A Note from Our Executive Director

It took a while but the Dog Days are here. I’m not at liberty to complain, when I think of the 20th century wood hicks and their attire of long sleeve wool shirts and pants working long days (like sun up to sun down) for $2.50/day. “I’ve learned a man’s got to be a lot tougher than the timber he’s cutting” – Jonny Cash

This month Steve and I decided we need to make an overnight trip to the “Lumber Capital of the World”. Our first stop was for a trip on the “Hiawatha” stationed at the Susquehanna State Park in Williamsport PA. As our normal routine, we took a selfie in front of the historic ship and posted it to Facebook before boarding for our tour of the West Branch Susquehanna.

It didn’t take us long to pick out the remains of booms scattered throughout the boats path. The boat offered an historic video about the activity that took place during the “boom”. It was very educational; I was able to pick up several facts from that time I never know before. What an exciting time it must have been.

And the story goes... After posting the clip about the Hiawatha and sharing with our followers we would be in town for a couple of days, I was contacted by a local author and historian. Thad Stephen Meckley offered to take Steve and I on a tour of the Wildwood Cemetery and Millionaire’s Row in Williamsport. The Cemetery is full of lumber baron history. Some of the tombs were even carved like decorative tree stumps. Following the cemetery tour, we were able to see the homes that paired with the tombs of the baron’s in Wildwood Cemetery.

We also had several fruitful meetings with the Lycoming County Planners, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and KWPA (Keystone Wood Products Association). Many good project ideas came from those meetings and we built upon our network.

We visited the Muncy Heritage Park and Nature Trail and enjoyed the work that was funded in part by a LHR grant. What a fun place to spend a day with a picnic and an adventurous spirit.

It seems that every LHR adventure ends the same, Steve and I making a connection that makes each trip a little more memorable. We learned so much about the “Lumber Capital of the World”.

If you’d like to see more about our adventures around the LHR or even share your own adventures visit us on Facebook. If you’d like us to visit your LHR community email us at info@lumberheritage.org or tell on Facebook @lumberheritage. See you soon!

Godspeed,

Holly Komonczi
Executive Director
HELP US TELL YOU STORY

After a very productive board retreat, we learned that one of the things the wood products industry needs is for someone to tell the story of the world wide impact of the trade. Because we are not on the ground each day, we need your help with these stories.

What makes an interesting story? Well just about anything from an employee’s accomplishment to the history of your business. Did you sell timber to an interesting market? Did your harvest make a national impact? Is there an issue that you’ve overcome or are looking for answers to? All of these things and more may not seem important to you, but to people who know little or nothing about the current industry, they are priceless. Maybe you updated your equipment and have a short video, the LHR would love to share that too. Any way we can help get the industry the long deserved recognition for the hard work is what we are looking for. If you love to tell your story but aren’t one to write it down, contact us we will make an appointment to interview you and get your story.

Tell your story by filling out this simple PR form, https://lumberheritage.org/industry/

WILLIAMSPORT WELCOMES THE WORLD

LHR PARTNERS WITH KWPA TO PRESENT THE REGION TO THE WORLD

Williamsport Welcomes the World is a large vendor event that takes place in downtown Williamsport, Pa. on August 23rd from 5pm to 9pm. Thousands of people from across the nation and around the world journey to the Lycoming County community for Little League World Series baseball! There will be food vendors, artisans, crafters, local businesses, bounce houses, games, face painting, and much more! West 4th Street from Market to Hepburn will be shut down for people to walk around and enjoy the festivities. There will be live music in front of the CAC, as well as the City of Williamsport Police Open House in front of City Hall. LHR and KWPA have teamed up to provide visitors from around the world a look into the lumber industry along with the opportunity to learn more about the region. LHR will have a replica of the way finding signs that are being placed around the region. Visitors will be encouraged to take a selfie and post it to social media.
WOOD AND LEATHER HOW ARE THEY RELATED?

In 1870 Pennsylvania had 890 tanneries. Tanneries were scattered throughout the region, were mainly devoted to the production of sole leather and coarser leathers (the latter used in factory leather belting and harnesses in the nineteenth century). They were located close to the region’s rich forest resources, since tanneries were normally dependent on ready supplies of bark, usually obtained from oak or hemlock trees. Because the stately hemlock produced inferior lumber, the wood was frequently left to rot after the tannin containing bark had been removed. Later in the nineteenth century hemlock was used for paper pulp, rough construction work, and boxes. High levels of production led to the rapid exhaustion of the region’s forests and widespread pollution of streams and rivers of the region from toxic effluent. In the final decade of the nineteenth century, a major consolidation movement led to the closure of over a third of the state’s tanneries, but employment and production remained strong; the number of employees in the industry rose, as did sole leather output. In 1900 Pennsylvania was the number one leather producing state.


Attention all high school graduates!

If you are struggling with trying to decide what to do after graduation and aren’t really sure what you’re interested in, you may want to check out the jobs available in the lumber industry.

Anyone remotely familiar with the lumber industry is well aware there are a variety of jobs and skills required that didn’t exist many years ago. With the advent of computer controlled equipment and more powerful machinery, the industry is much more advanced in the 21st century than it was in the 18th century and the types of skills needed has advanced as well. If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, there may be a lumber job waiting for you:

- Do you love working in the outdoors?
- Are you skilled with computers?
- Have a good eye for detail?
- Want to learn how to operate heavy machinery?
- Are you ready to move to a new part of the state and jobs he has had. He enjoys bringing out the beauty of nature in his work through design and mixed mediums. You could own this beautiful piece. LHR is selling raffle tickets that will be drawn Dec. 13th. Contact us for details at info@lumberheritage.org

Go to www.paforestcareers.org to see what jobs are waiting.

WOOD ART RAFFLE

“STANDING ALONE ON A PATHWAY, IN THE FOREST” is an art piece created in May of 2018 with the intent to be exhibited at venues such as art shows, public points of interest, as well as private display, with the intent to transcend a person to a peaceful state of mind as well as capture the beauty of nature. The photo is of a place in Cooks Forest along the trail between Seneca Point and the Fire Tower. The lumber is from the north western parts of Pennsylvania, and shaped and sculptured to highlight itself as well as the photo.

This is a one and only piece of artwork, and has been on display all over the region for hundreds of people to view. This piece was created by Paul La Pierre, Sr. Paul grew up in Northwestern Pennsylvania. His works are inspired by many different people, places and jobs he has had.

814-486-9376
St. Mary’s Lumber is a division of Bingaman & Son Lumber, Inc. We are one of 3 PA sawmills owned by Bingaman. We are a “green” sawmill, meaning we control the operation from the harvest of the trees through the production of non kiln dried lumber products. Our products include veneer and sawlogs, grade lumber (green - undried), cant, pallet and railroad tie material, chips, sawdust, bark mulch and pulpwood. Our primary business need related to LHR would be positive promotion of the industry.

Something to Think About

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth’s greatest natural resources. They keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade, and help make our landscapes look beautiful. Removing some trees champions other trees and gives them more room to grow and thrive. Forests are healthier and produce more food for wildlife. Trees are made of wood, and wood is made into things you use.