

## Susan Swanson Memorial Internship Opportunity – Summer 2024

The Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG) is a non-profit forest industry association, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and private industry, committed to promoting the long-term economic growth and development of the forest and wood products industry of Northwest and North Central PA. In accomplishing our mission, AHUG's efforts are focused on promotion of the industry and its products; encouraging sustainable, science-based management of our region's natural resource assets; providing industry representation, outreach and training; providing career awareness and public education programming; and providing support for hardwood research and development.



**Susan Swanson**



Susan Swanson was a lifelong resident of the McKean County, PA and was involved in Pennsylvania's hardwood industry for over 40 years. She began her career by providing administrative support to her husband's logging business, then moving to AHUG as an Administrative Assistant before taking over as the Executive Director in 1997. Under Susan's leadership, AHUG fostered a reputation for being the "go-to" organization in the Allegheny region on issues involving the hardwood industry, partnering with other agencies and organizations to tackle topics ranging from natural resource access to workforce and economic development. She forged strong working relationships on the local, state and national level that helped to save jobs and bolster the economic prosperity of the Allegheny region hardwood industry. Susan was as comfortable talking politics in Washington DC as she was spending a day in the woods with school students.

AHUG seeks to provide an internship opportunity for a 10-week program in 2024 (May 20 – July 26). The selected candidate will operate from the central hub of the AHUG office in Kane, PA, working on a statewide environmental education project and a landscape invasive species project, while also spending time in the field networking and performing duties alongside assigned mentors (to be selected from AHUG partners in forestry, land management, logging/harvest operations, sawmilling, secondary and by-products manufacturing, economic development, promotion, state government and industry advocacy).

The goal of the Susan Swanson Memorial Internship is to develop the future leaders and entrepreneurs of the Pennsylvania forest and wood products industry by providing an immersive experience into the dynamics of the region's natural resource and hardwood industry sectors, and the efforts to provide advocacy, promotion, education and economic development services in support of its continued growth.

### Eligibility:

- Candidate must be a current PA resident enrolled in a post-secondary education program involving forestry; wood/forest products; ecosystem, natural resource, habitat or environmental management; environmental law, public policy or other associated discipline.
- Candidate must have completed at least 1 year of a 2-year or 4-year program of study (sophomore - graduate).
- Candidate must possess a valid PA driver's license and have reliable transportation.
- Candidate must be willing to work outside in inclement weather conditions.

### Pay:

- Candidate will have the choice of weekly stipend of \$14-\$16 per hour, depending on relevant qualifications OR a scholarship award at the end of the 8-week program that may be eligible for a PHEAA match. Daily travel and work-related expenses reimbursed.

### To Apply:

- Applications may be accessed on our website at [www.ahug.com](http://www.ahug.com), or through the McKean County Community Foundation. Head to their website at [www.mckeancountyfoundation.org](http://www.mckeancountyfoundation.org), choose "Information For Students" from the "Scholarships" tab. Choose "College Students, Graduate Students or Non-Traditional" from the right-side tab, scroll down to Susan Swanson Memorial Scholarship to begin application process. For more information, contact the AHUG office at (814) 837-8550 or [ashields@ahug.com](mailto:ashields@ahug.com). **Deadline to apply is March 31, 2024.**