



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 PFPA ACTIVITIES



Members of Pennsylvania Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs posed with Governor Tom Wolf in October, after presenting the task force report to him. The Governor is holding a guitar that was presented that day to the PA Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council by Martin Guitars. The guitar will be used in the WoodMobile.



PFPA Executive Director Paul Lyskava presented a \$1,000 check to support the completion of the Penn College Forest Technology kiln. Also in the photo are Penn College faculty Eric Easton, and Debbie Miller, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.



Kane Hardwoods Manager Burt Craig (red shirt and jeans) explains the benefits of marketing veneer logs to members of the DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council. This was part of a day in September in which the group toured forestry, sawmill and papermill operations hosted by PFPA Executive Director Paul Lyskava and Kane Hardwoods Resource Manager Dave Trimpey, who both also serve on this advisory committee.



Participants in the March 2016 pheasant hunt sponsored by PFPA and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association that supported the Log a Load for Kids and Pennsylvania's five Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Nearly \$8,700 was raised in 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 PFFA ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)



Bob Shields of Bingaman and Son Lumber Company and Cal DuBrock, Penn State Goddard Chair in Forestry and faculty member get together at the PFFA Legislative Event in April 2016.



State Representative Matt Gabler (R-Elk) poses in the Dwight Lewis Lumber truck, which was at the Pennsylvania WoodMobile exhibit at the 2016 PA Farm Show in January 2016. PFFA Directors and staff took Rep. Gabler on a tour of the Farm Show.

- ❦ PFFA supported a state tax bill approved as part of the 2016-2017 State Budget, which included provisions to expand the current agricultural sales tax exemption to include equipment and material used in commercial timber operations. This provision will go into effect July 1, 2017. The definition includes ‘All operations prior to the transport of the harvested product necessary for removal of timber and forest products from the site, in-field processing of trees into logs or chips, complying with environmental protection and safety requirements applicable to the harvest of forest products, loading of forest products onto highway vehicles for transport to storage or processing facilities and post-harvest site reclamation, including those activities necessary to improve timber growth or ensure natural or direct reforestation of the site.’
- ❦ PFFA supported the 2016-17 State Budget passed by the legislature in July, which included a ten percent increase for the Hardwoods Development Council, expanding its line item to \$385,000.
- ❦ The state fiscal code for 2016-17 includes a provision to expand the payment in lieu of taxes on most state forest lands from the current \$3.60/ac to \$6.00/ac beginning on July 1, 2017. This was supported by PFFA.
- ❦ The conflict between the General Assembly and Governor continued for more than ten months past the due date for the July 1, 2015 State Budget. In the end, the Governor agreed to release the full amount of the \$350,000 that was approved for the HDC. PFFA continued to support funding for the Hardwood line item.
- ❦ PFFA continued to oppose the creation of a gas severance tax which could include additional taxation on timber harvesting.
- ❦ The Legislature created a Forestry Task Force in the Joint Conservation Committee to explore the impacts of the DCNR State Forest Management Plan; the impacts of invasive forest pests; the relationship between industry and municipalities; and the decline of timber harvesters in the state. This report has not yet been released.
- ❦ Legislation to amend the state’s Clean and Green Program was approved and signed by the Governor in July, which would ensure that the values for Clean and Green forest and ag lands did not exceed the assessed values of the land, if enrolled in Clean and Green.
- ❦ PFFA secured resolutions in state Senate and House in October, celebrating the National Forest Products Week.
- ❦ DCNR released the State Forest Resource Management Plan. The 230 page document outlines the administration of forestry and recreation on the State Forest System. The annual harvest goal is 14,776 ac. It also expanded the maximum regeneration harvest size from 75 acres to 125 acres.
- ❦ Governor’s Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs Report was released in October. This document included 15 major policy recommendations on job creation, conservation and workforce development. A summary of these recommendations is listed at the end of these highlights.
- ❦ We have been working with the Forest Service, DCNR, and Department of Agriculture on expanding timber production on ANF. Part of this will require a revision to the DCNR statute to allow for state money to be used on the ANF.
- ❦ PFFA continues to represent the industry in Harrisburg, by serving on more than a dozen state agency advisory committees. PFFA staff also participated in 10 of 13 meetings on the SFRMP and 26 meetings on the Governor’s Task Force.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 PFFPA ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

-  The PA WoodMobile continues to shine. In October, the WoodMobile spent a week in the inner cities across the state in promotion of the National Forest Products Week. In 2016, the new WoodMobile has participated in 94 events over the course of 140 days in 43 counties, with a total attendance of 91,070. This includes 11,104 students and teachers. Since the program's inception more than 1.57 million participants have visited the Pa WoodMobile, including more than 173,000 students.
-  PFFPA is working with the DCNR and the Department of Agriculture to address continuing invasive pest issues.
-  PFFPA continues to work against proposals that would harm its members with additional regulation or taxation.
-  PFFPA raised and distributed more than \$8,672 for the Log a Load for Kids program. The funds were distributed to the five Children's Miracle Network hospitals in Pennsylvania.
-  PFFPA hosted seven regional meetings, with 162 members and others attending.

Green Ribbon Task Force Report Reveals Top 5 Issues

The Pennsylvania Green Ribbon Task Force was put together by DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn with the blessing of Governor Tom Wolf. The team of 36 task force members was assembled with members from the forest products industry, academia, nonprofits, and government agencies. The team met from January through June. The report was released at the end of October.

Most of the recommendations will need added money or legislation in order to be implemented.

The top five forest conservation sustainability recommendations:

- 1) Adopt a statewide forest conservation easement to conserve privately owned forestland while preserving access for sustainable timbering and other forest-dependent activities that support good jobs.
- 2) Establish a carbon offset program to attract a pool of voluntary contributions to finance forest conservation.
- 3) Revise the current state Clean and Green Program and the current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program to better support forest communities and ensure forest is comparable with other needs.
- 4) Provide additional funding to combat invasive plant and pest damage and adopt a plant labeling program to ensure that consumers don't inadvertently contribute to the spread of invasive species.
- 5) Adopt legislation and identify funding to enable DCNR to assist the US Forest Service in increasing management activities on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF).

The top five workforce development and jobs recommendations:

- 1) Adopt legislation to exempt loggers from PennDOT road-bonding requirements, age-related workplace restrictions, and other benefits available to those in the traditional agriculture industry.
- 2) Expand safety and other training to encourage insurance companies to lower worker's compensation rates for forest industry workers, or find workable models that could be used in Pennsylvania.
- 3) Broaden recruitment efforts to attract students already interested in technology, machinery, other in-demand occupations and forestry careers.
- 4) Develop more formal and informal pipelines between industry and schools through internship, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships.
- 5) Broaden discussion and the inclusion of forestry and forest occupations in formal and informal K-12 education, including FFA, 4-H, Envirothon, Boy and Girls Scouts and children's literature.

The top economic development and products recommendations:

- 1) Increase sustainable staff and funding for the Hardwood Development Council to expand its work on many of the recommendations included here.
- 2) Create a PA Hardwood Stands for Quality slogan and marketing campaign to promote Pennsylvania hardwoods.
- 3) Conduct forest tours and develop demonstration areas to showcase best practices in forest management on federal, state and private forestland.
- 4) Conduct a comprehensive study to quantify and document the values of Pennsylvania forests.
- 5) Expand public awareness and education efforts to promote the importance of forests to clean water.