

Susan Swanson Memorial Internship Opportunity – Summer 2023

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 hardwood industry and associated organizations 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.

The chosen candidate will operate from the central hub of the AHUG office in Kane, PA, while spending time in the field over an 8-week program (June 5 – July 28) networking and performing duties alongside assigned mentors in forestry, land management, logging and harvest operations, sawmilling, secondary and by-products manufacturing, economic development, promotion, state government and industry advocacy.

The goal of this program is to develop the future leaders and entrepreneurs of the Pennsylvania hardwood 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 or environmental management; environmental law, public policy or other associated discipline.
- Candidate must have completed at least 2 years of a 2-year or 4-year program of study (junior / senior / 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, or through the McKean County Community Foundation. Head to their website at 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. **Deadline to apply is March 31, 2023.**

Susan Swanson (1953 – 2020)



As a lifelong resident of the Kane area, Susan Swanson was involved in the hardwood industry for over 40 years, beginning with her husband's logging business in the late 1970's.

She began her career with AHUG as an Administrative Assistant in 1993, taking over the Executive Director position in October of 1997, just as the first lawsuits were being filed against the Allegheny National Forest by the early environmental movement. Sue developed strong working relationships on the local, state, and national level, and was as comfortable talking politics in Washington, DC as she was spending a day in the woods with local school students. Under her leadership, AHUG has nurtured long-standing partnerships with an impressive host of agencies and organizations – from the Allegheny National Forest, PA DCNR and PA Game Co - to the Allegheny Forest Alliance, North Central Regional Planning & Development, PA Forest Products Association, Hardwood Manufacturer's Association, National Hardwood Lumberman's Association and beyond. Add to this the Hardwood Development Council, two sister "HUGS" (KWPA & NTHA), and a large contingent of legislators from both sides of the isle who knew Sue Swanson by name. The list is long and important in acknowledging the breadth and depth of the relationships that Sue worked to establish on behalf of Pennsylvania's hardwood industry. Under her leadership, AHUG has fostered the reputation of the "go-to" organization in the Northwest and North Central region on issues involving the hardwood industry.

Sue received the Forest Resources Association Activist Award in 2001 for her accomplishments in support of Northwest PA's forest industry and for promoting the message of balanced multiple use forestry to the public.

Sue worked in organizing and coordinating a statewide coalition of resource user groups to respond to proposed EPA water quality regulations (TMDL). She worked tirelessly on resource access and forest management issues across the ANF, DCNR and PAGC landscapes, helping to motivate and educate legislators and other Pennsylvania residents on the importance of active forest management to our industry, our communities and to the overall health of our forests. Sue provided expert testimony in Washington, DC before the House Subcommittee on Forestry and Conservation concerning resource issues specific to the Allegheny National Forest and was a frequent attendee at the Annual Fly-In, hosted by the Hardwood Federation. Her representation of the Pennsylvania hardwood industry led her to Vietnam, China and Germany, as well as many states throughout the US.

Sue escalated the education and outreach efforts of AHUG to include "Project Learning Tree" programs (hosted in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Woodmobile) to approximately 1200 students annually, sponsoring forest stewardship essay contests for middle-school students and initiating a pilot program to develop a high-school curriculum designed to provide entry-level training for employees interested in the wood products industry.

She was a member of the SFI State Implementation Committee, providing input to logger and forestry training across the state, and established AHUG's annual "Women In Timber" luncheon to provide a forum for networking and programming tailored specifically to this sector of the region's industry. Sue was instrumental in maintaining AHUG's long standing partnership with the Kane Area Logger Safety Committee, assisting in their annual Spring Safety Program which draws nearly 200 logging professionals and continues as the longest running event of its kind in the country.

Sue always endeavored to provide leadership in collaboration with others, believing that AHUG's most successful efforts were those that came directly from industry members themselves. She worked diligently to provide those opportunities for her member companies, and further supported their efforts by participating on countless boards, commissions, and panels as an industry representative.

Sue was active in local organizations as well, including her Church, the Kane Rotary, the American Cancer Society, Friends' Memorial Public Library, and various school-related organizations.

Above all else, Sue cherished her friendships and her role as wife, mother, and grandmother. She and her husband, Terry, were married for 47 years. Together they raised three children - Carrie, Ryan, and Todd, and rejoiced in their four grandchildren - Bryce, Reilyn, Kyle and Reece.

Her warm smile, compassionate nature and passion for the communities, forests and hardwood industry of the Allegheny region will remain forever in the hearts of those who were privileged to know her.