

Highlights of 2019 PFPA Activities



- PFPA supported the 2019-20 State Budget passed by the Legislature in June, which included a funding increase of \$50,000 for the Hardwoods Development Council, increasing this line item to \$484,000.
- PFPA continued to oppose the creation of a gas severance tax, which could include additional taxation on timber harvesting.
- PFPA continues to work with DCNR and other numerous entities on the issues addressed by the Forestry Task Force in the Joint Conservation Committee. Among them are 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.
- PFPA continues to advocate for implementation of the recommendations contained in the Governor's Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs, which was released in October 2016. This document included major policy recommendations on job creation, conservation and workforce development. In 2019, PFPA participated in several Task Force meetings where there were discussions about conservation easements, workers compensation and other issues. No official action was taken.
- PFPA worked with the Forest Service, DCNR, and Department of Agriculture on expanding timber production on the ANF. In June 2017, legislation was passed that would enable the State of Pennsylvania to enter into a Good Neighbor Agreement with the US Forest Service regarding the Allegheny National Forest. PFPA continues to work on this in collaboration with the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG).
- PFPA continues to represent the industry in Harrisburg, by serving on numerous state agency advisory committees and being very vocal on behalf of the PFPA membership.
- PFPA raised more than \$23,000 for the Log a Load for Kids program, which was distributed to the five Children's Miracle Network hospitals in Pennsylvania.
- PFPA held its Annual Day on the Hill and Legislative Reception in April 2019. At the legislative reception, PFPA members met with senators, representatives, state agency staff personnel, senior legislative staff members and guests from academia and other associations. The following day, members of PFPA made visits to different lawmakers on the hill, including the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the House, numerous other legislative leaders and PFPA members' legislators.
- The PA WoodMobile continues to serve as an ambassador for our industry, educating children and adults alike. In 2019, the WoodMobile participated in 84 events over the course of 127 days in 39 counties, with a total attendance of more than 90,000. Other than the 48 school related events, some of the other notable events in which the WoodMobile participated in 2019 were the Farm Show, the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show, Timber 2019, and Ag Progress Days. Since the program's inception in 2002, more than 1.83 million participants have visited the PA WoodMobile, including more than 215,000 students and teachers.
- PFPA is working with the DCNR and the Department of Agriculture to address continuing invasive pest issues, most importantly the Spotted Lanternfly. PFPA continues its attempts to secure federal and state funding in addition to the \$16 million in Federal funding received in 2018.
- PFPA continues to work against proposals that would harm its members with additional regulations or taxation.

For more information, contact Bob Long at the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, 570-506-7250 or email: blong@paforestproducts.org. Visit our website www.paforestproducts.org.