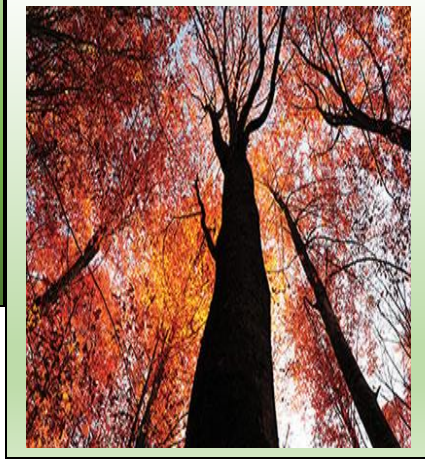


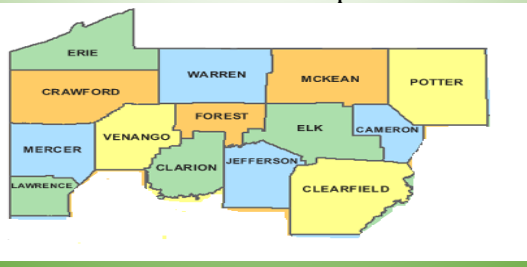
Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group
Annual Grant Report, “2021-2022 Highlights”
 prepared for
Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council
 by
Amy Shields, AHUG Executive Director



ABOUT US

Founded in 1984, AHUG is a non-profit forest industry association dedicated to promoting an environment that is beneficial and attractive to the forest products industry, encouraging both the expansion of existing operations and the interest of additional forest management, primary, secondary and bi-products producers - creating jobs that support the continued health of the forests and the rural communities of Pennsylvania, with specific emphasis on the 14 counties of the Northwest and North Central region. In accomplishing this mission, AHUG’s efforts remain focused on:

- Marketing & Promotion
- Public Education & Outreach
- Industry ED, WFD & Training
- Industry Representation
- Research & Development



AHUG led in a joint effort to produce **PA Hardwood Species Sample Kits** for distribution to architects, designers, and builders to demonstrate the quality & characteristics of PA’s 11 primary hardwood species.

This \$10K project was funded by a 50% PA Ag Promo Grant. 100 Sample kits were produced by Hawk Ridge Trading (Elk Co) from lumber donated by Emporium Hdw & Bingaman Lumber.

Marketing & Promotion



Learn more at RealAmericanHardwood.org.



AHUG proudly serves on the BOD, Finance/Funding & Strategic Planning Committees of this vital US consumer marketing effort – attending 4 state/national events in ‘21/’22 to provide RAHC progress updates. RAH achievements for this program year include securing more than \$500k in industry financial support, selection of Canvas United (“Got Milk”) to lead creation of the Consumer Website, social media and Influencer campaign components, exploration of federal funding opportunities and strategic planning efforts.



In addition to industry promotion activities like the **PA Farm Show** and **Ag Progress Days**, publication of our quarterly online newsletter, “**Dimensions**”, and building our social media following (**#PAWORKINGFORESTSWORK**), AHUG was honored to join Jessica Hickman (Allegheny Mountain Hardwood Flooring) in promoting Pennsylvania’s sustainably produced, high quality forest products during two “**American Hardwood Advisors**” podcasts, hosted by Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods of Canfield, OH (check them out on YouTube!).



AHUG is a principal source for Working Forest, Wood Products & Forest Industry Career Public Education & Outreach in the Allegheny region!



Meet Jody Groshek

AHUG Education & Outreach Coordinator

AHUG was thrilled to add a new member to the team in February '22, with the hiring of PT Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jody Groshek! With a bachelor's degree from PSU College of Ag Science and previous work with the McKean County Conservation District, Penn State Ext & Smethport Elementary School, Jody has over 17 years of experience in developing & delivering natural resource education to both students and adults.

As an Advisor to the PA Envirothon, Jody secured participation of the Woodmobile (AHUG & KWPA, too!) in the 2022 State Envirothon Finals, providing the opportunity to share our messaging with 500+ students, teachers, coaches,

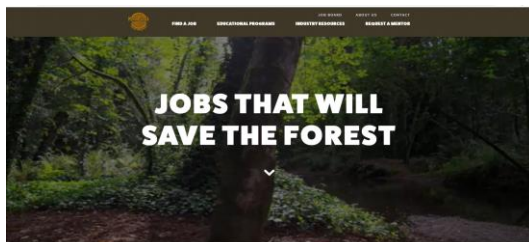


AHUG partnered with the **Sandy Cochran Memorial Scholarship Program** in awarding 4 scholarships to regional students pursuing forestry, ecology & environmental degrees.

AHUG hosted / participated in more than **40 public education & outreach events** in '21/'22, interacting with more than **3,500 students, teachers** and members of the public, across **8 counties and 2 state-wide events.**

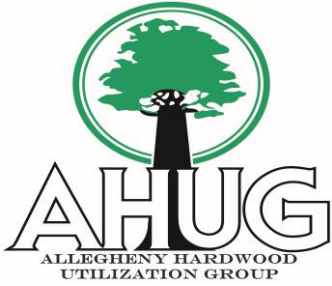
- Elementary PLT's
- Career Fairs (JH/HS/+HS)
- Mock Interviews
- Manufacturing Day
- Earth/Conservation Day
- Logs To Lumber
- LumberJack Festival
- P-Burgh Home & Garden
- Envirothon
- Rethinking Ed Virtual
- GSA/STEAM Camp
- Industry Tours

AHUG promotes **paforestcareers.com** as a career exploration tool for students, and to industry and job seekers – through demonstrations, newsletter and sm posts.



AHUG provides connection, comment & content for important educational initiatives, such as:

- Comments on the effort to integrate PA Science & Technology and Environment & Ecology Standards.
- Connections to "industry legends" for Lumber Heritage Region's "Sawmill Video History" project.
- Presented "Environmental Impacts of PA Forest Products Industry – Past & Present" for LHR Boom / Bust Series
- Content development for "Interpretive Agricultural Education Center at Wilds Sonshine Factory"

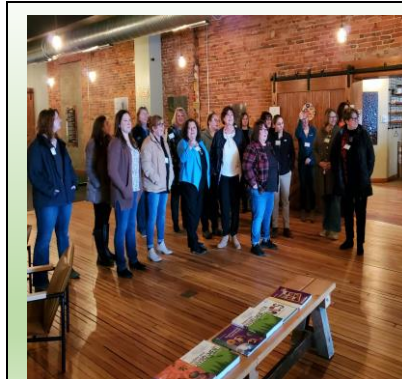


Promoting continuous improvement of the hardwood sector and its influencing factors through Industry Outreach, WFD / ED & Training

AHUG Hosts Networking Event for Regional Hardwood Industry

More than 60 hardwood industry professionals, government agencies, legislators and partnering organizations gathered in Elk County in Oct '21 to take part in a valuable exchange of information on issues relevant to the forest products community.

The event included program updates from AHUG and several of their partnering organizations, including the PA Hardwoods Development Council, the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the PA Forest Products Association and the Allegheny Forest Alliance. An outreach presentation from Workforce Solutions for North Central PA was followed by timber program updates from DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, the PA Game Commission and the Allegheny National Forest. An educational overview of the Family Forest Carbon Program rounded out the agenda.



NHLA in PA

In effort to address the shortage of qualified lumber inspectors in PA, AHUG leads a multi-partner \$49,250 Specialty Crop project to host 8-week NHLA grading course at reduced cost, and with less time and travel than required for training in TN. This project provides 50% reimbursement of tuition for 25 PA participants. Course was held in Clearfield from 6/1 - 7/29/22, with 12 participants (9 PA/6 Co). Interest remains high, so plans are underway to offer in Summer '23, in Venango Cty

Highlights of AHUG's '21/'22 Industry Outreach, WFD / ED & Training Include:

- Assisted SFI of PA in arranging multiple 1st Aid/CPR sessions & Advanced Logger Rescue
- Women In Timber Luncheon, featuring Jean Devlin and Project Learning Tree
- Kane Area Logging Safety Committee hosts more than 150 at Rural Rescue Logger Training
- AFHC / AHUG host nearly 50 legislators and industry for Forest Tour & Forest Industry Issues Hearing
- Exploration of Philaport with Holt Logistics & Ecolab in support of increased forest products utilization



Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group
Supports Research & Development
&
Provides critical industry representation on various boards and initiatives that impact the lives and livelihoods of forest products community

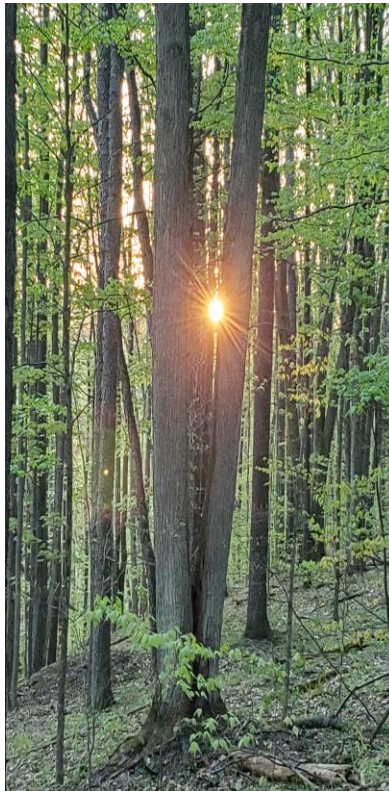


Examining the Extent, Severity and Potential Causes of Increased Birch Regeneration

AHUG partnered with USFS Northern Research Station, AFHC, HDC & University of MO on a \$25,000 Specialty Crop project to examine birch seedling dynamics over 5-20 years at multiple spatial resolutions within PA, including by state, ecoregion and forest type, with the goal of understanding where, how much, and why birch is increasing in PA. Results will be used to assist forest managers in tailoring decisions for sustainable silviculture.

All work completed, with resulting management implications:

- Reduce birch seed source well in advance of final regeneration harvests.
- Minimize soil disturbance when making regeneration harvests.
- Take special care to create conditions that favor more desirable species - PO, SM, Oak, PO when regenerating stands that are at risk of black birch dominance.



INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

- Hardwoods Development Council
- SFI State Implementation Committee, providing coordination and support for the efforts of the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Northern PA Regional College
- North Central Regional Planning/Development's PREP Network
- Lumber Heritage Region
- PSU Ag Advisory Board
- TEAM Pennsylvania's Ag Advisory Board
- Allegheny Forest Alliance
- Roach Bauer Forestry Forum / Sandy Cochran Memorial Scholarship Committee




Wood Hicks & Bark Peelers
 A glimpse into the lumber history of North Central Pennsylvania

LHR
 Lumber Heritage Region

"Discovered in a shed in upstate New York after decades of obscurity, over 130 glass plates containing photographic negatives of photographer William T. Clarke capture the logging and lumbering industries of North Central Pennsylvania in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The photos depict the great forests in the process of coming down, the trains that hauled the felled trees, the workers and their families, and the camps and communities in which they lived.

Cruisers, jobbers, skidders, teamsters, carpenters, swampers, camp cooks, wood hicks and bark peelers. Their work was demanding and dangerous, their work sites and housing were unsanitary and unsavory. They served the needs of a rapidly growing and globalizing country, and their work altered the forests of the state's northern tier."



AHUG would like to thank the Board and Staff of the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council for their continued support. We'd also like to acknowledge our sister "HUGS", KWPA and NTHA, along with partnering organizations like PFPA, SFI of PA, PFA, PSU Ext, DCNR, PAGC, & ANF, with whom we work daily in serving the needs of the Pennsylvania forest products industry.

