, they you are already in the drawing.*

**2024 Annual Assessment**

**This drawing is made possible by the folks at Trick Shot Sustainable Products and BWP Bats.**



## MONTH IN REVIEW

**The PA SIC is working towards improving comp rates.**

In 2023, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (PA SIC) was awarded a \$100,000 grant



through the PA Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to develop a safety certification program for loggers. The hope is that this certification will qualify loggers for lower workers compensation premiums. The project is being conducted as part of a larger effort to address high comp rates for loggers in Pennsylvania. The first phase of this project involves reviewing logger training programs in New England that already qualify for workers compensation reductions in their state. The

goal is to review the training they offer, see where the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training program may be lacking, and incorporate that curriculum into a safety certification program based on the SFI Qualified Logging Professional credential. The next development phase for the certification will look at establishing an in-woods inspection component that actually verifies the implementation of a logging company's safety practices on the ground.

This month, Chuck Coup, PA SIC Program Manager, traveled to Skowhegan Maine to review their 3-day **Certified Logging Professional (CLP)** training. A week later, Chuck was back up to Southern Vermont to review a Mechanized Equipment Safety training offered through their **Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)** Program. Both programs provided information and insights that will be extremely useful in developing the safety certification in Pennsylvania.



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## The PA SIC attends the 2024 PA Land Conservation Conference.

As a proud sponsor at the 2024 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference in Bethlehem, PA, the PA SIC team showcased our commitment to working forests and how they can be a valuable part to conservation easements to a diverse group of land trusts and conservancies. Organized by the esteemed staff of WeConservePA, this event served as a platform for us to amplify our mission and foster meaningful connections within the conservation community. We were thrilled to be part of such an impactful gathering that truly embodies the spirit of collaboration and environmental stewardship.



# INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT

Our monthly newsletter will showcase our SFI-Certified Organizations, and esteemed SIC Partners and Supporters who's support of the SIC are making a positive impact on Pennsylvania's forests. This month we are highlighting Weaber Inc.

For 80 years, Weaber has been proudly committed to the lumber industry. Established in 1941 by Walter H. Weaber, Weaber has grown from a small local mill into one of the nation's leading hardwood manufacturers.



In 1971, Galen G. Weaber assumed ownership of the company. Galen's objective for the mill was to increase profits by maximizing grade recovery through modernization. He also established value-added offerings in hardwoods throughout the 70s and early 80s by creating premier programs in Oak and Poplar. Advancements were further achieved by making key investments in kilns and pre-dryers.

During the mid 80s, the company instituted a regional distribution system to service less-than-truckload lots from Virginia to New York state. Another major expansion followed in 1990 by moving the company into the hardwood moulding and dimensions markets. This further reflected the modernization and vertical growth vision Galen planned for the company. In the latter 90s the company renamed itself Weaber, Inc.

In 2007 both Galen and Matt Weaber, Galen's son, continued to move the company forward with the new Weaber Rip Line. This consolidated the processing of rough lumber through one location, in turn increasing the amount of blanks that could be manufactured in a shorter period of time. By maximizing the yield from each board, Weaber was able to utilize more material for their finished products. In 2010 Matt became the President of the company and soon after, CEO.

Weaber continues to be a leader in innovation with the addition of the most technologically advanced paint line in North America. With a fully automated process and a proprietary coating technology, Weaber is ahead of the curve in meeting the demands of the marketplace.

*"Weaber has always relied heavily on the PA SIC to help our company meet the outreach and educational goals in the SFI Standard. Even before there was a focus on collaboration through SICs in the standard, the PA SIC was focused on collaboration efforts to strengthen and increase the impact of educational and outreach efforts for landowners and the public. To further that goal, the PA SIC website is a robust compilation of resources for loggers, Foresters, landowners, and the general public. The program manager, Chuck Coup, has been instrumental in forming alliances with state agencies, and industry groups, and seeking out and creating website content that is current and furthers the objectives of the SFI Standards." Kyle Troutman, Weaber Inc.*

Weaber Inc. has been an SFI Certified Organization in Pennsylvania for the past 27 years.

[Visit Weaber's Website](#)

SFI-certified organizations are crucial to the success of the SFI program. These entities have pledged to uphold the SFI Standards and have received third-party certification from independent auditors

confirming their compliance. SFI-certified organizations prioritize sustainable forest management and fiber sourcing practices, which include maintaining forest productivity and health, protecting water quality, preserving biological diversity, and safeguarding special sites. They also provide training and education for employees, contractors, and harvesting professionals, support research efforts, and promote sustainable forestry through landowner outreach and community involvement. In addition to implementing these practices on forestland they manage, SFI-certified organizations also advocate for sustainable forestry practices on other lands.

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Directory**

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