



NTHA

Northern Tier Hardwood Association

NORTHERN TIER HARDWOOD ASSOCIATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR NTHA

DECEMBER 2011

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

We are all familiar with the old question “Does a tree falling in the forest makes any sound if no one is there to hear the tree fall?” NTHA is here to speak on behalf of the forest products industry and forest landowners to make sure that the public and our legislators hear the sound of the issues threatening the future of our forests.

We continue to represent the interests of loggers, mills, foresters, and forest landowners in the face of issues such as the equitable cobonding of roads and the recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. *This ruling treats runoff from forest roads as point source pollution, which means that it would be treated the same as industrial pollution under the Federal Clean Water Act. If this decision stands, every ditch and culvert on every logging road must have a discharge permit. This permitting process would result in economic loss for the forest products industry, DCNR and private forest landowners across the state.*

Your membership is important in being “A Voice that is Heard!”

MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED!

As of October 31, 2011, NTHA membership includes 93 companies, individuals and organizations. In October 2010 NTHA had 66 members. Thank you for being a part.

We offer a special thanks to Insurance companies who are NTHA members; W.J Cox Associates, Henry Dunn Inc., CA Thrush, Parente Randolph LLC, and Tim Franklin Insurance.

2011 Member of the Year

During the annual meeting, the NTHA board awarded Jeff Nichols the 2011 “Member of the Year Award” for dedicated leadership he has shown supporting the Northern Tier Hardwood Association and the forest products industry. Jeff has earned respect for his advocacy on behalf of the forest industry, his love of the forest and his integrity. Jeff is a passionate advocate on behalf of the forest products industry as well as sustainable forest management practices. Since 2005, Jeff has served on the NTHA board, helping to shape and expand the influence of NTHA in our region, and is currently the board president. The head buyer for Deer Park Lumber, Jeff “keeps showing up,” a phrase with which he often exhorts others. His dedicated leadership has benefited the forest products industry across our area. Like many who spend their lives benefiting from the bounty of our forests, Jeff loves to spend time in the woods. “It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so



wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.” ~Robert Louis Stevenson. Jeff has stated that it would take a man at least 150 years to figure out a forest. The Northern Tier Hardwood Association is honored to have such a man on our board. Jeff is pictured holding the award, a wooden clock made from Pennsylvania certified cherry. Thank you, Jeff.

2011 “Challenging Year”

2011, “Challenging Year” is probably an honest appraisal of the business climate and the actual climate (it’s as wet as I’ve seen it!) as we have experienced it this year. Currently, overall demand for wood products tends to be low, although the weather has kept supplies extremely thin throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and the eastern part of the country. In this pattern, cold weather is our only hope in shoring up log/wood supplies for forest products companies. Granted, markets have been tough and challenging but many loggers have suffered from rain shortened work weeks and a general lack of production. In the meanwhile, fuel costs and the price of parts and equipment continue to escalate. The truth is a dollar isn’t nearly worth a dollar anymore just try to buy tires, saw chains, fuel or parts and lubricants of any kind and you know what I mean. With all of this working against us, it is easy to get discouraged and disappointed. This is a tough business, luckily we have people in our business who understand adversity, adapt and persevere. For many the short view is tough – there isn’t nearly enough to make the business go. On the other hand, the long view gives us a chance for hope and optimism. Our industry is fortunate to have access to a sustainable resource where we grow nearly 3 times as much wood as we harvest. We have a skilled work force with a powerful work ethic. We have access to a transportation infrastructure that allows us to compete globally as well as domestically. We have a state government for the most part who understands how important our industry is to the economic well being of its residents and the forest resource in which we live and work. North American hardwoods are well positioned in the world’s wood basket because of our diverse and unique species mix, overall sustainability and exceptional quality. All of us in business have been through a difficult time where we have had to become smarter, more efficient at what we do. We need to continue to improve efficiencies and do the next right thing – work and hope for a better tomorrow. ~ Jeff Nichols, NTHA President



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NTHA is a non-profit organization serving the wood industry and its supporters throughout Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming counties of Pennsylvania.

A Tree Stump Vise

This idea came through Kevin Snyder, the Game of Logging instructor for Pennsylvania. Here's how to make one, as long as your chain saw is already working and sharp!

1. Whack off a tree at a convenient height, about two feet or so.
2. Cut straight down from the middle to 6" or so from the ground
3. About 3" down from the top of the vertical cut, make several cut bores to open up a big slot. This enables the chain saw bar to be held while turning the chain to sharpen.
4. Cut two slices off the top at an angle leaving about 3" across the middle.
5. Make a cut parallel to the ground towards the bottom of the vertical cut, leaving a hinge
6. Place chain saw bar in slot, so chain can turn freely
7. Insert a felling wedge in bottom slot and pound in till saw bar is held tight.
8. Go to work on your saw!



Annual Dinner Meeting

On November 3, 2011, the Northern Tier Hardwood Association held its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Shadowbrook Resort in Tunkhannock. Roughly 45 members and their guests shared an evening of conversation and delicious food. During the "Meet and Greet" time, State Representatives Sandra Major and Karen Boback dropped in to show their support for the forest industry and NTHA. We are grateful for their knowledge of issues and their support of our association. Jeff Nichols was awarded the Member of the Year Award, a cherry clock, for his years of service on the NTHA board. Leslie Bresee spoke of improving profitability in any endeavor by enhancing the quality of relationships with employees, coworkers and family.

Scholarships

It's time to start thinking about scholarships for those attending college next fall. NTHA awards scholarships each spring as a way of investing in the future of our forest industry. The scholarships are available to students pursuing post-secondary education in forest resources or another field closely related to a career in the forest products industry. The application is on the NTHA website, www.nthardwoods.org.