



Sappi Fine Paper North America

2012 Sustainability Report

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Inspired by life



Balancing Management Objectives

Katie Cousins / Skowhegan, Maine

When the Penobscot County Conservation Association (PCCA) wanted to harvest some trees to benefit the wildlife on their property, we knew, despite the fact that their 1,300 acres in central Maine were not certified, that we could help them harvest wood consistent with sustainable management practices. Guided by environmentally sound procedures, the Sappi Fine Paper North America Sustainable Forestry Program foresters identified the landowner's objectives, assessed the property to determine options and developed a plan of action to achieve the stated objectives. Most importantly for the PCCA, the harvest strategy took a series of steps to promote animal habitat and natural history conservation.

First, within two large blocks of pine trees, we opened two patches in which the association will plant food crops to give animals places to forage and take cover while retaining much needed roosting spots for songbirds and turkeys. The Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation will use these patches as part of their efforts to reintroduce the chestnut that was once an important part of New England forests but has been ravaged by disease. Second, in areas crowded with

immature trees, we created five small patch openings to promote new plant regeneration while producing food sources for small mammals, deer and moose as well as cover for grouse and woodcock.

Finally, we harvested a 100-acre block of dying balsam fir and red maple so that species like white pine, spruce, red oak and beech, which have more value to wildlife, could flourish. Of course, much of the wood we cut did have a manufacturing and financial value as well. "We harvested a lot of hardwood and softwood trees, which are basically two of the primary wood products that go into making paper," said Katie Cousins, a SFPNA forester and wildlife biologist who worked on the project. And the money that SFPNA paid for the wood went directly to PCCA, who can now use it for college scholarships, sponsoring students for a week at a conservation camp, hunter safety programs and further conservation efforts. So, in the end, though it didn't further our goal of increasing our use of certified fiber, it is easy to see how this project benefited the landowner, Sappi and the wildlife.



Listening to Nature

— Gary Erickson / Cloquet, Minnesota

In July 2011, two separate wind events impacted northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin, damaging the equivalent of 600,000–700,000 cords of wood. Given our team's vast forestry experience, we knew it was important to act fast to help protect our local wood basket.

The longer the wood sat on the ground—in some places it was stacked twelve feet high—the quicker it would dry out, creating a fire hazard and an explosion of the insect population. Also, every day the downed timber stayed in the woods, it was losing value, thereby costing the landowners money and wasting a valuable resource that could be used for lumber, fuel and

paper production. Though we purchased nearly half of the damaged timber from Minnesota, most of the downed wood was not third-party certified. But Gary Erickson, Regional Manager of Wood Fiber and Fuel Procurement for SFPNA in Cloquet, Minnesota, says during times of crisis it is more important to look at the big picture. "There is a good ecological reason for helping these small landowners and providing a market and beneficial use for the wood that is being salvaged off that land." And the good news is that where the wood has been harvested, natural regeneration is already occurring.

SFPNA's wood procurement group is staffed with licensed foresters with a breadth and depth of knowledge that enables them to take an active and important role extending well beyond procurement and certification efforts.



Paul Larrivee / Skowhegan, Maine

Just like the natural cycle of the forest, SFPNA Senior Procurement Forester Paul Larrivee's story has come full circle. At the age of ten, while growing up in Gray, Maine, Paul spent a day planting trees with a local forester through a school program. Right then he knew he wanted to study forestry and become a forester. And that's just what he did.

He took his first job in forestry consulting and then as a district forester and regional enforcement coordinator for Maine's Department of Conservation's Forest Service. This position allowed him to educate people about the rules and laws of forestry and also gave him the opportunity to go to schools and teach kids about the forest. One thing the job didn't let him do was practice forestry. "I missed doing the implementation on the ground and seeing the final product," he says. So about a year ago, he came to SFPNA to realize this goal and he hasn't looked back.

"I am very happy to be back working with landowners," he says. "And I love getting their thank-you letters." Currently, he's a volunteer teacher at Wells Reserve and still gives presentations at schools. "I know if I can get the kids outside, which is pretty hard in today's society, I can get them to understand that the forest is a living, breathing entity," he says. And Larrivee's dedication to conservation and education has paid off. "I met a young man in the field the other day who rode with me when he was a senior in high school," he says. "He's now a licensed forester, so it's pretty neat to see that you can make a difference."



Brett Peterson / Cloquet, Minnesota

"A love of the outdoors." Like many foresters, that's what led Brett Peterson, Senior Wood Procurement Manager for SFPNA, to a career in forestry. A native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula who now lives in Wisconsin with his wife and three young children, he spent six years working the woods before coming to SFPNA ten years ago. Now a Senior Procurement Manager at the Cloquet Mill, he supervises four field foresters and handles all open-market purchases for Michigan and Wisconsin.

Unlike his early days as a forester when he spent almost all of his time among the trees, now he is usually in the office unless conducting field audits. The different aspects of his job are what keep him interested after nearly two decades in the industry. "I enjoy the variability of forestry," Peterson says. "Some days you are dealing with on-the-ground activities while others you can be focused on large-scale concepts like managing the job's more political aspects." Just recently, Peterson oversaw a timber sale which gave him a chance to show his children what he does for a living, but also how a well-managed forest can be a good thing.

Despite the fact that the worst time to look at a timber sale is right after it is completed, Peterson made a point of showing his kids exactly what the harvest did. "I want my children to have fun outdoors but also understand how the forest works so they'll enjoy it even more."



Mandy Farrar / Skowhegan, Maine

For a forest to be in working order, the relationships between the trees, animals and environmental forces have to be in sync. As a procurement forester, Mandy Farrar understands this fact of nature and maybe that is why she has come to value the connections she often makes in her line of work. A former white-water raft guide and park ranger in the Allagash region, Farrar originally got into forestry so that she could escape into the woods just as she did growing up in Solon, Maine.

Working to procure wood for the Somerset Mill from small, private landowners with holdings spanning from ten to 1,000 acres or more, she has come to love interacting with clients just as much as she loves being in the forest. "In this job, more than anything else, you build relationships," she says. Farrar has done just that by helping landowners reach their objectives, be it wildlife management, recreation, improved forest health, applying for tax reductions or building a house. And, much to her delight, she's found out that the relationships don't end when the harvests end. "Months later I'll get a picture or a letter from a landowner," she says. "They'll say, 'I saw a baby fawn. You said the wildlife would come back even better and it did!'"

It is this type of connection between forestry, people and animals that makes her think her job is so special. An avid outdoorsperson who loves to fish and counts Mosquito Mountain as one of her favorite hikes, she says, "I love being in the woods and I love working with people so this type of work fits me perfectly."



Craig Ferguson / Cloquet, Minnesota

Everyone's heard the saying, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," but in Senior Forester Craig Ferguson's case, that old axiom has special meaning. That's because he credits his grandfather, who was a forester for the Minnesota Forest Service, as the main reason he made a career out of forestry. "He was retired when I was growing up," Ferguson says. "But he and my father took me out into the woods a lot for recreation and that connection is why I love the outdoors so much." This passion for the backcountry led Ferguson to study forestry at the University of Minnesota and he signed on with SFPNA soon after graduation.

In his eight years with the company, he has become one of the key foresters for the Cloquet Mill, purchasing timber from landowners in surrounding counties while also working closely with a large wood supplier for the mill. In fact, it's not only being in the woods that makes Ferguson, who just completed an MBA at The College of St. Scholastica, enjoy his job so much; it's also because of who he gets to share the forest with. "My favorite part of the job is interacting with all the neat people I meet," he says. "Whether it's the loggers or the foresters from the state and county agencies, they do a great job and it's fun to work with them."

When he's not on the job he likes to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and spend time outdoors with his sons. "They have a lot of energy," he says with a laugh. "And it's great to experience everything the woods has to offer with them."