



December 2023 • Vol. 119 | No. 4

ESFPA *"The People Behind New York's Healthy Forests and Quality Wood Products"*
the **Empire** ENVOY

The Official Publication of the Empire State Forest Products Association

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

By John K. Bartow, Jr.

As we go to print for this final ENVOY of 2023, we reflect on a challenging year. Through it all one thing we know is that when we work together, we succeed in both challenges and opportunities. ESFPA is a membership organization and like any trade association our success is based on member engagement and participation be that in support of the organization through your memberships, engaging in our annual Forestry Awareness Day in Albany, participating in our advocacy campaigns or attending our regional meetings, it is when we work together that we succeed and effectuate change that benefits us all.

This past year we had numerous successes which are highlighted in this ENVOY and for that we are grateful for our members and the power that you bring to this organization. This year we succeeded in the New York State budget in getting funding for several priority items we worked on and we stopped the Governor's Article VII budget bill for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation that she tried to advance in the 2023 budget. We worked with the Legislature on introducing an EPR bill which excludes non-packaging paper and we testified on EPR legislation in hopes of further shaping legislation which may advance in 2024.

We also successfully sought and achieved vetoes by Governor Hochul on legislation that would: have added 16,000 miles of streams to DEC's stream regulatory program; enable local governments to regulate the use of pesticides in wetlands; and, enact a deforestation-free procurement act and supply chain regulations that would have draconian impacts on wood product manufacturers. These legislative proposals while having some well-intended purposes, raised serious questions on restrictive approaches to forest management and the future of wood product manufacturing in New York State.

In 2023 we also continued our work on New York's climate agenda as outlined in the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the Climate Scoping Plan. ESFPA remains an industry leader on the CLCPA and how the Scoping Plan will impact manufacturers across New York. We have

testified at several legislative and agency hearings over the year on program implementation and rulemakings and we are engaged in stakeholder panels for the Hydrogen Hub and the Cap & Invest program that will roll out in 2024. ESFPA was also a Sector Advisor on the Climate Assessment which will be released in early 2024. ESFPA is also engaged nationally with our national affiliates on climate policy being developed by the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress.

ESFPA has also been active federally in the courts and on the regulatory front on behalf of our members. In 2023, working with 26 other state associations and our national affiliates we successfully helped in shaping a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Waters of the United States resulting in a significant roll back of federal jurisdiction over wetlands under the federal Clean Water Act. ESFPA has also been a leader on the federal Endangered Species Act regulations on Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) and how federal and New York regulations will impact timber harvesting.

However, none of this success would be possible without you, our members and your support and engagement. In the first few weeks of 2024, you all should be receiving your membership letters for 2024, and we hope that as you set your priorities for 2024 ESFPA will be one of those. Together we have and will continue to succeed!

If you have any questions regarding your membership or have any issue you feel we should be working on, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you know of a peer business that could benefit from an ESFPA membership, please let us know and we will reach out to them. In the meantime, be safe out there and may you have a healthy and prosperous New Year!

John Bartow

The Empire Envoy

Empire State Forest Products Association
 47 Van Alstyne Drive, Rensselaer NY 12144-8465
 tel: 518.463.1297 • fax: 518.426.9502
 www.esfpa.org

ESFPA Board of Directors

Chairperson – Jennifer DeFrancesco

B & B Forest Products – Cairo, NY

Vice Chair – Jeff Denkenberger

Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC – Saranac Lake, NY

Treasurer – Michael W. Hanlon

Cotton-Hanlon, Inc. – Cayuta, NY

Secretary – Christopher Truso

Farm Credit East – Greenwich, NY

Immediate Past Chair – Michael J. McLarty

Finch Paper, LLC – Glens Falls, NY

Sarah R. Bogdanovitch

Natural Resources Consultant – Paul Smiths, NY

Adam Bowman

A.D. Bowman and Son Lumber Co. – Castle Creek, NY

Kevin Brown

W.J. Cox Associates, Inc. – Clarence, NY

Pat Buff

B&B Lumber Co. – Jamesville, NY

Dr. René Germain

SUNY ESF – Syracuse, NY

Thomas E. Gerow, CF

Wagner Lumber Co. – Owego, NY

Tom Gillman

F&W Forestry, Inc. – Glens Falls, NY

Doug Handy

A&H Forest Management, Inc. – Sharon Springs, NY

Damon Hartman

Prentiss & Carlisle – Saranac Lake, NY

Craig Jochum

Craig Jochum Logging – Apalachin, NY

Susan Keister

Keister Consulting, Inc. – Wayland, NY

Elizabeth Lesnikoski

Burlington Electric Department – Burlington, VT

Larry Richards

Richards Logging, LLC – Tupper Lake, NY

Sean Ross

Lyme Timber Co. – Saranac Lake, NY

Pat Sadler

Woodwise Land Company, LLC – Scottsville, NY

Jack Santamour

LandVest, Inc. – Lowville, NY

Tim Stocker

Sylvamo – Ticonderoga, NY

Tony Woods

Lignetics Group – Potsdam, NY

John Zemanick

Gutchess Lumber Co. – Cortland, NY

Counsel Dennis J. Phillips, Esq.

McPhillips, Fitzgerald & Cullum

ESFPA STAFF

Executive Director

John Bartow

jbartow@esfpa.org

Communication & Member Services Director

Gabriella Ferrera

gabriella@esfpa.org

Office Manager

Dorian Johnson

dorian@esfpa.org

Founded in 1906, ESFPA is dedicated to improving the economic climate for the forest products industry and to promote management of New York's Forests to meet the resource needs of today and for future generations. ESFPA counts among its 400 members furniture companies, lumber manufacturers, forest landowners, timber harvesters, pulp and paper companies, and other wood products manufacturers from across New York State. Members own and manage 1.5 million acres of New York's forests and employ over one-third of the 60,000 individuals who work in the forests and wood-using mills around the state. **The Empire Envoy** is the newsletter of the Empire State Forest Products Association, Copyright© by ESFPA. Articles may be reproduced with permission of the publisher. **The Empire Envoy** is produced monthly for ESFPA members and interested parties. For information on subscriptions or membership, please contact ESFPA.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Jennifer DeFrancesco, ESFPA Chairperson of the Board



December: A time to make amends and tie up loose ends; time to finish what you started and begin dreaming of next year's goals.

Thinking back on this past year, ESFPA has had some challenges. Our membership is down slightly, and the legislature continues to come at our industry from all angles. Despite all of that, we had some great wins. You can read about those in the rest of this issue.

It is important to reflect on the past, but then move forward. We are entering our 118th year as an association. Considering how many obstacles have been thrown our way over those years, I am amazed at how successfully we are still standing and fighting for the industry that we love so much. It is truly a testament to how important it is to come together for a common goal.

We need your help to continue that fight. This month, we will begin our membership drive. I hope that you all will continue to see the value that ESFPA provides and renew your membership.

I am also asking you to please help us spread the message to the rest of the industry. We all know people that benefit from our services but aren't members. We need all the help that we can get to reach those people. Please encourage them to join ESFPA. We can provide you with any assistance that you need for the outreach. Contact Gabriella or any of our board members with any questions that you have or follow up that is needed. We are stronger together than we are individually.

(See "Message" continued on page 3)

ESFPA Sustaining Members



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON *(continued from page 2)*

Please help ESFPA grow our membership in 2024 and make it our strongest year yet!

And speaking of moving forward, we wish Tom Gerow a very happy and well-deserved retirement. Tom has been on the board of directors since 2005. He also served two terms as the Chairman of the board. During his time on the Board, he

was consistently one of the first people to volunteer for extra tasks and responsibilities. He cared about ESFPA's success, and he was especially devoted to growing our membership. His knowledge and input will be greatly missed at the meetings, but I think even more than that we will all miss his quick wit. It has been a pleasure serving with him.

Jennifer DeFrancesco

STATE CORNER

NEW YORK UNVEILS CAP & INVEST

On December 21st New Yorkers got the first glimpse of what the state's Cap and Invest program to reduce carbon emissions will look like, with release of a "Pre-Proposal" plan from the Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Energy Research and Development Agency. The pre-proposal, which will now be subject to a series of meetings as well as lobbying, stems from the landmark 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which calls for greatly reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all phases of the state's economy in the coming years.

As it became clear that this task, which calls for switching energy sources from fossil fuels to cleaner alternatives such as solar and wind would be costly, policy makers began moving toward the Cap and Invest model to help pay for the changes.

It's similar to a carbon tax in that it places a price on emissions, but the proceeds are dedicated to specific uses such as consumer tax rebates and further development of green energy sources. The Cap and Invest program also will require entities, ranging from businesses to institutions like hospitals and schools to report on how much carbon they are emitting each year through factory smokestacks, heating boilers, or other sources. Even facilities like landfills or agricultural manure piles will likely have to make annual reports if their emissions are high enough.

The biggest emitters, such as large factories or power plants, will likely have to purchase emission credits through an auction, which makes up the tax-like part of the plan.

The report contemplates starting the program as early as 2025, with the amount that businesses and other entities are allowed to emit based on historic levels from 1990 through 2021. There would be allowances, or eased guidelines for "trade exposed" industries, or those businesses that face stiff foreign competition. The carbon auctions would also be sold with a reserve price, or a floor which would rise 8 percent annually to cover inflation. Conversely, there would be a trigger for allowances if the auction prices rise too high, according to the preliminary plan.

The program would not include offsets or credits for participating in activities that reduce the carbon load, such as protecting forest land as a way to absorb carbon. Such credits have been criticized since they don't necessarily lead to a net reduction in carbon emissions by the person or organization engaging in the offset.

The state has said they intend to launch a public engagement process in January and expect to issue a formal regulatory proposal in mid-2024 with implementation in 2025. ESFPA will be reviewing the proposal over the next few weeks and providing comments for our members and in the informal comment process.

2023 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

There are over 15,000 bills introduced in the Senate and Assembly so far in the 205th New York State Legislative Session which started on January 4, 2023, and will continue until December 31, 2024. ESFPA is following over 250 bills as follows:

- 16 Bills we have filed Memorandum of Support
- 17 Bills we have filed Memorandum of Objection
- 123 bills we have No Position at this Time (NPAT)
- 99 Bills we are Monitoring.

The following summarizes key bills ESFPA prioritized for 2023 and where they stood at the end of 2023.

Birds & Bees Act – A. 7640(Glick)/S. 1856-A (Hoylman-Sigal) – **Chapter 755, Laws of 2023**

Will prohibit the use of neonicotinoids in most cases. There is language agreed to in a Chapter Amendment that will allow the Commissioner of DEC to allow the use of neonicotinoids for treating invasive species, including forest pests (e.g., Hemlock Wholly Adelgid). This is bill language ESFPA worked on with the bill sponsors, Governor's office and The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). This is a blanket exemption to allow the use of neonics to manage forest invasive pests.

(See "Legislative Wrap Up" continued on page 4)

2022 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP *(continued from page 3)*

Streams Legislation – A. 4601-A (Glick)/S. 1725-A (Harckham) – **Veto 70**

Would have added all class C waterways to the list of additional protections for streams under the Protection of Waters Regulatory Program within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This statutory change would have imposed permit windows which would be devastating to forest management in New York. Forests are the largest terrestrial land cover in the state and provide tremendous protection to river, streams and lakes. This legislation would serve to discourage sustainable forest management rather than encourage it. Governor Hochul Vetoed this legislation on November 17, 2023.

Deforestation-free Procurement Act – A. 5682-A (Zebrowski)/S. 4859-A (Krueger) – **Veto 135**

This bill would have prevented state agencies from procuring products made from wood and fiber from tropical forests. ESFPA, AF&PA, SFI Inc. and the Canadian Forest Products Association have worked to convince sponsors on the poor merits of this legislation as it would have included boreal forests. In reintroducing this bill in 2023, boreal forests were removed. The bill did, however, include a new section amending the Economic Development Law requiring ESDC to establish a Supply Chain Assistance Transparency Program for small and medium businesses. These supply chain provisions would apply to any “raw material” (not just tropical woods) and have definitions that are problematic.

ESFPA worked with several parties on encouraging Governor Hochul to veto this legislation citing the impact it would have on New York manufacturers and the fact that this really needed federal or international leadership. Governor Hochul vetoed this on December 22nd.

Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure – A. 5322-A (Glick)/S. 4246-A (Harckham)

Enacts the “Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act” to require companies selling, offering for sale, or distributing covered packaging materials and products to reduce consumer packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, including supporting reusable and refill infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, reduce toxins in packaging and require producers of products to bear the onus for end-of-life solutions to product packaging.

In June, these bills were amended as Same As and referred to Senate Finance where it sits. ESFPA was pleased that in the amended version non-packaging paper was removed and the bill is now a packaging proposal. In October, ESFPA filed a Memorandum to Oppose due to other provisions in the proposal that still impacts paper and other covered products. On 10/24/23 ESFPA testified at a Joint Legislative Hearing on EPR. A business coalition is likely to introduce an EPR proposal in 2024 in comparison to the Glick/Harckham bill.

ESFPA ADVOCATES FOR EXECUTIVE BUDGET REQUESTS IN 2024

ESFPA has been advocating for several Executive Budget requests in the 2024 budget proposals. Here are a few that we have been active on:

- Last week we submitted a letter encouraging the Governor to include EPF funding for the Wood Products Development Council, Climate & Applied Forestry Research Institute and the Bioeconomy Development Institute.
- We joined over 20 business community organizations in asking Governor Hochul to address COVID Sick Leave, Unemployment Insurance costs, and frequency of pay claims.
- We joined several manufacturers associations in supporting the Governor to introduce tax parity legislation for manufacturers.

These are just a few of the legislative budget proposals we will start working on come January 2nd. For now, we will enjoy the holiday week.

DEP 23-1 – Permitting in Disadvantaged Communities

This is a DEC Program Policy which outlines the requirements for analysis and mitigation required by applicants for new and renewed permits and other actions that are likely to affect disadvantaged communities. This is required under Section 7 (3) of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA) which requires all state agencies in considering and issuing permits, licenses and other approvals and decisions including but not limited to grants, loans, and contracts to prioritize the reduction of greenhouse gases and co-pollutants that may impact disadvantaged communities. This is DEC’s

policy for ensuring compliance to this provision of the CLCPA. **Comments are due by January 29, 2024.**

2023 ARC/ESFPA Fall Forestry Roundtable Review

On November 2nd, ESFPA hosted the 2023 Fall Forestry Roundtable in conjunction with the Adirondack Research Consortium at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, NY. The event was well attended with over 70 participants and featured great presentations from our speakers.

A brief outline of the presentations can be found below. If you were unable to attend or would like to revisit any information, **a complete program overview and copies of PowerPoints are available on the ESFPA website.**

- New York’s Climate Assessment and Implications for Forests (Dr. John Foppert, Paul Smiths College)
- New York Carbon Assessment (Dr. Colin Beier, SUNY ESF)
- Lunch Speaker (Fiona Watt, Director, Division of Lands & Forests NYS DEC and State Forester)
- Wood Based Forest Economy (Dr. Timothy Volk and Dr. Danielle Kloster, SUNY ESF)
- Latest on the Northeast Forest Carbon Program and What’s Up with Integrity in the Carbon Offset Programs (Charles Levesque, Executive Director, North East State Foresters Association and President, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC)

(See “ESFPA Advocates” continued on page 5)

ESFPA ADVOCATES FOR EXECUTIVE BUDGET REQUESTS IN 2024 *(continued from page 4)*

Special thanks to Dan Fitts, Executive Director of the Adirondack Research Consortium and Dr. Kristine Duffy, President of SUNY Adirondack for their help in organizing this event.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended, we look forward to seeing you at next year's roundtable. If you have any feedback on the event or would like to make suggestions for topics you'd like to hear about in the future, please contact gabriella@esfpa.org.

FEDERAL CORNER

FEDERAL BUDGET FY 2024

The new fiscal year began on September 30th, twice Congress has passed Continuing Resolutions to keep the federal government running. On Nov. 16, the President signed a third resolution (CR) for fiscal year 2024 that is "laddered," or consists of two separate expiration dates for two separate sets of appropriations bills. The first expiration date in the CR, Jan. 19th, will apply to the programs covered by the Agriculture, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD bills. The second expiration date, Feb. 2nd, would apply to the programs covered by the Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Financial Services-General Government, Homeland

Security, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch, and State-Foreign Operations bills.

Failure for Congress to start acting on these appropriations means another set of threats to shut-down the federal government. Slim majorities in both the House and the Senate are making a budget deal difficult to achieve and placing pressure on leaders in both houses. The New Year will be interesting as special elections and re-districting also come into play in the politics of Washington.

FARM BILL

A package of federal legislation known as the Farm Bill — the most impactful piece of legislation related to agriculture — is proposed, debated, and passed by Congress and signed into law by the president. The current Farm Bill was enacted in December 2018 and expired in 2023. As leaders look ahead to the next version of the Farm Bill, here are some important things to know.

The original Farm Bill was enacted during the 1930s as part of the New Deal and had three main goals:

1. Keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers.
2. Ensure an adequate food supply.
3. Protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources.

At nearly 1,000 pages, the more recent Farm Bills intersect with

a multitude of topics, such as agriculture, health care, forestry, poverty, climate change and school foods.

Given the delay in adopting a federal budget and the deadline on adopting a new Farm Bill, on November 15th, Congress finally passed an extension on the expired bill through September 30, 2024. The one-year extension will guarantee funding for key hardwood initiatives such as the Market Access and Foreign Market Development programs. The bill effectively keeps in place current Farm Bill programs and authorizations and allow Congress one year to work out a new Farm Bill.

The next Farm Bill promises to have a lot in terms of forests and climate and ESFPA has been testifying on various provisions and working with our national affiliates on advocacy campaigns that will continue in 2024.

BIPARTISAN "JOBS IN THE WOODS ACT" MOVES IN CONGRESS

In a welcome example of bipartisanship on both sides of the Capitol, Senate and House lawmakers are moving legislation that will address the chronic worker shortage in the hardwood industry. "The Jobs in the Woods Act", championed by Reps. Chavez-Deremer (R-OR) and Gluesenkamp-Perez (D-WA) on the House side and Sens. King (I-ME) and Risch (R-ID), will provide education to promote jobs in the understaffed timber industry and U.S. Forest Service. The bill would:

- Create education programs by states, non-profits, and colleges through grants of \$500,000-\$2,000,000.

- Create the programs in rural and low-income areas to spur economic development, bringing thousands of dollars of investments into our rural and underserved communities.

- Create a pool of talented, trained, and qualified applicants to fill timber industry job openings, helping Americans obtain quality jobs working to serve and responsibly manage our forest and secure our wood industry supply chain.

- Partner with programs that have proven to help students achieve forestry industry jobs and programs that engage with their local communities.

FEDERAL BAT REGULATIONS

On March 6, 2023, the United State Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) issued *“Interim Voluntary Guidance for the Northern Long-eared Bat: Forest Habitat Modification”*. The purpose of this voluntary guidance is to assist stakeholders with non-federal actions involving forest habitat modification to address concerns about compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and promote conservation of the Northern Long-eared Bat. This guidance is interim and runs for the period of March 31, 2023 – April 1, 2024. USF&WS will seek stakeholder input during this period with the intent to formalize final Guidance in April 2024.

DEC has also completed guidance on how the federal interim rule will operate in New York and under New York’s Endangered Species Act.

On September 13, 2023, the USF&WS announced a proposal to list the tricolored bat as endangered under the federal ESA.

The species faces extinction due primarily to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent.

The tricolored bat is found east of the Rocky Mountains in 39 U.S. states and the District of Columbia; in four Canadian provinces from the Atlantic Coast west to the Great Lakes; and in portions of eastern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and Nicaragua. New York is on the periphery of the tri-colored bat range. We recently heard the USF&WS may make a decision on Tri-colored Bat in the Spring of 2024 as well.

ESFPA has been active in 2023 working on what may happen with the federal guidance as the deadline of April 1, 2024, approaches for NLEB and what may happen with Tri-colored Bat. It’s important to note that the federal ESA status automatically changes under the State ESA status.

ESFPA NEWS

TOM GEROW OF WAGNER LUMBER PRESENTED NEIL B. GUTCHESS AWARD



At the December 2023 Board of Directors Meeting, the Empire State Forest Products Association was proud to present the Neil B. Gutchess Award to Tom Gerow of Wagner Lumber. The Board had unanimously agreed that Tom would be the perfect recipient of the award, as its purpose is to recognize individuals and/or organizations who make outstanding contributions to the forests and wood products industry in New York State and beyond.

The decision to present this award to Tom Gerow came in the wake of his recent announcement that he will soon begin his retirement after 35 years of working for Wagner Lumber as a procurement forester and mill manager. He created their sustainable procurement program and greatly contributed to Wagner’s growth and success throughout the years. He has also been an integral part of ESFPA, serving on the Board of Directors for 18 years and serving as Board Chair for 4 years.

Jen DeFrancesco, current ESFPA Board Chair, remarks that “Tom Gerow is the true embodiment of what the Neil Gutchess award is all about. He has consistently been one of the first people to volunteer for extra tasks, responsibilities, and committees. Often challenging others to do the same, truly leading by example.” John Bartow, ESFPA Executive Director, states that “Tom Gerow has been

an outstanding representative of the hardwood sector of New York as a forester and mill manager for over 3 decades. He has also been active in many trade associations including ESFPA, Penn York Lumbermen’s Club, and Hardwood Manufacturers Association. We will miss him and his commitment to the forest and wood products industry.”

We are grateful for everything Tom Gerow has done for the industry and for ESFPA. We would like to congratulate him on receiving this award and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

NYLT UPDATES

New York Logger Training wrapped up 2023 with a November Board of Directors Meeting. We are happy to announce that Allison Wadsworth of Wadsworth Logging has joined our NYLT Board as an ex-officio Board Member.

Overall, 2023 was a successful year with good NYLT class participation. We finished out the courses for the 22-23 Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board Grant (HAB) and have applied for more funding for the 24-25 year. We have also

applied for the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Forest Economy Grant Program. We expect to hear back about the NBRC Grant in January and expect to hear back about the HAB Grant around March.

The Spring 2024 NYLT courses will be released in the third week of January, so please keep an eye out for the schedule of workshops in the mail as well as on newyorkloggertraining.org.

2024 ESFPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ESFPA would like to announce the changes being made for our 2024 Board of Directors.

We have re-elected 8 Directors:

Jennifer DeFrancesco of B&B Forest Products, LTD
Christopher Truso of Farm Credit East
Sean Ross of the Lyme Timber Company
Tim Stocker of Sylvamo
Jeff Denkenberger of Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC
John Zemanick of Gutches Lumber Co, Inc.
Craig Jochum of Craig Jochum Logging
Elizabeth Lesnikoski of Burlington Electric Dept.

Our 2024 list of Officers:

Chairperson- Jennifer DeFrancesco of
B & B Forest Products, LTD
Vice-Chair- Jeff Denkenberger of
Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC
Treasurer- Michael Hanlon of Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.
Secretary- Christopher Truso of Farm Credit East
Immediate Past Chair – Michael McClarty of Finch Paper, LLC

The Executive Committee for 2024:

Jen DeFrancesco of B & B Forest Products, LTD
Chris Truso of Farm Credit East
Mike Hanlon of Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.
Jeff Denkenberger of Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC
John Zemanick of Gutches Lumber Co, Inc.
Kevin Brown of W.J. Cox Associates, Inc.
Sean Ross of the Lyme Timber Company
Mike McLarty of Finch Paper, LLC
Sally Bogdanovitch of Bay Pond Park

We would also like to welcome our 3 new Directors:

Adam Bowman with A.D. Bowman and Son Lumber Co.
Tom Gillman with F&W Forestry, Inc.
Pat Sadler with Woodwise Land Company, LLC

We look forward to a great 2024!

2023 REGIONAL MEETING RECAP

ESFPA wrapped up our 2023 Regional Meetings in mid-October with a large turnout at the Courtyard Marriott in Lake George. In total there were four Regional Meetings held this year: Saranac Lake, Cortland, Owego, and Lake George. Both the Cortland and Owego Regional Meetings included mill tours, with the Cortland meeting being held at the Gutches Cortland facility and the Owego meeting being held at the Wagner Owego facility.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in these meetings, as well as John Zemanick and Matt Gutches from Gutches Lumber Co., Inc. and Tom Gerow and Ty Bowgren from the Wagner Group for graciously hosting the mill tours for us.

We were able to meet with over 1/3 of our membership in total across the four meetings, and it was great to be able to see and network with many of our members. We would like to thank



those who attended; we value your participation and input as we move forward and plan for 2024. We would love to hear from you about what we can still do to improve these meetings, as well as what issues you would like us to better address in the future as an organization. In addition, if you would like us to host a meeting near you, please don't hesitate to reach out!

FORESTRY AWARENESS DAY 2024

ESFPA would like to announce that our 2024 Forestry Awareness Day would be held on March 5th, 2024. This event will be held in the Well at the Legislative Office Building in Albany and will feature informational vendor displays from members and affiliate groups. If you are interested in participating with your own display, please contact gabriella@esfpa.org.

Forestry Awareness Day 2024 will be hosted in person for the first time since 2019 and we are looking forward to seeing everyone there! Be on the lookout for more details and registration information in the upcoming weeks.



ESFPA
Empire State Forest Products Association
New York Forestry Resource Center
47 Van Alstyne Drive | Rensselaer, NY 12144-8465
518.463.1297 | www.esfpa.org

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
RENSSELAER, NY
PERMIT NO. 70

"The People Behind New York's Healthy Forests and Quality Wood Products"

2024 NEW YORK LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS

Thanks to everyone's generous donations, NY Log-A-Load for Kids was able to raise a total of \$23,287 in 2023 for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The breakdown of the donations is as follows:

- Albany- \$5,646.40
- Utica- \$13,807.60
- Syracuse- \$1,246.60
- Rochester- \$46.60
- Watertown- \$246.60
- Buffalo- \$1,446.60
- Elmira- \$846.60
- Total: \$23,287



During this year's Regional Meetings, ESFPA also did a 50/50 raffle and sold t-shirts for NY Log-A-Load for Kids. During these meetings, our members were able to raise an additional \$1,000 in donations.

We would like to thank everyone for another wonderful year for New York Log-A-Load for Kids and extend our gratitude for your continued willingness to go above and beyond for the cause.

