



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Program

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Forest Stewardship Outreach

By Louise Sprowls '09

The coffee would keep them awake and the promise of lunch would keep them there, so a mid-morning time slot for my presentation was perfect. When the Somerset County Health & Welfare Council selected Laurel Hill State Park as the location for their fall retreat, I volunteered to be their first speaker. Now how do I talk about forestry to a group of social service workers? When I drove over to check out the site, the lakeside pavilion made it easy. I asked that the agenda show my topic as "The Woods, The Water and the Wildlife."

Greeting the retreat participants on a crisp fall day, I started with a discussion about friends - people we recognize, know and care about, will do things for. Being with friends is relaxing and enjoyable, good for our mental and physical health. Then I asked them to look out the windows at our beautiful surroundings.

Having pulled information from various publications of Forest Stewardship and the archives of local newspapers, I talked about the history of Pennsylvania's forests from Wm Penn's ownership in 1682 through the clearcutting and the extensive forest fires of the early 1900s, CCC reforestation efforts in the 1930s and the creation of

the 121 State parks Pennsylvanians now enjoy. Pointing out that our forests continue to change, I mentioned the chestnut blight, gypsy moths, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorn beetle. This provided an opportunity to talk about forest stewardship in general and the Forest Stewardship Plan just written for my own woodlands. Using Penn State's *Summer Key for Pennsylvania Trees*, everyone had fun trying to identify the tree branches I brought along.

With the pavilion windows framing the watershed and lake, I talked about water quality and conservation, reminding that we all live downhill from somebody. A 14 minute DVD created by the Blair County Conservation District made the message personal for these participants who have all been to Altoona.

By encouraging folks to talk about the wildlife they see in their own backyards, I introduced the concept of interdependence of the species. We discussed, for example, how wild cherry trees support the moth species that support the nesting bird population. I talked about the importance of growing native plants relied upon by the wildlife we enjoy seeing and distributed copies of DCNR's pamphlets, *Landscaping with Native Plants and Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania*.

Returning to the discussion of friends, I asked the participants to make friends with the out of doors: get to know their own trees, take a look at their streams, and pay more attention to the wildlife in their areas. I mentioned several references for additional information including the PSU web site listed on the back of their handout. Reminding them what we said earlier about the benefits of spending time with friends, I closed by saying that those friends can include the Woods, the Water and the Wildlife.

The 2010 Class of PA Forest Stewards



Class of 2010

On Sunday, October 3, the 2010 Class of PA Forest Stewards Volunteers joined our ranks to promote good forest stewardship across the Commonwealth. Twenty-seven attendees from all over the state came to Camp Sequanota in Somerset County on the weekends of September 10-12 and October 1-3 to get their "forestry 101." Apart from the

classroom lectures, we also toured the Forbes State Forest and Bob and Susie Bastian's property. On October 2, ten current PA Forest Stewards and their guests joined us for the tour and evening program.

As you come across this enthusiastic and energetic group, please make them feel welcome!

November 20: Combined Woodland Owners Association Conference and Continuing Education Opportunity

Don't forget to send in your registration for the November 20 workshop on *Communicating a Forest Stewardship Message*. The day will include sessions on working with print media, working with audiovisual media, and communicating across generations.

Come to the School of Forest Resources on Saturday, November 20 for a full day of learning. We'll have information sessions and ample opportunity for fellowship.

We plan to continue the poster session introduced last year so that groups and individuals can share events of which they're most proud; though, with such a late start folks will be responsible for their own printing costs. This cross-pollination might grow some new PA Forest Stewards and some new Woodland Owners Associations.

Missing Woodland Owners Association Display

I've managed to lose track of the PVC plastic Woodland Owners Association display – housed in a black canvas bag. It was last seen at the PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting at Rock Springs. I'm sure I loaned it out to someone, but I can't remember who that someone is. If you have it or know where it is, could you please give me a call? Many thanks.

Dates for Your 2010 Calendar

Saturday, November 20: PA Forest Stewards In-service and Annual Woodland Owners Association Conference, Auditorium, Forest Resources Building, Penn State, University Park.

Heads-up: 2011 is the International Year of Forests. Think about how you can lead or contribute to a worldwide celebration of forests and the benefits they provide.

Newsletter by Email?

Would you like to receive your copy of the PA Forest Stewards Newsletter by email? We can oblige. Please let Allyson know if you'd prefer **not** to receive a paper copy. Thanks.

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