

**Susan Swanson** has held the position of Executive Director of the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group Inc. (AHUG) since 1996. Prior to that, she was Administrative Assistant for the organization. In her capacity as AHUG Executive Director she holds positions in several allied organizations including the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, the state implementation committee of the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Pa Forest Stewardship committee, the PSU AG Council, The Lumber Heritage Region Board of Directors, and is a PA wilds Task Force member. In addition she belongs to several national organizations, including the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, National Council of Forestry Association Executives, and the National Alliance of Forest Owners Legislative Committee.

In her years as Executive Director of AHUG, Swanson has helped develop numerous initiatives for the hardwood industry, including the Penn's Woods Curriculum, the PA Woodmobile, wood products curriculum for high schools and other forest-related educational products. AHUG has been the lead organizer for the Kane Area Loggers Safety Committee, which hosts the longest running safety meeting for loggers in the country. She also initiated the yearly "Women in Timber" ladies luncheon that is held yearly in conjunction with the safety meeting. AHUG is also coordinates and is a sponsor of the biannual Roach/Bauer Forestry Forum, a professional development series for the forestry community.

Susan believes that development of relationships should be a crucial part of any organization's mission. To that end, she has led AHUG by partnering with other organizations and entities in the delivery of services to the hardwood industry, such as workforce initiatives, training and professional forestry development. All of which have been particularly important to the industry's survival.

The AHUG region is home to the Allegheny National Forest and as such, AHUG has served a role in ensuring that the forest continues to be managed for timber production. AHUG has provided legal representation for activist lawsuits, endangered species consultation, and continues to serve as a conduit for industry to interact with forest service staff and leadership. She is a founding member of the Allegheny Forest Alliance, a community based organization that was created to provide school districts and townships a voice in national forest issues and could represent the local perspective in the litigation that was occurring on the ANF several years ago. She has participated in numerous Forest Service meetings including planning, stewardship contracting workshops, timber purchasers meetings etc. Developing strong political ties to both state and federal legislators has enabled AHUG to facilitate discussion with our local industry and legislators on numerous issues that have impacted the industry.

Ms. Swanson lives in Kane with her husband, who happens to be a proud PA logger. She has 3 grown children, one of whom is employed in the lumber industry and she also has 4 grandchildren.