A Note from Our Executive Director

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” — Winston S. Churchill

We all have different ideals of what ‘success’ means. Webster simply defines it as the act of succeeding. Most days I measure it by the simple ability to get out of bed and start anew. Steve says success is achieving a goal. How do you measure success? Let us know!

Over this past year we have seen many changes in the lumber industry in our region. After a devastating fire at Emporium Hardwoods, a new more innovative mill was put in its place keeping the employees working through the remodel. Success. St. Mary’s Lumber under new ownership (Bingaman Lumber Company) moved to a larger facility with a new progressive system and is able to produce more lumber than ever before. Success.

Smokey Bear Celebrated his 75th birthday this year. Success. These accomplishments weren’t easy to come by, but the outcomes are important to our tomorrow. The LHR had our share of successes this year. We are most proud of the work with the of the work we completed with the Wayfinding signage project. It has been a fun, rewarding project and we even managed to get our hands dirty installing some of the signs! The project has been so well received we are looking for a part-time employee to manage it for LHR. Success. We have gotten stronger with a new slate of board members from all parts of the Lumber Heritage Region and from many different disciplines. Success. We have built amazing partnerships in all parts of the region. Success. We funded two projects in the region that are assisting us in telling the lumber story in the 15-county region. Success. None of these successes came without some obstacles, but we agree with Winston Churchill. We will keep moving forward and are super excited about what is yet to come!

Boy, we sure had fun in October sharing all of the stories about hauntings and folklore in the LHR! We hope you enjoyed them too! November is a time for reflecting and giving thanks which is what we will focus on next. The success, not only of LHR but the lumber industry as well. We are going to focus on what we are thankful for and all the successes in the industry and the lumber arena in general. We could really use your help in sharing the good fortune. We have a form on our site that will allow you to tell your story so we can help you promote it. Just click here https://lumberheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/PR_Formfillable.pdf or email it to smanginell@lumberheritage.org.

Finally, I am thankful for all of our loyal followers. Our social media and newsletter statistics are above the national average which tells us you are interested in what we have to say. Keep clicking and liking our stories and help us spread the word about how awesome the Lumber Heritage Region is! Thank you for your support!

Godspeed,

Holly Komonczi
If we are talking about success in the forest products industry today, it is something that many would say is not there. It has been a grueling and difficult market over the last 18 months. Since the tariffs went into place in the spring of 2018 with China, markets have dropped drastically. There has been an up-tick in the low grade and railroad tie market. If one could look at the changing trends of “hot species” you could call that a success.

Traditionally in our region Black cherry was king, now landowners cannot afford to sell it. Timber buyers don’t want to buy, and sawmills are struggling to sell it. It is very similar for Red oak. Currently the trending “hot species” have switched over to lighter woods such as soft maple, hard maple and tulip poplar.

Another species that is gaining in popularity is Birch. If you look back over the last 30 years the now trending white woods used to be cut and left in the woods or sent to be chipped for paper. I would call that a success during these dismal times.

As the tariffs are negatively impacting most of us in the forest industry, there are some who are picking up. Wood-Mode Inc, which is a cabinet maker from central Pennsylvania is opening its doors again. It laid off 938 employees last May. It was recently purchased by an individual who plans to reach out to those who lost their jobs and slowly putting them back to work. Seeing an American company open the doors back up is a great success, especially when they are in Pennsylvania!

The industry is struggling, but those of us who work in the forest industry are hard-working, resilient individuals. Looking for niche markets for our high-quality hardwoods that our unique ecosystem provides us is the key at this moment. The best thing we can do is stay optimistic and keep working hard even though the markets try and push us down.

-Kenny Kane

Board Member Kenny Kane Updates Us on the Forestry Side of the Industry and Success

SHARE YOUR SUCCESSFUL HUNT

Send us photos of your successful hunt this year. Info@lumberheritage.org
The Emporium Hardwoods location currently boasts the most technologically-advanced sawmill operation in the United States. The mill was completely renovated and reconstructed following a devastating fire in 2017 that did millions of dollars in damages.

The new mill is a multi-story operation, with many workers in climate-controlled pods operating machinery through a computer system. It is quite unlike the sawmills that have been built and used in the region throughout history. It is clean, modern and efficient, with lasers measuring to make precision cuts and leaving as little waste behind as possible. "Nothing is actually wasted, as all parts of the logs are sold — boards, bark, chips and sawdust", according to Mill Manager Patrick Narby. The mill was built vertically, making it easier to keep areas cleaned out and eliminating buildup of sawdust and wood chips, which can be a fire hazard.

As the logs are dropped off in the log yard, each one is tagged with a barcode that is then scanned. Each log can be tracked, beginning to finished board.

The mill processes between 25 and 35 truckloads of wood per day harvested within a 50-100 mile radius from Emporium Hardwoods.

Following the completion of the new mill, Lyme Timber Company made a significant minority investment in the company following the purchase of approximately 65,000 acres of land in the Lumber Heritage Region.
The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum educates the public about the Commonwealth’s rich lumbering history and the ongoing care, management, and recreational use of its forests. The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is actively supported by the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates which is a non-profit community-based organization. Nestled in the wooded mountains of Potter County, the museum invites visitors to discover the courageous yet reckless spirit of Pennsylvania’s lumbering past while learning to care for the forests of the future. Interactive exhibits in our Visitor Center simulate activities such as swinging an ax, sawing a tree, piloting a log raft and racing locomotives for a hands-on experience with history. Outdoor exhibits located across our 10-acre campus include a re-created early 20th century lumber camp, a 70-ton Shay geared-locomotive and Barnhart log loader, and a log cabin built by the C.C.C. Our operable steam-powered sawmill is run three times a year at our Spring Show, Bark Peelers’ Festival, and Fall Show events.


Something to Think About

Throughout Pennsylvania, those who invested in timber met with different degrees of success. All of the successful ones were shrewd, ambitious businessmen of various degrees of wealth. Those who left a real legacy were men of outstanding character, in some cases almost folk heroes.

Of all the great lumbermen in Pennsylvania Collins was on of the best remembered, admired, and respected. He was almost a mythical character in the annals of Forest County.

The LHR is a 15 county region in North West/North Central Pennsylvania that accentuates the importance of the lumber industry for the past, present and future. The goal of the heritage region is to market its assets to potential visitors, to serve as a resource to the PA hardwood industry, and to keep the economic impact of the region in the forefront.

FEATURED PARTNER

PENNSYLVANIA LUMBER MUSEUM

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