



PENNSYLVANIA
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Summer 2019 (Issue # 44)

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Sue Swanson, Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group

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* Denotes certified SFI® Program Participant

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

DCNR Bureau of Forestry Lands Certified to SFI

Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry certified all of Pennsylvania's state forest lands to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Forest Management Standard (NSF-SFI-FM-CO435749). These certified forests cover more than 2.2 million acres in 48 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, comprising 13 percent of the total forested area of the state.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



The SFI Forest Management standard is the largest single forest certification standard in the world. It is open to any organization that owns or manages forestland in the United States or Canada and meets the certification requirements in the current SFI Forest Management Standard. With more than 364 million acres certified across North America, SFI accounts for almost 25% of certified forests worldwide. The Standard includes measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value.

The Bureau of Forestry sought certification through the SFI Forest Partners® Program. The Program works to develop innovative approaches to group and coordinated certification for medium to large forest ownerships and smaller and medium sized mills, and seeks collaboration, cost effectiveness, and incentives for certification across North America.

Timber harvested from Pennsylvania's state forests is now SFI certified, and certification ensures that products coming from state forest land are managed in an environmentally responsible manner. Consumers, particularly those in international markets, are constantly looking for assurance that their products are produced legally, sustainably, and support a healthy environment. The bureau's SFI certification gives Pennsylvania's forest products industry more options for selecting the certification standard that makes the most sense for their individual businesses while also meeting consumer demand. "SFI certification will enhance the recognition and support of the bureau's many partners and stakeholders involved with SFI, and help expand opportunities for certified wood products markets in Pennsylvania" said Jason Albright, Assistant State Forester.

Certified program participants are required to complete surveillance audits every 12 months to verify ongoing conformance to the SFI Forest Management Standard, with a full recertification every five years. These required audits represent a form of implementation and effectiveness monitoring and assist the bureau in identifying gaps or improvement needs in management. In general, meeting the requirements of the certification process provides the bureau additional opportunities for institutional developments to support implementation of ecosystem management.

While achieving certification to the SFI Forest Management standard has been a new undertaking, the bureau has actually been deeply involved with SFI for a long time. The bureau was a non-certified program participant up until 2014. They have abided by the SFI Standards and continue to serve as an active member of the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). The bureau also encouraged and expanded logger training across Pennsylvania by voluntarily adopting a policy in 2007 that required the use of SFI Qualified Logging Professionals on all of the state's commercial timber harvesting operations. As a certified SFI program participant, the bureau will now have much stronger ties to the Pennsylvania SIC and our work to expand sustainable forestry across Pennsylvania through the SFI program.

Pennsylvania now has 2,279,105 acres certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, 22 companies that hold SFI Certified Sourcing certificates, and 68 companies that hold SFI Chain of Custody certification. State forest lands in Pennsylvania have been certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) since 1998 and will continue to be FSC certified in addition to SFI.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program

At SFI Inc. (www.sfiprogram.org), we believe that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. SFI is a leader in sustainable forestry through our work in standards, conservation, community, and education. As an independent, non-profit organization, we collaborate with our diverse network to provide solutions to local and global sustainability challenges. SFI works with the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments and universities.

At the heart of the SFI Program are SFI Implementation Committees (SICs). The Pennsylvania SIC is one of 34 spread across North America that responds to local needs and issues through the SFI Program at the local level. This grass-roots network is unique to the SFI Program.

Since 1995, the Pennsylvania SIC's active presence on the ground has resulted in significant contributions to individual communities through activities such as training loggers and sponsoring outreach to landowners and the public on responsible forest management.

Learn more at www.sfiopa.org

SFI® Program Participants Supporting the PA SIC

These companies participate in the SFI® Program and are certified to be in conformance with the SFI Standard. They also provide direct involvement and financial support to the Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee (SIC).

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Domtar Paper Co., LLC

Forest Investment Associates

Georgia-Pacific, LLC

GreenWood Resources, Inc.

Hancock Forest Management

Pixelle Specialty Solutions

Weaver, Inc.

Weyerhaeuser Co.

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Forests and Waters Belong Together

By Jim Finley, Center for Private Forests at Penn State
Reprinted with permission from Forest Leaves, February 2019

Forests and water are inextricably coupled. In Pennsylvania, forests serve many functions that affect both water quantity and quality. Forest soils are especially good at allowing rain and snow melt to move into the soil. This infiltrating water is necessary for recharging subsurface aquifers essential for drinking water supplies. Forest canopies capture, depending on the season, up to 40 percent of rain water and allow it to evaporate back into the atmosphere; thus, helping to mitigate stormwater impacts. And just as we enjoy the shady forests, so do streams, which flow cooler under leafy forest canopies.

The surface waters that flow across our state, as well as our below ground aquifers, belong to us all – they represent the waters of the commonwealth. Our state's Clean Stream Law (P.L. 1987) describes the "Waters of the Commonwealth" as including any and all rivers, streams, creeks, rivulets, impoundments, ditches, water courses, storm sewers, lakes, dammed water, ponds, springs and all other bodies or channels of conveyance of surface and underground water, or parts thereof, whether natural or artificial, within or on the boundaries of this Commonwealth.

Rivers, streams, springs, ponds, and lakes are common across Pennsylvania's landscape. You may not know that Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of rivers and streams ranks it 18th among the states. Considered a different way, Pennsylvania ranks first in the ratio of miles of streams to land area at 1.8. That is nearly 2 miles of surface water flow in every square mile of land! (To learn more about this statistic, visit The Klaber Group at <http://klabergroup.com/insights/?Considering-Water-A-state-by-state-analysis-of-our-relationship-with-waterways-2>).

Clearly, Pennsylvania is a water rich state. We have water for communities, agriculture, industry, and recreation; however, the past couple of years have seen times when we have had too much water. This past summer, in some parts of the state, rainy days seemingly outnumbered sunny ones. Both rain volume and intensity were above average. And, this winter, we've had both snow and rain interchangeably.

Protecting and managing our above and below ground water resources is both a right and responsibility. Every person living and working in Pennsylvania is responsible for protecting water quantity and quality. If you own, manage, or use land, especially forest, the duty to maintain water quality is even higher as much of the water flowing through forested land carries official designations of high value or exceptional quality. This only emphasizes the importance of forest cover to water quality.

In the context of forests and water quality, sediment pollution is one of the most threatening types of pollution. The movement of soil particles into water is the result of soil erosion. Lacking surface disturbance, annual accumulation of leaves and other naturally occurring forest litter protects the underlying soil from rain impact and encourages water infiltration. Anything that disturbs this important soil cover, whether it is logging equipment, ATVs, horses, or even hikers, increases the risk of soil movement, and that sediment can enter streams, wetlands, and other water bodies. Sediment pollution reduces water clarity, affects all aquatic insect, amphibian, and fish life cycles, and can adversely increase water nutrient levels. Reducing sediment pollution is critical to water health.

Take a few minutes and consider how you use forests and how you may witness your impacts on water quality, both large and small. As we extract forest products or harvest trees from forests, there are obvious risks that the resulting "earth disturbance" from skidding and moving logs with heavy machinery will create muddy conditions. Without the use of recognized "best management practices" (BMPs) to protect forest sites and water quality, logging might be a major problem affecting water quality; however, the logging industry has a very good record for protecting the waters of the commonwealth. (To learn more about BMPs, download the publication at <https://extension.psu.edu/best-management-practices-forpennsylvania-forests>).

Less obvious impacts on water quality are some recreational activities such as off-road vehicle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use. Poorly designed riding trails, which often occur without purposeful design considerations and involve frequent stream crossings, can impact streams and wetlands in private woodlands. While the overall amount of disturbed area may seem small compared to a timber harvesting operation, the proximity to streams and involvement of steep slopes can elevate impacts.

(Continued on next page)

PA SFI® Implementation Committee Partners

SIC Partners and their products or services are not SFI certified, but they help to promote sustainable forestry practices throughout Pennsylvania and pledge a contribution annually to the Pennsylvania SIC based on mill production from PA forest resources.

Blue Ox Timber Resources, Inc.
Deer Park Lumber, Inc.
Dwight Lewis Lumber Company, Inc.
Heacock Lumber Company
Hoffman Brothers Lumber, Inc.
JM Wood Products LLC
Lapp Lumber Co.
Lee Brothers Lumber Company
Maple Ridge Forest Products
Mark & Olivia Ott
Matson Lumber Company
Mt. Airy Lumber Co.
Ordie Price's Sawmill, Inc.
Patterson Lumber Company, Inc.
Pine Creek Lumber Co.
Renno Brothers Lumber Co.
Salem Hardwood, Inc.
Soap Stone Sawmill, LLC
Solts's Sawmill, Inc.
Stoltzfus Forest Products
Superior Lumber, Inc.
The Lyme Timber Company
Wheeland Lumber

PA SFI® Implementation Committee Supporters

SIC Supporters and their products and services are not SFI certified, but they help to promote sustainable forestry practices and pledge meaningful contributions to the Pennsylvania SIC.

A.M. Logging, LLC
Allegheny Wood Products, Inc.
Bingaman & Son Lumber Co., Inc.
Brookside Lumber
Brownlee Lumber, Inc.
C & C Smith Lumber Co., Inc.
Charles Brown Forestry Consulting
Cowan Lumber
Cummings Lumber Co, Inc.
Emporium Hardwoods
Frey Lumber & Pallet Corporation
Gessner Logging & Sawmill, Inc.
Horizon Wood Products, Inc.
Kort Forestry
Metzler Forest Products, LLC
Mick Brothers Lumber, Inc.
Mountainside Hardwoods
Noll's Forestry Services
P & S Lumber Company
RAM Forest Products, Inc.
RJ Hoffman & Sons, Inc.
Remmey - The Pallet Company
Reynmil, Inc.
Rorabaugh Lumber Company
St. Marys Lumber Co., Inc.
Sylvandale Forestry
Trumco Forest Products
WBL Hardwoods
W.J. Cox Associates

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As noted earlier, over the past couple of years Pennsylvania has experienced increased rainfall and, in some areas, forest soils struggle to accommodate the volume and intensity of rain events. When poorly designed, constructed, and maintained roads, trails, and stream crossings occur, whether they involve timber harvesting or recreational use, the risks to water quality increase. It behooves us all to protect valuable water resources and to learn how we can protect and ensure adequate water for our future.

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

—Benjamin Franklin, (1706-1790),
Poor Richard's Almanac

SFI Logger Training is Good for Water Quality

For more than 20 years, The Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Professional Timber Harvester Training Program has been teaching loggers how to properly implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality during timber harvesting operations. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee evaluates the success of this training through a report that Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) publishes biennially. Recently, DEP released the 2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/WaterQuality/IntegratedWatersReport/Pages/2018-Integrated-Water-Quality-Report.aspx>). This comprehensive analysis of more than 85,000 miles of the Commonwealth's streams and rivers serves as an important barometer for how well BMPs are being implemented on timber harvesting operations across the state.

The 2018 report identifies 36 classes of impairment sources, of which, "Silviculture" was the identified source for only 7 miles of impaired streams (third lowest source of impairments on the list). This represents a 61% decrease from the 2016 report, and accounts for only 0.04% of the total 17,498 impaired stream miles across Pennsylvania!

Unfortunately, it is much easier for a stream to get on the impaired list, than to get off. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee has been working directly with DEP to reclassify a number of silviculturally impaired stream miles that were added to the report decades ago and are no longer subject to

logging impacts. We were mostly successful, but it is worth noting that of the 7 impaired miles still listed in the 2018 report, 3.5 of them were added in 1998. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will continue working to have these streams re-evaluated and reclassified so that future reports accurately reflect the industry's impact on Pennsylvania's water resources.

These results continue to demonstrate the success of the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program and are a testament to the dedication of all training participants working across the state. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will continue to play a significant role in keeping Pennsylvania's waterways clean, which in turn, will keep added regulatory pressure low. Foresters and landowners can help by requiring that their timber harvests be conducted by an SFI Qualified Logging Professional. Verification is available through our website: www.sfiopa.org/search

PA Office of Attorney General Says Municipal Ordinances Can Not Require Unnecessary E&S Plan Approvals

Numerous complaints have been submitted to the PA Office of Attorney General (OAG) under the ACRE (Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment) law regarding municipal ordinances that govern timber harvesting operations. In several cases the municipal ordinance requires that Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans (E&S Plans) be submitted to and approved by the County Conservation District, even if an environmental permit is not required for the site.

The OAG has stated a clear position on these situations:

DEP's erosion and sediment control regulations do not require an E&S plan to be submitted for review and approval to the Conservation District and the Conservation District has no role in DEP's approving of such plans, thus the Township cannot impose this requirement because it is stricter than State law. 25 Pa. Code § 102.4(b)(8). The Township can require an applicant to provide a copy of the written E&S Plan. We also note that the Township may, at its own expense, submit an applicant's E&S Plan to the Conservation District for review to check compliance with the regulations. What the Township cannot do is require the landowner to get approval from the Conservation District prior to harvesting.

For more information:
www.sfiopa.org/download_link.php?did=35



Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee
748 Gravel Point Rd
Howard, Pennsylvania 16841

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a service of SFI, Inc.

PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

The Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program is geared towards commercial timber harvesters; however, it is open to any individual interested in participating. Courses are offered in the spring (mid-March through mid-May) and the fall (mid-September through mid-November) at locations across Pennsylvania each year.

Learn more:

www.sfiopa.org/requirements

Register for classes:

www.sfiopa.org/register

Find SFI Qualified Logging Professionals or review your training records:

www.sfiopa.org/search



[Facebook.com/PennsylvaniaSIC](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaSIC)

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

Workers Compensation Survey

Pennsylvania's workers' compensation rates are among the highest in the country. Through recent discussions at the Hardwoods Development Council (HDC), state Labor & Industry staff, insurance rating board staff, insurance representatives and others, it is clear there is a need for a new approach to insuring Pennsylvania loggers and other forest workers.

For two years the HDC, the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG), and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) have been studying options to develop a Workers' Compensation program in Pennsylvania.

The Council has proposed developing a public/private pool of funds over a three year period that would offset the cost for Pennsylvania loggers to participate in the State Workers Insurance Fund (SWIF) that would be at a subsidized rate. The Council is hoping the program may cost somewhere between 20-30 cents/

\$1.00 in the first year. Over the course of the three years, they hope that participation will increase and costs to participants will decrease so that a private insurer would successfully bid for the program and continue it in a way similar to New York State.

In order to move forward with this proposal it is important to have real numbers from Pennsylvania loggers about the program and possible participation. If there is no support it is doubtful the funding would become available. Therefore, the Council is asking that all Pennsylvania loggers complete a survey, if you have not done so already, and return it to Wayne Bender at the Hardwoods Development Council (contact information is included on the survey form).

The survey is available online at: <http://www.sfiopa.org/pdf.php?id=88> or can be requested by contacting the Hardwoods Development Council: (717) 772-3715; dbender@pa.gov



Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee

Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

2019 Fall Training Schedule

SAVE TIME, REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.sfiopa.org/register

To avoid course cancellations, pre-registration and payment for all classes is required by the registration deadline. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis

CORE TRAINING

Individuals must complete *Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials*, *Game of Logging - Level 1*, and provide proof of current *First Aid & CPR* certification within a 2-year period to be considered an SFI Qualified Logging Professional. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements at: www.sfiopa.org/requirements.

- **Basic First Aid & Adult CPR does NOT qualify for continuing education credit**
- *Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials and/or Game of Logging - Level 1 can be taken for CE Credit, IF you have not already completed the training in the last 5 years*

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost ❖	Register By
09/18/19	Wed 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Marienville (Forest County)	\$ 85.00	09/11/2019
09/19/19	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Titusville (Venango County)	\$ 95.00	09/12/2019
10/02/19	Wed 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Harrisburg (Dauphin County)	\$ 85.00	09/25/2019
10/03/19	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Tremont (Schuylkill County)	\$ 95.00	09/26/2019
10/08/19	Tues 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Jamison City (Columbia County)	\$ 85.00	10/01/2019
11/05/19	Tues 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 95.00	10/29/2019
11/06/19	Wed 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Penfield (Clearfield County)	\$ 85.00	10/30/2019
11/12/19	Tues 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)	James Creek (Huntingdon County)	\$ 95.00	11/05/2019
11/13/19	Wed 8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Huntingdon (Huntingdon County)	\$ 85.00	11/06/2019

- ❖ Employees insured through Eastern Forestry Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your registration form.
- ❖ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact NTHA at (570) 265-7753.

CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of training completed. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements at: www.sfiopa.org/requirements.

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost ❖	Register By
09/16/19	Mon 8:00 AM	GPS for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)	Galeton (Potter County)	\$ 30.00	09/09/2019
10/10/19	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 2 (8 hours)	Tremont (Schuylkill County)	\$ 95.00	10/03/2019
10/11/19	Fri 8:00 AM	Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)	Lewistown (Mifflin County)	\$ 95.00	10/04/2019
10/12/19	Sat 8:00 AM	Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)	Lewistown (Mifflin County)	\$ 95.00	10/05/2019
10/13/19	Sun 8:00 AM	Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)	Curwensville (Clearfield County)	\$ 95.00	10/06/2019
10/17/19	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 3 (8 hours)	Laughlontown (Westmoreland County)	\$ 95.00	10/10/2019
10/18/19	Fri 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 4 (8 hours)	Laughlontown (Westmoreland County)	\$ 95.00	10/11/2019
10/23/19	Wed 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 2 (8 hours)	McConnellsburg (Fulton County)	\$ 95.00	10/16/2019
10/24/19	Thurs 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 3 (8 hours)	McConnellsburg (Fulton County)	\$ 95.00	10/17/2019
10/25/19	Fri 7:30 AM	Game of Logging - Level 4 (8 hours)	McConnellsburg (Fulton County)	\$ 95.00	10/18/2019
10/29/19	Tues 8:00 AM	Forest Health Update (4 hours)	Laporte (Sullivan County)	\$ 30.00	10/22/2019
10/30/19	Fri 8:00 AM	Valuing standing timber (8 hours)	Portersville (Butler County)	\$ 30.00	10/23/2019
11/05/19	Tues 8:00 AM	Sustainable Timber Harvesting (8 hours)	Aristes (Columbia County)	\$ 30.00	10/29/2019
11/08/19	Fri 12:00 PM	PA Species of Greatest Conservation Need (4 hours)	Marienville (Forest County)	\$ 30.00	11/01/2019
11/12/19	Tues 8:00 AM	Erosion Control in Our Forests (4 hours)	Reading (Berks County)	\$ 20.00	11/05/2019

- ❖ Employees insured through Eastern Forestry Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your registration form.
- ❖ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact NTHA at 570-265-7753.

OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

Additional training opportunities are available through numerous organizations across Pennsylvania and adjoining states. Training courses taken from other sources may qualify for PA SFI core or continuing education credit, provided the subject of the course is relevant to the SFI program, and if some legitimate form of documentation is provided to the PA SIC office for proof of content and attendance. Outside credits are subject to all Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program Policy requirements. To submit Non-PA SFI training credits please fill out a copy of the Non-PA SFI Course Credit Form (available on our website under "Forms" section or by contacting the PA SIC office) and send it to the PA SIC office with all necessary paperwork and a check for \$20 made payable to the "PA SFI Implementation Committee" for administrative costs. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements.

The PA SIC maintains a listing of all pre-approved Non-PA SFI CE training courses that we have been made aware of. It can be found on our website: <http://sfiopa.blogspot.com>

Visit www.sfiopa.org/register for additional details and the most current training schedule. Programs may be added or cancelled at any time.
For additional information, please contact the PA SFI® Implementation Committee at: (814) 230-2866, or mark@sfiopa.org

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee

Professional Timber Harvester Training program

2019 Fall Course Registration Form

SAVE TIME, REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.sfiopa.org/register

- Registration fees are **non-refundable and non-transferrable** after the course registration deadline if the course is held and you do not attend.
- Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Your space in a course will not be reserved until the registration fee is paid. Please do not delay in making payment or your space could be given to another participant.
- Courses may be cancelled if a minimum number of students are not registered by the registration deadline. Please register on time.
- For a full description of the Training Program Policies, please visit www.sfiopa.org/requirements or contact the PA SIC office.

ATTENDEE	COURSE DATE	COURSE NAME	COURSE LOCATION	COST
(Please Print Clearly / One Course Participant Per Form)				
Name: (Full First, Middle Initial, Last)				
Home Mailing Address:				
Home or Cell Phone: () _____ - _____				
Email:				
Occupation (circle one): • Forester • Logger-owner • Logger-employee • Landowner • Office personnel • Truck driver • Other _____	Make checks payable to: "Pennsylvania SIC" Mail to: PA SFI Implementation Committee 748 Gravel Point Road Howard, PA 16841		Total Amount Enclosed:	
Class location and additional information will be sent to you when we receive your registration and payment				

2019 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE TRAINING:

Required to receive a PA SFI® Professional Timber Harvester Training Card. All 3 requirements must be completed (in any order) within 2 years.

- **Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)** - Covers general safety considerations, chainsaw safety, logging equipment safety (harvesters, loaders, skidders, etc.), trucking safety and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards that apply to timber harvesting and related activities. Also covers pertinent aspects of Pennsylvania's Clean Streams laws and other water resource protection regulations, Best Management Practices (BMPs), hazardous material control, and logging aesthetics. If you have not taken Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials within the last five (5) years, you can attend the class for continuing education credit.
- **Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)** - Focuses on introducing the participant to the "open face" felling technique and the development of skills to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. Participants need safety equipment (hard hat, chaps, eye protection, ear protection, and sturdy boots), water, lunch, and should be prepared to spend the day outside (rain or shine). Participants are not required to provide their own chainsaw. If you have not taken Game of Logging – Level 1 within the last five (5) years, you can attend GOL-1 for continuing education credit.
- **First Aid & CPR (4 hours)** - Because timber harvesting is a hazardous occupation, OSHA regulations require that everyone who works in the woods maintain current First Aid & CPR training from a provider who can issue a certificate or a card as documentation of hands on training (i.e. no online certifications will be accepted). Individuals do not need to complete this training through the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program; however, they must provide proof of First Aid & CPR certification to receive their initial training card (we cannot accept the MSHA 5000-23 form as satisfaction of this requirement). Course duration varies by instructor. DOES NOT COUNT FOR CE CREDIT.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE):

One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of CE training completed. CE credits can only extend your card date a maximum of three (3) years from the current calendar year. CE credit will not be awarded for taking the same class more than once in a five (5) year period.

- **Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)** - Geared to prepare firefighters, EMS personnel, foresters, and loggers in taking action to reduce severity of injury and increase the chance of survival during a logging accident, this program teaches all participants how to handle an "in woods" rescue from the time a person has not arrived home until they are transported to a Level-1 Trauma Center
- **Erosion Control in Our Forests (4 hours)** - This workshop discusses Pennsylvania's environmental regulatory requirements (chapters 93, 102, & 105 of PA Code). It discusses planning before the harvest, stream crossings, best management practices, reading E&S plans, and other considerations during and after the timber harvest.
- **Forest Health Update (4 hours)** - This course will provide timber harvesters with an update on the issues and controls for invasives, forest disease and pests, and deer impacts. There will also be information related to the Spotted Lanternfly as well. Topics will be presented by experts from Penn State Extension and the PA Bureau of Forestry
- **Game of Logging (8 hours, each Level)** - These courses cover chainsaw safety and safe/efficient harvesting techniques. They MUST be taken in order. Level 1 (see description under Core Training section). **Level 2** focuses on saw maintenance, chain sharpening techniques, releasing spring poles safely, and directional tree felling. **Level 3** focuses on handling difficult trees. Topics covered include limbing, wedging techniques and hinge placement. This training is conducted in the field. **Level 4** focuses on ways to maximize a harvest plan for safety and productivity. Felling is practiced at working speed using all the techniques from previous levels.
- **GPS for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)** - Participants learn the fundamentals of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and its application to forest management. This course teaches how an inexpensive, recreational GPS unit and a personal computer can be used to determine tract acreage and boundary length, skid trail/haul road layout, distance and grade, mapping special features, and navigating tracts in unfamiliar areas.
- **PA Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (4 hours)** - A comprehensive course on Pennsylvania wildlife that are at risk for a variety of reasons. Causes for population declines and restoration efforts for several species will be highlighted. Up-to-date information on the status of state and federal threatened endangered species and potential impacts on timber harvesting will be included.
- **Sustainable Timber Harvesting (8 hours)** - How do you know that a timber harvest is "sustainable"? What are the consequences of high-grading and diameter limit cuts? This course covers the elements of sustainable harvesting practices and how to assess a stand. It focuses on the forest that remains as a result of the harvest.
- **Valuing Standing Timber (8 hours)** - How do you estimate the volume and value of timber being sold on a given forest tract? This workshop teaches the methods by which reasonable estimates of timber volumes and values can be obtained. The tools and correct tree measurement methods will be covered. The workshop will show how to tally trees and create usable summaries of species, volume, and value. Involves both classroom and hands-on field exercises.

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