A Note from Our Executive Director

“New beginnings” It’s what’s on everyone’s mind. “This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” — Taylor Swift. We at the LHR are excited and ready for a new beginning and making a difference in 2020.

One of the most rejuvenating things that we do annually is to pull together the accomplishments and happenings from the previous year. Check out our 2019 Year in Review on our website.  

We’d love to hear your feedback on the work of the LHR. Email us your suggestions at info@lumberheritage.org

The LHR is preparing for our next DCNR partnership grant round, a new Management Action Plan is one item on the list. Check out our current action plan,( https://lumberheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/LHR-Management-Action-Plan-2016.pdf) and let us know how we can touch your community moving forward. With a 15-county region and two staff people it is hard to know everything that is going on. Email us at info@lumberheritage.org and tell us what we should be looking at in your area.

This month the LHR will be focusing on green and sustainable wood products and how they enhance your quality of life. Wood is the only truly renewable resource and so many aspects of it touch your everyday life. From the pencil you write your note with, to the paper you write it on, wood. A walk in the forest to change your state of mind, wood. The kitchen table that’s been in your family for years and is ready to be handed down, wood. We hope you take some time to think of all the ways lumber a green and sustainable product can be used.

Help the LHR make 2020 the best year ever. Become involved by volunteering your time or your money. Ask about being part of a committee for a diversity study or networking event. Tell us your story about traveling around the LHR. You can help us make the LHR a better place to live, work and play.

Enjoy every moment of 2020!

Holly Komonczi
Executive Director
WOOD—IS IT GREEN?

Let's look at the 5 factors that make a product green and just see where wood fits?

1. **Energy efficient, durable and often have low maintenance requirements.** Yes, consider wood-framed walls covered with wood structural panels that will meet building codes in every region of the country. Wood wall systems are easy to insulate and provide exceptional shear and racking strength to withstand the force of high winds and even earthquakes.

2. **Free of Ozone depleting chemicals, toxic compounds and don’t produce toxic by-products.** Yes, wood products, have the lowest impact of all building materials on air quality. For starters, the manufacturing of wood products produces far fewer toxins and greenhouse gases than the leading man-made materials. But it gets better than that; the regeneration of forests after harvest creates new trees, which take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen as they grow. That’s great news for the environment.

3. **Often made of recycled materials or content or from renewable and sustainable sources.** Yes, wood is immediately recognized as sustainable by virtue of it being a renewable resource. It grows naturally, and modern forestry standards harvest wood in a sustainable way to preserve the environment of the forest. Because trees grow across North America.

4. **Obtained from local manufacturers or resources.** Yes, this ones a no-brainer. Of course it is obtained locally. The Lumber Heritage region boasts the most sought after hardwoods in the world. It is our forest, and hundreds of our local mills and processors benefit from the abundance of this renewable asset.

5. **Biodegradable or easily reused either in part or as a whole.** Yes, wood is natural and biodegradable, but decomposes at varied rates under different conditions.

Without a doubt wood is GREEN! By using our very own locally sourced renewable resource you can be a champion of the green movement. How are you using wood in a new and interesting way. Let us know at info@lumberheritage.org.
In the New Year we all make those, never to be followed through with, resolutions to live healthier. This year lets try a different approach that will make us happier and healthier in mind and body.

Lets examine how just the use of hardwood products in our everyday lives keeps us healthy. In order to produce 1kg of timber, a tree consumes 1.47kg of CO2 and returns just over a kilo of oxygen into the atmosphere. When trees are harvested and used to make wood products, the carbon remains stored in the wood for the life of the product. About 50 per cent of the dry weight of wood is carbon. The oxygen produced gives us clean healthy air to breath.

Over recent years there has been an increasing recognition of the benefits that humans gain from contact with trees and nature. Modern society has changed its relationship with nature. In the space of a single generation children’s play has moved from outdoors to indoors, the iconic backyard has shrunk, parents have become increasingly anxious about children’s safety, working hours and stress levels have risen and technology (cell phones and computers) has encroached into almost all areas of life.

Using all natural renewable hardwood for the interiors of our living spaces has proven to have multiple physical, psychological and environmental benefits: • Improvements to a person’s emotional state and level of self-expression • Reduced blood pressure, heart rate and stress levels • Improved air quality through humidity moderation • Its use as a long-term store of carbon, helping to fight climate change.

Lets follow through this year and start to live healthier and happier lives by making a effort to use more of our great local asset in our homes and work places.
The Elk County Council on the Arts (ECCOTA) is a 501 (c) non-profit organization based in Elk County, Pennsylvania, a rural county located about two hours northeast of Pittsburgh. Founded in 1984 as a center for the development of all the arts in the Elk County area, ECCOTA provides a variety of opportunities to participate in the arts for the area’s residents. A wide selection of art classes and workshops for adults and children are offered. Additionally ECCOTA brings a selection of cultural programming to the area including: an annual children’s theater workshop; and programs by nationally and internationally renowned performers. ECCOTA also maintains a sales gallery featuring art work by more than 40 local and regional artists.

FEATURED PARTNER

ELK COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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.

Something to Think About

Wood products make up 47% of all industrial raw materials in the U.S., but consume only 4% of the total energy required to manufacture those materials. Your product choices make an impact on our environment.