



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

FORESTS & FARMS ALIGN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

John K. Bartow, Jr., ESFPA Executive Director

Together New York's forests (64%) and Farms (21%) account for 85% of the landscape of the Empire State. They also are the most efficient, natural clean air technology that we have. Working forests and farms sequester over 25 million metric tons of carbon annually. They also supply fiber, food and timber that supports landowners and hundreds of thousands of jobs in their manufacturing and production supply chains. With good policy they could do more and that is where New York Farm Bureau and the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) have always collaborated on any number of issues and continue to do so in addressing climate change.

Last year New York adopted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) which, in a nutshell, mandates zero emissions by 2040 in our electric generation economy and 85% reductions in greenhouse gases (GhG) in all other energy sectors by 2050. After some delay due to COVID 19, this summer the Climate Action Council appointed by the Governor and Legislature convened and commenced the 18-month process of developing a "scoping plan" to achieve 40% reduction of GhGs by 2030, 85% reductions by 2050 from 1990 GhG emissions as well as net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The CLCPA will have an impact on every New Yorker including our forest and farm owners and managers, food and wood product manufacturers and those New Yorkers that depend on the products we produce, such as timber to toilet paper and apples to milk. New York's forest and farm sectors are ready for this moment, with deep consensus among the leadership and members at ESFPA and Farm Bureau on needed policies to grow natural carbon capture in forests and farms and carbon storage in soils and wood products.

ESFPA and Farm Bureau have a seat at the table with the Agriculture & Forest Advisory Panel to the Climate Action Council. We have several of both organization's members on the Advisory Panel. Over the next 4-6 months the Panel will recommend a range of policy prescriptions under goals to address climate change, from appropriations priorities and tweaks to existing programs all the way to fully developed concepts for new legislation, such as tax incentives for private forest and farm owners to undertake forest practices that increase carbon sequestration as well as ways to increase the storage of carbon in durable wood products and new bio-based energy resources and products that will displace fossil fuel based products.

That is why we need members to support and align the partnership between ESFPA and Farm Bureau to undertake needed actions in our forests and farms that will increase the amount of carbon sequestered while simultaneously ensuring that our forests and farms can survive and thrive. A powerful base that will advocate policy on forests and farms for climate stands ready to lend its voice and expertise.

In these politically tense times, climate action through forests and farms can bring us back together. Forests and farms offer countless co-benefits beyond carbon capture, including wildlife habitat, water security and open spaces. The actions we will be proposing can provide benefits in every corner of New York, from cities to rural communities. The process of ensuring healthy, resilient forest and farm landscapes promotes markets and management practices that keep our forests and farms healthy, our economy strong, and our communities sustainable.

NEW YORK LOGGER TRAINING - HOPE FOR 2021



As this issue goes to press, the NYLT organization received word that the NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board will be holding a meeting, via zoom

on December 30th at 10:00am for the purpose of awarding its Occupational Safety and Health Training grants for the 2020-2021 program year. NYLT had submitted the annual proposal

for the grant period 8/1/20 – 7/31/21. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Emergency the annual meeting would never transpire, and funding was never awarded, nor had any new requests for funding proposals been announced. Although staff has been in regular contact with the Department of Labor, news of this meeting was a surprise, and most welcome. We will have staff participate in the meeting. NYLT has relied on these funds to offset costs for our loggers for all safety training.

The Empire Envoy

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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.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Fellow ESFPA Member,

With 2020 quickly coming to an end and this being the last issue of the year, it is often the time where one would post a "year in reflection" type letter. But what do this year? Isn't 2020 a year that we should try and block out, put behind us and move on? It has no doubt been difficult for our industry, our businesses, our employees, our families, our communities and really the Country as a whole. It has been a year like no other.

As painful as it may be to look back, there is however tremendous value in it. Reflecting on the accomplishments in difficult times helps us realize what even greater things can be accomplished during good times. As mentioned in the past, many have said "2020 was a good year for building character". I disagree and rather suggest "2020 was a great year for showing true character"; and what great character our ESFPA team, ESFPA membership, and our industry have shown:

- In March our legislative lobby day was cancelled due to the start of COVID. In four days we reorganized and delivered our messages to State Legislators by phone and video conference with tremendous influence on the numerous policies and regulations released this year.
- While we were forced to close our office, our staff quickly adapted, worked remotely and continued to deliver all of the services to our membership.
- Our board and executive team moved to a video conference format for board and executive meetings. We continued with exceptional board governance; the organization remains in a responsible fiscal position continuing deliver great value to the membership.
- While we could not meet in person, our staff figured out a way to make the regional meetings digital and lined up a great guest speaker for each meeting. Our regional meeting attendance was as strong if not stronger than in years past.
- We delivered numerous different video conferences and information nights. If anything it was an opportunity for our membership to jump on the call, find out what is going on and feel not alone out there as they faced their own challenges.
- Lastly our most significant accomplishment of the year. When faced with business shutdown orders this spring our staff and organization stepped up.

(See "Chairman" continued on page 3)

ESFPA Sustaining Members



The Forestland Group, LLC



CHAIRMAN *(continued from page 2)*

When the shutdown orders we first released, we didn't show up on any list as essential. We were in the cross-hairs of having to shutdown our industry across the State; stay home and have our businesses, our employees and society who needs our products suffer. In four whole days (96 hours) we were able to change that and have our industry defined as essential so we could continue to operate. From that point on, our industry never looked back. Most operated completely through the remainder of the year keeping their employees and their communities safe. They continue to operate today as I write this letter. WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT.

So here we are at the end of 2020. What next? The date on the calendar of January 1, 2021 does not mean the challenges of 2020 just go away. Many of the same challenges will still exist. But, I believe they will begin to diminish as we move through the early part of 2021; our health crisis will become under control, the economy will start its recovery and demand for

our products will grow. The opportunities will be all around us and those with the amazing character we showed in 2020 will prosper. OUR INDUSTRY WILL PROSPER.

In closing I have only one ask of our membership. When your renewal notice comes in the mail. Please join the organization, YOUR ORGANIZATION, again for 2021 and try and find one other who is not a member and convince them to join. I want to thank our tremendous staff, John, Muriel and Janet for everything you have done this year; from all of the members, THANK-YOU. I also want to wish all of our membership a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and prosperous 2021.

Best Regards,



Mike

A WORD FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

By Jennifer DeFrancesco, B & B Forest Products

Align yourself with the right people, forge the right relationships, and you will set yourself up for the long run". If you GOOGLE, tips for success in business, just about every article has that at the top of the list. In the forest products industry, there are few allies that I trust to get things done as much as the ESFPA.

2020 has been a doozy, but it could have been much worse for our industry if not for the quick action of our ESFPA and board of directors. Within an hour of much of our industry being deemed "non-essential" we set to work on getting that turned around. The importance of the entire forest products supply chain was recognized over those next few hours, and we were heard- loud and clear.

This was not unlike the scenario that first opened my eyes to just how important ESFPA is. In April 2018, the trade war with China began, and business as we knew it was in chaos, literally

overnight. Arriving at work that next morning I called, emailed, and faxed every single person that I could think of for help. John Bartow answered my panicked email back with a phone call and within a day we had federal attention on our industry and just how important it truly is.

I will be the first to admit, given the choice between meeting with lawmakers and being at the log yard, there is no contest. I will choose our yard every time. So being a member of ESFPA is a natural choice for our business.

In 2021 we all will have some choices to make for our businesses. I encourage you to please make the choice to continue your membership with ESFPA. We have a widely respected executive director, great staff, and an active board of directors. But the backbone of every association is the members. With your continued support, we will keep "fighting the good fight" to make sure that everyone in NY state knows just how essential we truly are.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John K. Bartow, Jr.



2020 has been a challenging year. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic, PAUSE NY, RESTART New York, international trade and tariffs slumping markets, and weather have put a significant strain on New York's foresters, forest landowners, loggers wood products manufacturers and the supply chains that support them. These challenges have underscored the important role that working together to influence policy, legislation and regulations in Albany and Washington D.C.

Together, with your help, we were able to continue policy wins which make it possible for improved active forest management and a diverse wood products manufacturing sector that supports nearly 100,000 jobs, generates income for forest landowners,

improves communities across the State and manufactures and supplies wood products for New Yorkers and markets across the globe.

In 2020, your support, outreach, and advocacy helped us to:

- **Ensure our businesses were deemed "essential" and continued to employ workers and produce products through the pandemic.**
- **Connect our members to critical Federal and State COVID-19 relief resources to help them through the tough challenges the pandemic presented.**
- **Secured State funding within the State budget for forest regeneration, working forest easements, the Wood Products Development Council, and more.**
- **Prevented enactment of legislation that would have crushed our**

(See "Message" continued on page 4)

MESSAGE *(continued from page 3)***Workers Compensation Program and had a deleterious effect on the New York Lumberman's Trust.**

- **Supported the Governor's vetoes on legislation that would have regulated streams and prohibited use of certain pesticides and herbicides.**
- **Ensured that forests and wood product manufacturing interests had a voice within the Climate Scoping Plan that is implementing New York's Climate Act.**
- **And many more wins that benefit our forest sector and members.**

As we enter 2021 we see a future that will have its challenges but also opportunities to strengthen our sector and lead us out from the burdens of this pandemic. Your membership to ESFPA is what makes all this possible and our collective voices heard in Albany and beyond. As you

prioritize and contribute in 2021, we hope that a membership in ESFPA is on that list enabling us to be louder and stronger in 2021.

Thank you for your membership and support. If you know of a colleague who is not a member please tell them how ESFPA benefits them through you support and how they should support as well. To view our full list of accomplishments, please visit www.esfpa.org. You can use this list to let all in the industry know why they should be members if they are not already! Every voice counts.

On behalf of your Board of Directors here at ESFPA, Janet, Muriel and myself, we wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year!

FEDERAL NEWS

SECOND FEDERAL STIMULUS

On December 21st, Congress passed a combined pandemic relief (\$900 billion) and omnibus government funding (\$1.4 trillion) bill that is 5,593 pages long. Six days later, after some drama, President Trump signed the relief package. The bill fell short on two important items that we had hoped for and did not include relief for state and local governments and did not provide liability protection for businesses. Here are highlights of the provisions in the bill:

- \$600 direct payments to most Americans
- \$300 a week in extra unemployment benefits through March
- \$284 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program with the provision ensuring forgivable loans are not taxed as income
- \$82 billion for K-12 schools and universities
- \$69 billion for vaccine development, testing and community health
- \$25 billion in rental assistance
- \$15 billion for performance venues
- \$15 billion in aid for airlines
- \$14 billion for public transit
- \$13 billion for food-stamp benefits
- \$13 billion in aid to farmers and ranchers
- \$10 billion for childcare

There were some provisions in the bill that the forestry sector has interest in. These include:

Paycheck Protection Program—language was added to the deal that overrides a damaging Internal Revenue Service notice that was published in November making forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans taxable as income. Provisions in the deal not only clarify that forgiven PPP loans are not taxable as income, but language also makes clear that deductions are allowed for expenses paid with proceeds of a forgiven PPP loan, effective as of the date of enactment of the CARES Act and applicable to subsequent PPP loans.

Relief for loggers and log truck haulers—language in the package authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support timber harvesting and hauling businesses. A total of \$13 billion is authorized for this provision, which also includes biofuels producers. Of this amount, loggers and log haulers could receive up to \$200 million in COVID relief. ESFPA sponsored an advocacy campaign on the Loggers Relief Act which was our most active campaign this fall and the language in that act. The language is as follows:

That from the amounts provided in this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may use not more than \$200,000,000 to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, experienced a loss of not less than 10 percent in gross revenue during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on December 1, 2020, as compared to the gross revenue of that timber harvesting or hauling business during the same period in 2019.

Tax Credit for Biomass Heating Systems—wood and pellet heating units, whether they are stoves purchased to heat space or larger, whole home heating systems will now qualify for a generous renewable energy investment tax credit. Beginning in 2021, consumers buying high efficiency wood or pellet stoves, or larger residential biomass heating systems, will be able to claim a 26 percent tax credit that is based on the fully installed cost of the unit. This provision is part of the BTU Act, which has been one of our talking points during Capitol Hill fly-in days for the last several years. Enactment of this tax incentive should help with sawmill residuals issues as consumers take advantage of this lucrative credit and more wood pellet heating systems are installed in homes across the country.

Keep an eye on our *Alerts*, *E-News* and web site for more information about programs included in the stimulus package that may benefit your business.



www.facebook.com/EmpireStateForestProductsAssociation

APHIS CHANGING RESPONSE TO EAB

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is changing its approach to fight the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation that has spread through much of the United States. The Agency published the final rule on December 15, 2020 and it will become effective on January 14, 2021. The final rule removes the federal domestic EAB quarantine regulations that have proven ineffective and will redirect resources to more promising methods. This mirrors what New York did a year ago.

APHIS has been transparent about the challenges associated with controlling the emerald ash borer and that the domestic quarantine has not proven effective in stopping its spread. The Agency has worked to identify more effective and less intrusive

methods and will now direct available resources toward non-regulatory options for management and containment of the pest, such as rearing and releasing biological control agents. Results have already proved effective and the actions announced will allow the Agency to increase their use.

Removing the quarantine regulations ends APHIS' domestic regulatory activities, which includes actions such as issuing permits, certificates and compliance agreements, making site visits, and conducting investigations of suspected violations. APHIS is working with the National Plant Board on effective strategies to manage firewood movement, which is one of the ways the emerald ash borer spreads. APHIS' goal is still to maintain ash in the North American landscape.

SMALL BUSINESS STILL FEEL THE PAIN OF PANDEMIC AND FEAR MORE TO COME

Earlier this month, the U.S. Chamber and MetLife released the **Q4 Small Business Index**—a survey of 1,000 small businesses to take the temperature of the sector, see where small business owners are confident, and where they are experiencing challenges. The Q4 index focused on small business owners outlook in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Among other insights, the Q4 Small Business Index finds that:

- Only **40%** of all small business owners believe their business can continue to operate indefinitely without having to shut down permanently
- **62%** of small businesses fear that the worst is still to come with COVID-19's economic impact.

- **74%** of all small business owners say they need further government assistance to weather the storm.
- Combatting COVID-19 (**44%**) and the economy (**44%**) are the two top small business priorities for the incoming president and Congress.

Within the forest sector, our small business operators are more optimistic about the coming months based on ESFPA's survey done in September. Most all our businesses were deemed essential and operated through the worst of the pandemic and many had a good fall given the weather. Challenges do remain but continuity in operations has kept many of us functioning well. While it looks like the first two quarters of 2021 remain challenging, let us hope the vaccines that are being delivered make the second half of 2021 better.

STATE NEWS

CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL AND FORESTRY SECTOR

On July 18, 2019 Governor Cuomo signed into law the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA). This legislation is among the most ambitious climate laws in the nation and requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and no less than 85% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The law created the Climate Action Council charged with developing a scoping plan of recommendations to meet these targets and place New York on a path toward carbon neutrality.

The Climate Action Council first met in March 2020 and like everything else it was delayed due to COVID-19 shutdowns but has since met 5 more times. The legislation and the Council have created and appointed 7 Advisory Panels and a Just Transition Working Group to draft the scoping plan with a statutory deadline to present a scoping plan by January 1, 2022 and eventually regulations, and likely more legislation, by January 1, 2023. It is an ambitious agenda and time frame but the Council and supporting agencies are working toward meeting those deadlines.

While our forests and wood product manufacturers have interest in all 7 advisory panels, we are most interested in the work of the Agriculture & Forestry Panel, the Energy Intensive & Trade Exposed Panel and the Waste Panel. The Advisory Panels are on course to make initial recommendations by the end of March 2021 then conduct a series of public outreach meetings and formulate final recommendations to the Climate Action Council by the end of July 2021.

ESFPA Executive Director John Bartow, Board Director Tom Gerow and Association Member Donna Wadsworth serve on the Agriculture & Forestry Advisory Panel. They along with Robert Malmshemer of SUNY ESF represent the forestry sector on the 18-member panel chaired by Ag. & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball. The Advisory Panel has met monthly since August and has created several sub-panels that are now meeting on a bi-weekly basis to develop recommendations.

We will report on the activities of the Advisory Panels that we are following in our weekly E-news and you can track

(See "Climate Action Council" continued on page 6

CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL *(continued from page 5)*

the Council and Advisory Panel meetings and materials at www.climate.ny.gov. As with the CLCPA the scoping plan is ambitious and the timeline for development is Herculean. There will be no part of New York's economy that will not be affected by the resulting programs, regulations, and legislation

necessary to achieve the goals of the CLCPA. We will continue to present the working of the Advisory Panels and Climate Action Council to our membership and seek your input on recommendations that are being developed. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the CLCPA please do not hesitate to contact us.

STATE REGULATORY UPDATE

Endangered & Threatened Species – 6 NYCRR Part 182– DEC Division of Fish & Wildlife continues to refine and amend the Part 182 endangered species regulations. ESPA commented on the most recent proposed changes to some administrative procedures and the proposed “experimental species” regulations. These changes would encourage private landowners to work with DEC on species restoration and recovery by eliminating some of the “incidental take” restrictions on such projects. The Division has also released a pre-regulation posting of species to be moved, added or removed from the lists for Endangered, Threatened and Species of Greatest Conservation Concern. We worked with NCASI on reviewing and commenting on the List.

Section 480-a Forest Tax Law – 6 NYCRR Part 190 – DEC Division of Lands & Forests continues to draft regulations for changing the 480-a forest tax law program. Draft regulations are not yet available, but DEC staff have met a couple of times with foresters around the State. The goal of the amendments is to streamline the program for both Department administration and landowners. We will look to Spring 2021 for draft regulations.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Limits – 6 NYCRR Part 496 – DEC and NYSERDA have completed and adopted the first Climate regulations. This regulation establishes the 1990 GhG emissions from which are derived the 2030 GhG limits of 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. These numbers drive the reductions in total GhG that must be met. Next DEC will establish guidance for GhG emission reporting that they will first produce by January 1 2022 and annually report thereafter. In establishing the GhG limits DEC treats all emissions the same (biogenic as well as fossil fuel sources). In the regulatory statement, however, DEC spent a lot of narrative on discussing sequestration and how the accounting and reporting for the annual emissions will take into consideration the role of forests and other forms of sequestration. Beginning in January DEC will be meeting with stakeholders regarding the guidance.

Invasive Species – 6 NYCRR Part 575 – DEC Division of Lands and Forests has been working with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, of which ESFPA is a member, on amendments to the invasive species regulations and restricted and prohibited species. This past Spring, we submitted suggested changes to the lists of restricted and prohibited species including moving Emerald Ash Borer from prohibited to restricted and adding Spotted Lanterfly as a prohibited species. Earlier this month at an ISAC meeting DEC indicated that over the next year they would be amending the regulations.

Lake George Park Commission Regulations – 6 NYCRR Part 645 – The Lake George Park Commission has proposed to amend their stormwater regulations and to adopt new regulations protecting streams within the Lake George

Basin. In September we testified and submitted comments on the stormwater regulations, and we will be testifying and submitting comments on the stream regulations on January 12, 2021. As of right now forestry and timber harvesting will largely be exempt from the Commissions regulations. For stormwater we are exempt and for streams they are accepting DEC's Protection of Waters General Permit for stream crossings. For both stormwater and stream crossings, timber harvests in excess of 5,000 sq. ft. will have to file a two-page Notice of Intent prior to conducting a timber harvest or developing a stream crossing. While timber harvests will not be regulated landowners or foresters or loggers on their behalf will have to file the NOI.

Value of Carbon Guidance - DEC and NYSERDA in late October released a draft “Value of Carbon” guidance to assist State entities with estimating the value of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions in decision making. Developed pursuant to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and in consultation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Resources for the Future, this guidance establishes a monetary value for avoided emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide; provides an up-to-date review of approaches used by other governments to place a value on emissions; and identifies future areas of work, including placing a value on other greenhouse gases and air pollutants. The proposed value of carbon guidance is a tool that can be used to consider greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in decision-making processes. This guidance is different than a regulation and does not propose a carbon price, fee, or compliance obligation. ESFPA submitted comments on November 27th and DEC intends to release a final draft in January 2021.

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STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Stream Protections Bill – A. 8349 – On November 27th Governor Cuomo Vetoed (#60) the legislation to add Class C streams to the DEC Protection of Waters Regulatory Program. This legislation would have added over 41,000 miles of streams to the already 36,000 miles currently regulated by DEC. ESFPA and NY Farm Bureau took the lead in arguing in favor of the veto. The Governor cited our comments regarding the administrative and financial burden that DEC would face and the adverse impact of forests and farms that are significant in naturally protecting streams.

Glyphosate Bill – S. 6502-A – This legislation prohibits the use of glyphosate, broad-spectrum systemic herbicide and crop desiccant used extensively in silvicultural and agricultural practices, on all State lands. Originally the bill was limited to parks and playgrounds but then changed to all State lands. We together with NY Farm Bureau and others put forth compelling evidence as to why this bill should be vetoed but at the last

minute the Governor signed the legislation (Chapter 378 of the Laws of 2020). In Approval Memo # 70 the Governor States “Banning the use of glyphosate on all state property, with no exceptions or exemptions, would have significant adverse environmental and fiscal consequences because it would force the State to rely on more toxic and more costly alternative in the management of state land.

Therefore, I have agreed with the Legislature to make certain technical changes to this bill allowing for glyphosate to be applied on state property in limited circumstances where the herbicide is being directly applied with no human contact in order to maintain critical infrastructure, or other very limited circumstances.” We will reach out to the Governor and Legislative sponsors to work on language for a technical amendment that will continue to allow use of glyphosate as a silvicultural practice.”

SFI COMMUNITY GRANTS RFP IS NOW OPEN

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is interested in collaborating with local partners on community-based projects and activities that support SFI’s mission to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations.

SFI opened its annual request for proposals (RFP) for SFI Community Grants today. Grant applications will be accepted from eligible entities until February 5, 2021, at 11:59 pm eastern

time. Requirements for this year’s program are available on the SFI website www.forests.org.

SFI Community Grants promote collaboration with the SFI Network to support local communities’ understanding of the value and benefits of sustainably managed forests. If you have a project you would like to consider submitting, please contact us at ESFPA and we can help direct you to the materials.

LOG A LOAD BASS TOURNAMENT WINNER ANNOUNCED



In efforts to continue the support to Log A Load, the New York State Committee developed several new and fun ways we can contribute to this amazing cause. One event held was the Adult and Junior division Bass Tournament. Photographed here is Tom Vadney – our Adult 1st place winner. He is shown with his 1st place prize, a saw donated by Woodwise Land

Company. Congratulations to Tom and all our thanks to all who have donated in 2020. This year’s total is 27,053.30!! Our industry continues to go above and beyond!



Congratulations to all New and Renewed New York Logger Training Certified Loggers Certifications and Recertifications August-December 2020

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Kevin Bell | Thomas McIntyre |
| Gary Beller | Todd McIntyre |
| J. Allen Bender | Jason Miller |
| Kyle Bentley | Mike Monks |
| Derrick Bright | Philip Mossow |
| Bruce Bulger | John F. Roberts Jr. |
| Bennett E. Byas | John F. Roberts Sr. |
| Walker Chandler | John Ruebel |
| Adam Clark | Ryan Seamon |
| Stewart Daniels | Norman H. Simpson |
| Harley Davis | Bryan Smith |
| Daniel Edick | Brandon Stevens |
| Dennis Elliott | Kristian Stowell |
| Michael Fabian | Mike Sulas |
| Thomas W. Ferguson | Chad Thilburg |
| Kamrin Frasier | Zach Thilburg |
| Bill Hopkins | Anthony Vanderkrake |
| David Keefer | Christopher Warren |
| Cody Lyndaker | Lloyd Warren |
| Travis Lyndaker | Kim Widrick |
| Jeffrey Maiorino | Larry Widrick |
| Kevin Martin | Elliott Zehr |
| Greg May | |

WELCOME NEW ESFPA MEMBERS (AS OF DECEMBER 2020)

Keese Mill, Allyson Bennett Sharon, CT
 Warren’s Excavating & Stone Products, LLC,
 Lloyd Warren & Christopher WarrenAfton, NY

Members are approved quarterly at each Board of Directors Meeting



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“The People Behind New York’s Healthy Forests and Quality Wood Products”

ELECTIONS 2020

No matter your political persuasion, the seemingly endless 2020 Election is nearly over. Nationally we await the Georgia U.S. Senate runoff to determine the majority of the U.S. Senate and in NY we await the court review of results for the 22nd Congressional District where incumbent Anthony Brindisi and former Congresswoman Claudia Tenny continue to review and challenge ballots in a race decided by a handful of votes.

Nationally, Joe Biden will be sworn in the 46th President as many expected. Democrats will retain control of the House but by a much smaller margin than anticipated. As we go to print, the outcome of the Georgia Runoff for U.S. Senators has not been decided and the majority will swing on this race. For the time being the Republicans retain a 50-48 narrow majority. However, keep in mind that, whoever controls the Senate that party’s majority will be very slim. Typically, 60 votes are needed to move in the upper chamber which requires opposing party votes to pass any legislation.

We again most likely will be working with a split government with both parties exerting some control over pieces of the legislative and budget process. Gridlock will continue to be the rule, not the exception. While the Biden/Harris administration is talking about some sweeping agenda items (e.g. climate change policy) it will be very challenging for both major legislative or budget changes atleast through the 2022 election cycle.

The 2020 New York State legislative elections changed dramatically

from what election night tallies portrayed. Large absentee ballot counts swung many races that called for stronger Republican gains in both the Senate and Assembly than initially thought. Overall, fourteen new Senate members and thirty new Assembly members were elected to office, although three new Senators previously served in the Assembly – Anthony Palumbo, Dan Stec and Sean Ryan.

Results in NY Senate races have produced an increased Senate Democrat majority of 43, with 20 Republicans, providing a “super majority” of more than the two-thirds necessary to override gubernatorial vetoes. Upstate Democrats now have 5 seats with Michelle Hinchey winning the 46th District and Samra Brouk winning the 55th District. On Long Island Republican Alexis Weik picked up the 3rd District and defeating incumbent Monica Martinez and Hudson Valley Republican Mike Martucci picked up the 42nd District defeating incumbent Jen Metzger. There will be a number of Committee chair changes as a result of the Senate elections, of particular note will be Agriculture Chair previously held by Senator Metzger.

In the Assembly, the elections produced a Democrat majority of 107, with 43 Republicans, a net Democrat increase of one seat. Of particular note in the Assembly, however, were the number of Democrats defeating Democrats in New York City. In all there were 11 Democrats in NYC who defeated Democrats in either primaries or the general election. A significant leftward shift in power. This will present challenges in the Assembly to keep a moderate agenda important to many upstate Democrats in the Assembly.