



Forest Leaves

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Winter 2021 Update on Forest Carbon Programs

By Calvin Norman, Penn State Extension Educator, Forestry and Wildlife, and Melissa Kreye, Assistant Professor of Forest Resource Management, Penn State



As the carbon market heats up, Pennsylvania's forest landowners are trying to navigate the ins and outs of forest carbon programs. Learn more about these programs, how they are evolving, and what this means to landowners in this issue of Forest Leaves.

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With the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (more commonly referred to as COP26) in the news, carbon markets are gaining interest by those looking to offset their emissions. According to one study by Forest Trends, as of August 31, 2021, voluntary carbon markets had already sold \$748.2 million in carbon credits over last year. This represents an increase of 58% over the same time frame. The increase in carbon sales is changing how programs are operating in Pennsylvania, with the two main forest carbon programs, the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP)—a collaboration by the American Forest Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and several other groups—and the Natural Capital Exchange (NCX), making changes to keep pace with the expanding market.

The FFCP has recently expanded to include all of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western Maryland. They are expecting to expand into New England, the Midwest,

and the rest of the Appalachians. The FFCP is currently undergoing a third-party review by Verra and expected the results in December 2021. It appears the program will be approved with limited changes.

NCX has taken their program nationwide. At the heart of their program is the idea of “ton-year” accounting, a concept developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to help people understand the long-term impact of their short-term choices and to compare different methods of sequestration. This concept, along with NCX’s unique one-year contract, is undergoing review by Verra. The review is expected to be completed by mid-2022. While there are no final results, Verra has made some rulings that woodland owners should know: properties enrolled in NCX will not be allowed to switch to a longer program without a significant amount of time

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Photo by Laura Kirt

As carbon markets continue to grow, programs available to Pennsylvania's forest landowners are adapting to keep pace.



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Finding that Special Farm or Rural Property to Restore

By Paul Solomon, Pennsylvania Forest Steward and Master Watershed Steward,
and Jeanne Riley, Pennsylvania Forest Steward and Center for Private Forests Council Member

This article, which offers advice on how to find and select rural and agricultural properties for restoration, is the first of two articles in a series. The second article will offer suggestions for planning and carrying out restoration activities on a newly-purchased property. This advice is drawn from Paul's experience finding and restoring eight rural agricultural properties totaling 1,126 acres over several decades.

Introduction

For many of us, the COVID-19 pandemic and the dramatic effects of climate change have brought forth a renewed appreciation for the many ways in which the natural world sustains, enriches, and inspires our lives. For those who may be seeking a way to connect more closely with nature, owning an agricultural or rural property presents an opportunity to forge deep connections to the natural resources and landscapes which surround us. In fact, the US Department of Agriculture reports that 39% of farm acreage is owned by those who do not farm the land themselves, suggesting that many agricultural property owners own land for reasons beyond farming.

Purchasing and restoring a rural or agricultural property can be a truly worthwhile endeavor. It is uniquely gratifying to create a vision to improve the ecological health, aesthetics, and function of a property, to learn about the practices for making that vision a reality, and to share the special place you have created with others. When we undertake the stewardship of a property, we truly have the potential to create a masterpiece within the confines of the natural world which

enriches our own lives as well as those of our families, friends, neighbors, and the community at large.

For those who might wish to find a special property to restore, here are some lessons I have learned in purchasing and restoring eight properties totaling 1,126 acres over the past six decades.

Finding That Special Property

Finding a property with sound underlying characteristics is the foundation of a successful restoration project. Locating a property which possesses these characteristics, yet may currently be unattractive, allows you to make a purchase well below average market value and then to implement a unique vision. Over the years, I have developed a specific process for locating these special properties.

To begin, I give careful thought to the uses I might like to pursue on the property. I then identify the characteristics it must possess to enable me to do so. If you don't have a specific goal or use in mind, consider seeking a property which offers a variety of possibilities so you can decide later which interest you the most. Having property uses and characteristics in mind enables me to begin my search in a particular region of a state that is likely to contain the type of property I am seeking.

I then traverse the region for an extended period of time, observing many properties in order to get the lay of the land and acquaint myself with the com-



Article photos by Paul Solomon

Timberidge Farms: This restored 21-acre York County property features agricultural tracts, woodland, and a spring-fed stream which flows year-round.

munity in which each property is located. These travels are wonderful opportunities to get to know different areas of the state and the people who inhabit them. I encourage you to enjoy these early explorations as you get to know the rural landscapes. Only later will you come to realize how much you have learned about different areas and communities and ways of evaluating prospective farm properties.

Once I have thoroughly explored the region of interest, I narrow my focus to a specific county or area of a county which has particular appeal. Narrowing the area of interest enables me to thoroughly familiarize myself with the quality and diversity of farmland or rural land, the surrounding infrastructure, the extent and nature of nearby residential development, eyesores, and other characteristics of the landscape. I then choose specific locations of interest within the area.

Next, I seek out a qualified local real estate agency or agent who specializes in farms and rural land and can assist me in identifying potential properties. These professionals frequently possess agricultural backgrounds themselves and can offer great insights into the pros and cons of particular properties. Farm newspapers, such as the *Lancaster Farming* weekly, contain a large number of listings for farm properties throughout the mid-Atlantic, including notices of public sales and offerings by landowners themselves. These local and regional publications can



McCarthy Farm: This beautifully restored 193-acre Cherry Valley, NY property lies between two wooded mountain ranges in the Northern Catskills region.

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be excellent sources of information. I then may choose to visit some properties myself and/or work with the knowledgeable local realtor to visit those with the characteristics I am seeking. In my property searches, I draw upon information from multiple sources to enable me to compare properties and select the ones that interest me the most.

The specific features I seek and avoid when considering a property to purchase are summarized in the box at the right. Your own preferences may evolve after you have visited a number of properties.

It is critical to verify that the properties of greatest interest actually do have the features you require. Inspect the on-site conditions, or characteristics of the terrain, e.g., steep slopes, as these may prevent certain kinds of activities. If you hope to grow certain crops, pay particular attention to area soil surveys, as these provide a wealth of information about crop yields in the various types of soil in the area. If you have specific agricultural uses in mind, comparing information from soil surveys with the results of soil probe tests on a potential property is essential to confirm that the property is well-suited for the crops of interest. If you have plans to hunt on the property, seek out neighboring hunters willing to share information about the wildlife populations and species in the area. Draw on a variety of sources before making a purchase to ensure that the property of interest actually has the features that are most important to you.

Once you have found and purchased your special property, you can begin to imagine how you might enhance the landscape and structures to create a masterpiece of your own.

Paul J. Solomon is a retired Shrewsbury Township Supervisor in York County, PA. His insights into restoration are based on a combination of hands-on experience and formal education and training. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Agricultural Sciences and a Master's degree in Regional Planning from the Pennsylvania State University. He is a private forest landowner, a Pennsylvania Forest Steward, and a Master Watershed Steward. He resides in New Freedom, PA. Jeanne Riley is a Pennsylvania Forest Steward and volunteer Council member with the Center for Private Forests at Penn State.

Main Considerations When Choosing a Rural or Agricultural Property to Restore

What to look for...

- Blend of land uses (including cropland, pasture, woodlands, farmstead)
- Reasonably healthy woodlands containing stand(s) of desirable native trees with few non-native species and free of significant damage from prior harvesting
- Deep, well-drained soils, ideally silt loam versus clay or sand-based soils based on:
 - Detailed soil information from county soil surveys
 - Soil probes to determine depth and composition of soils on a particular property
- Land containing gentle or rolling slopes which foster suitable drainage
- Clean, reliable water source sufficient to supply a home, farm, and water bodies such as ponds and wetlands
- Functional, historic, and architecturally desirable structures with potential for restoration and for which purchaser has a need
- Local land use ordinances which protect agricultural land and sensitive environmental areas from encroachment by non-farm or conflicting uses
- Private setting

What to avoid...

- Presence or high risk of on-site environmental contaminants
- Presence or evidence of past pollutants, soil removal, dumping, or serious erosion
- Nearby or adjacent eyesores or poorly managed properties
- Damaged woodlots (e.g., by poor harvesting practices or use by livestock)
- Large areas of steep topography
- A local government which promotes development and has no land preservation goals

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passing (at least 16 years) to avoid “double-dipping”—selling credits twice. For their winter 2022 bidding cycle, NCX is expecting to sell credits at \$5-10 a credit, which is below their previous prices. As a result, NCX has implemented a \$5 credit floor for forest owners.

These changes may indicate that the unique one-year contract won't be approved over concerns of permanence. A longer harvest deferral contract may also be required. “Ton-year” has not been verified and it is unknown if it will be at this time. If it is not verified, NCX may still sell credits using ton-year on their own market. For more information, please search for and watch the free webinar, “Accessing Forest Carbon Markets,” presented by Michigan's chapter of the Society of American Foresters. These potential changes have not been finalized and Verra's final report may be different.

New programs like Forest Works and Finite Carbon are also targeting woodland owners in Pennsylvania. These

programs sell into the California Air Regulator Board cap-and-trade market. They have stricter rules than voluntary programs. For example, the whole property must be enrolled and contracts are 125 years long. These programs may offer a higher price to compensate for the stricter rules. As with all things carbon-related, programs and markets continue to change. It is very important that woodland owners thoroughly evaluate a program to make sure it fits with their land, their land ethic, and their land management goals, and consult with a lawyer and forester before entering any long-term contracts.

Penn State Extension will continue to produce educational material about forest carbon and carbon markets. To stay up to date, be sure to sign up for the Forestry and Wildlife Extension newsletter (see *Woods and Wildlife News and Notes* on page 7 to learn how to sign up) and check for updates at www.extension.psu.edu.

Weathering COVID-19: Pennsylvania Loggers' Experience

By Erika Scott, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

Every day, the news highlights the impact of COVID-19 on people across our country and around the world. We wanted to do our best to get the voices of Pennsylvania loggers heard, understanding that though they are working in a naturally socially distanced industry, the pandemic's impact has been far-reaching. First, a brief introduction—we are occupational health researchers at the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing. Our mission is to work with these industries to identify actionable solutions so that agriculture, fishing, and forestry workers can survive and thrive on the job—whether that work is a passion, a paycheck, or a combination of both.

A survey was developed to understand what went well and what did not go well during the first year of the pandemic response. We are using this information to inform policy makers, medical institutions, and logging stakeholders on how to better support the industry in the future. While the survey was sent to loggers in six northeast states, this article focuses on the responses from 167 Pennsylvania loggers.

Pennsylvania's response rate to the survey was about 10% (1685 surveys mailed, 167 responses). Pennsylvania loggers who responded were predominantly male, with a median age of 48. Responses were spread throughout the state (see map at bottom right). Nearly half of the survey respondents were sole operators, and another 40% had small operations of two to five employees. The majority of respondents (58%) also reported working in conventional operations, with only 8% doing fully mechanized logging, and the rest working a combination of conventional and mechanized logging.

Despite their remote work locations, loggers were not able to escape the highly-infectious coronavirus. When the surveys were sent in (around late winter), four out of every five loggers knew someone who had gotten sick from COVID-19, with some loggers reporting being sick themselves or knowing multiple people who got ill. About 30% of loggers reported having high blood pressure, an area of concern given that chronic health conditions may make it harder to recover from COVID-19. Loggers reported increases in stress in their communities, based on observing higher incidences of anxiety, depression, alcohol/drug use, and physical/

verbal abuse. On a positive note, loggers also indicated that they had relatively strong emotional and social supports.

In addition to affecting loggers' physical health, the pandemic has had a significant financial impact, as many loggers were unable to work while logging companies stood idle. Pandemic-related shutdowns sent a number of logging companies reeling. Interestingly, the responses to a set of financial well-being questions in the survey indicated that loggers fared better than average, yet the comments of many loggers contrasted with this comparatively more positive outlook on financial well-being.

Many (39%) of the survey respondents indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic affected their daily work activities in profound ways, including loss of jobs, loss of workers, loss of markets for wood, increased quotas at mills, and significant changes in home life and work responsibilities. A number of loggers switched to tree work, firewood, trucking, and other side jobs to make up for the loss of income.

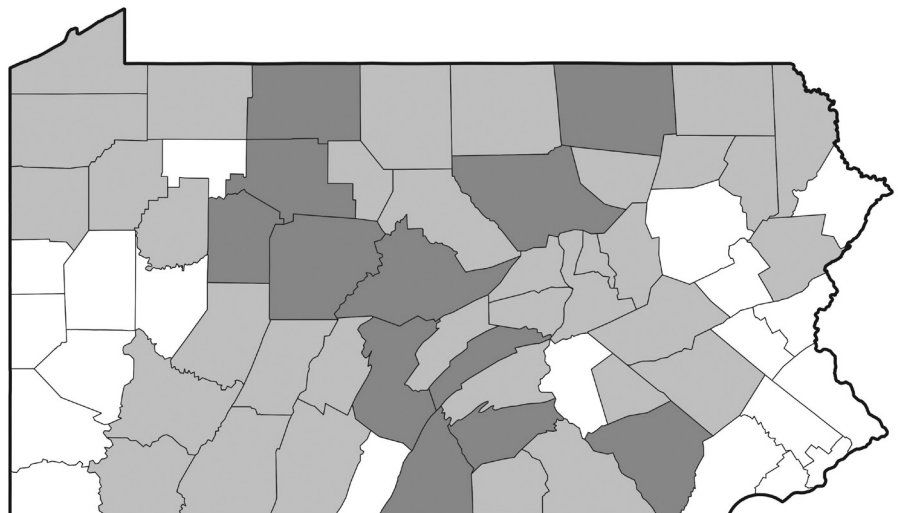
Of the more than 100 loggers who had children at home, 34% indicated that the pandemic has been a serious issue when it comes to childcare and education. Many have had to rely on family members to care for young children as well as home-school older children. This has affected incomes and altered familial roles, which has been a difficult adjustment for the logging community. Based on comments in the survey, there is some animosity toward the government and the educational system for impacts on children and families.



The findings of this report are subject to several limitations, first being that with a 10% response rate, it may not represent the views of all loggers. In addition, the surveys were mailed when the US Postal Service was experiencing delivery issues, which may have affected the response rate. As with any self-reported data, these results are subject to memory decay, reporting bias, and limited detail.

The Northeast Center thanks the loggers who answered the survey, and Chuck Coup and the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative for their support. You can read the full report on our website at https://necenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/nellogger_covid-survey_report.pdf. We invite you to contact us should you have comments or questions by emailing nec.logging@bassett.org or calling (800) 343-7527.

(This article was submitted by Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee Program Manager Chuck Coup to share with our *Forest Leaves* readers. For more information about the PA SFI Implementation Committee, visit their website at www.sfiopa.org or call 888-734-9366.)



Respondents per county 0 1 - 4 5 - 14

Family Forest Carbon Program Expands Open Enrollment Across Pennsylvania

By John Hoover, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

The Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP) recently expanded to cover all of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western Maryland. The FFCP was created by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy to enroll forest landowners with as little as 30 acres up to 2,400 acres to be paid under program guidelines for carbon sequestration on their property. The program expansion increased the number of included counties from 29 to 127, with the eligible area in the Central Appalachians expanding from 4,028,626 acres to 14,228,771 acres.

I enrolled about half of my forestland in 2020. In my case, much of what is enrolled is ridgetop mountain land that is useful to wildlife but cannot be managed as a source of sustainable timber. Since all of my forestland is certified American Tree Farm, it was easy for me to meet or exceed the program's requirements. But, if a landowner needs an updated Forest Management Plan to qualify, they will write one at no cost to the landowner.

For landowners interested in improving the health of their forest and finding new revenue streams to cover property taxes and expenses to maintain their forestland as a forest, this carbon program can help. The program is an opportunity for landowners to be paid to care for their forestland in ways that also sequester and store more carbon. The carbon that is

captured is leased to companies that are looking to neutralize emissions they cannot eliminate. The funds that support this program come from a growing list of companies, including a new partnership with REI Co-op announced in October 2021.

The FFCP is specifically intended for small woodland owners. The program provides annual payments to families or individuals to implement scientifically proven forest practices that increase the carbon sequestered and stored on the land. The program also provides expert consultation from foresters who will create a forest management plan customized for a landowner's property, if they don't have one.

Landowners can log on to www.familyforestcarbon.org to learn more and determine if their property is eligible. Enrollment is offered for either of two management practices:

- **Growing Mature Forests**, a 20-year contract to delay harvesting and engage in sustainable management practices, or

- **Enhancing Future Forests**, a 10-year contract to manage invasive species and undergrowth to encourage the next generation of trees.

Some limited and salvage harvesting is allowed within sustainable harvesting requirements of the contract, including for personal use. Payments to the landowner are determined by enrolled property size

and forest conditions and are guaranteed throughout the contract period, regardless of carbon credit sales.

The Family Forest Carbon Program was first launched in a few select counties of Pennsylvania as part of a pilot project. As it expanded, 268 landowners representing about 43,000 acres have received a visit from a forester. So far, more than 60 Pennsylvania forest landowners, accounting for nearly 10,000 acres, have enrolled. Landowners are excited to have found an alternative revenue source that helps them pay taxes or take on new habitat projects. Other landowners new to forest management are finding value in assistance with a management plan.

As mentioned earlier, I enrolled about half of my tree farm in FFCP's Growing Mature Forests program a year ago. While some areas of my tree farm don't meet the program requirements because they are being managed for early successional habitat and warbler programs, FFCP was a good fit for meeting my forest management goals on the enrolled part of my property. Find out more at www.familyforestcarbon.org.

For more information about the PA Tree Farm program, visit their webpage at www.paforestry.org/treefarm.

Pennsylvania Forestry Association Election Results and Awards

By Randy White, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) conducted its Annual Symposium virtually November 2 and 4, 2021. The election results and award winners were announced. I am proud to be elected President and am honored to serve alongside Matt Sampson, Vice President, Julianne Schieffer, Secretary, and Ken Manno, Treasurer. Additionally, Wayne Bender and Dave Twining were elected as Board Members.

PFA also recognized their 2021 award recipients, with the Joseph T. Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award going to Ken Kane of Generations Forestry, the Mira Lloyd Dock Outstanding Woman Conservationist Award going to Marci Mowery of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foun-

dation, and the Sandy Cochran Award for Excellence in Natural Resources Education going to Craig Houghton of Penn State Mont Alto. The Tree Farm Committee recognized Steve Hoover as Tree Farm Inspector of the Year and Gravel Point Tree Farm (Mark and Olivia Ott, Harry and Martha Bryans, and David Brown) as Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year. The President's Award went to Dave Alerich for his devoted service as our Treasurer.

Mark your calendar for the 2022 Conservation Banquet, "Raising Funds for Forestry Education," to be held March 5, 2022, at a new location, the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College, PA. PFA depends on this event to finance its forest conservation mission and invests

dollars directly back to forestry education in Pennsylvania. Join us for an evening of games, drawings, auction items, a buffet dinner, and a chance at winning \$10,000. Only 350 tickets at \$100 each are sold for the \$10,000 drawing. They go fast, so get yours today by contacting the PFA office at 800-835-8065. A ticket would make a great gift or Christmas present for family members or outstanding employees. Visit www.paforestry.org/event/2022-conservation-banquet to access the registration form and to learn more.

For more information about PFA, visit their website at www.paforestry.org or call 800-835-8065.

At the Center: Carrying Forward Jim's Vision

By Allyson Muth, Center for Private Forests Director



THE CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

Over the past several weeks, we at the Center have been overwhelmed by messages of support and sympathy for the loss of our founder Jim Finley. We also have heard many, many stories of the ways in which Jim, whether in the classroom or the woods, touched people's lives. These expressions inspire and comfort us as we process our deep sadness at his death and explore, with his wife Linda and son Andy, how best to advance his distinctive legacy, working at the intersection of people and forests.

As you may know, the Center for Private Forests was established in 2011 to build upon the research and educational engagement Jim and his colleagues had undertaken over decades working at that intersection. Jim recognized the vital importance of private forests to the ecosystem and society. He also believed in the capacity of forest landowners and communities to become powerful forces in improving forest health and vitality. When the idea of the Center for Private Forests was being explored, we saw it as a way to ensure that Penn State would continue to advance understanding of this critical relationship between people and the land, building on the work that had made Jim a highly regarded academic scholar and champion of private forests and the people who care for them.

In its early years and in the four years since his retirement, Jim worked to ensure that the Center was on sound footing, actively participating in expanding the scholarship, collaboration, and innovation

that defined his career in forestry. He contributed to grants that enabled the Center to advance its contributions to the body of knowledge about forest landowners and their land. He also continued to spread his knowledge of and enthusiasm for forest stewardship throughout the communities of people who own and care for forests. He remained in a leadership role within the Center, serving as the Chair of its volun-



The Center's experienced staff, dedicated council, and robust volunteer base are working diligently to honor Jim's life, legacy, and vision as we move forward in the months and years ahead.

teer Council, and was a ready sounding board for new ideas and perspectives. Over the past year, Jim led the Center's strategic planning effort, articulating new and innovative directions for the Center to pursue and providing a roadmap to guide the Center's work into the future.

As the Center looks ahead, we seek to honor Jim by continuing the innovative work that he began and championing the stewardship values that were important to him. We find solace in knowing that Jim's efforts over the past decade have prepared the Center well for the future. Jim inspired the Center to be a leader in research, to inspire and cultivate stewardship, and to engage landowners and professionals to work together to care for forest ecosystems. We recognize and embrace the responsibility of the Center to build on the tremendous foundation Jim gave us, adding to his legacy, and ensuring that even those not fortunate enough to know him, know of his impact.

As we continue this work and honor Jim's life, legacy, and vision, we are grateful for the support of his family, friends, and colleagues, and look forward to sharing the Center's progress in the months and years to come.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Center's plans or ways of making a philanthropic gift in Jim's memory should contact Allyson B. Muth, Ed.D., Center Director, at (814) 865-3208, or Lauren Steinberg, Senior Director of Development, College of Agricultural Sciences, at (814) 865-0158.

5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference Set for March 24-25, 2023

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State is excited to announce that the 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference is set for Friday-Saturday, March 24-25, 2023. As we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are very optimistic that we will be able to offer a full two-day, in-person conference experience as we have in the past. We are looking forward to welcoming hundreds of forest landowners, the forestry professional community, and our partners back at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA.

As in past years, the highlights of the conference will include opportunities

for woodland owners, natural resources professionals, and others to interact, learn from one another, and add new ideas and resources to their forest stewardship "toolbox."

With a broad range of presentation topics, the conference aims to meet the needs and interests of woodland owners of varying backgrounds, experiences, and interests. And there will be tours and workshops, exhibits, keynote speakers, and plenty of good food.

Mark your calendars for March 24-25, 2023 and watch for more information in future issues of *Forest Leaves*. We look forward to seeing you there!



Plan to join us Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, 2023 for the Forest Landowners Conference for landowners, professionals, and citizens across the state and beyond.



Forest Leaves Calendar



Check out the Center for Private Forests website at ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests and follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/privateforests for the latest list of events submitted from organizations around the state.

PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER

ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/outreach/pa-forests-web-seminar-center

The Pennsylvania Forest Online Web Seminar series is held September through June on the second Tuesday of

each month. Webinar topics are geared toward private forest landowners as well as the general public. Webinars are free; registration is required.

You can also view previously-recorded webinars at the website above.

Upcoming webinar topics:

February 8, 2022: Tested Methods for Establishing Riparian Forested Buffers

March 8, 2022: How to Recognize and Manage Eroded Ecological Memories in Over-browsed Landscapes

April 12, 2022: Protecting Forestland

Woods and Wildlife News and Notes: The Latest News from the Forestry and Wildlife Extension Team

Penn State Extension's team of Forestry and Wildlife experts publishes an e-newsletter, *Woods and Wildlife News and Notes*, containing the most recent information, events, demonstrations, partnerships, and activities coming from the team. *Forest Leaves* shares the titles and thumbnails of these articles with you each quarter.

If you're interested in checking out any of these articles, it's easy! Just visit <https://extension.psu.edu> and type the article title in the search bar.

Using Your Own Lumber for Building Projects

Using your own lumber for building projects is not as straightforward as it seems. This article will offer some things to consider before starting a project using your own, ungraded lumber.

Pennsylvania Timber Market Report: 3rd Quarter 2021

Stumpage prices as reported by Pennsylvania timber and logging companies, forestry consultants, and state land management agencies to analysts at the Pennsylvania State University.

Winter Woods Safety (and Throughout the Year)

Care should be taken in winter, and throughout the year, to remain safe in the woods.

Enhancing Browse: A Better Way to Feed Deer

This article covers the importance of woody browse to deer and describes how to increase the amount of browse woodlands provide.

Integrated Approach to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Mitigation

This new publication discusses hemlock woolly adelgid management techniques to help conserve the eastern hemlock in the long run.

Woodland Wisdom, Part 1

Understanding forestland ownership can be challenging. Knowing what you own on your property and why you own forestland are two helpful topics this video addresses.

Guide to Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Surveying

Systematically survey egg masses of *Lymantria dispar* ("gypsy moth") in fall and winter to assess the risk of damage next spring and decide whether aerial spraying of control agents is worthwhile.

The Identification of Mesophytic Cove Sites in Pennsylvania

This document describes what a mesophytic cove site is, as well as how to identify and manage them.

Requesting this newsletter's delivery to your personal inbox involves the same opt-in process you may have already used to communicate your areas of interest among the full suite of Penn State Extension offerings. To make sure you are on the distribution list, visit the Penn State Extension website to manage your email preferences (<https://extension.psu.edu/extevents/newsletter>), and select any of the "Forest and Wildlife" topic areas of interest.

FOREST LEAVES Winter 2022

Editors:

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Calendar contributions and news items are welcome. Submissions for the next hardcopy issue of *Forest Leaves* are due:

March 1, 2022

Forest Leaves Publication Partners include:

- The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry in conjunction with the Center for Private Forests and Penn State Forestry and Wildlife Extension.
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry www.dcnr.pa.gov/about/Pages/Forestry.aspx
- The PA Tree Farm® Program www.paforestry.org/treefarm
- The PA Forestry Association www.paforestry.org
- The PA SFI Implementation Committee www.sfiopa.org
- Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and cooperative extension programs funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the US Department of Agriculture.
- The Center for Private Forests at Penn State ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests
- Penn State Extension extension.psu.edu

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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Forest Leaves

c/o The Center for Private Forests at Penn State
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Winter 2022

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NEXT DEADLINE:
March 1, 2022

Webinar Series Will Help Owners of Small Woodlots Care for Their Woods

The vast majority of Pennsylvania's forest landowners have small woodlots fewer than 10 acres in size. These small patches add up to about a million acres, or 10 percent of our state's privately-held woodlands.

The "Woods in Your Backyard" webinar series teaches land stewardship through nine live, one-hour, online evening lectures that can be viewed on your home computer. Sessions run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights for nine weeks beginning January 19 and ending March 16. Cost for the nine-session series is \$45. All lectures are recorded and registrants will receive access to the webinar recordings.

The series introduces the manual, *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*. All participants will receive the full-color, 108-page publication, a \$29 value.

This self-directed book will guide you through the process of developing and implementing projects to enhance your land's natural resources.

Topics covered in the series include:

- Why Manage Forests
- Forest Ecology
- Creating and Managing Wildlife Habitat
- Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants
- Forest Health Issues and Management
- Forests and Water
- Selecting Native Trees for Various Sites
- Establishing Meadows and Forests
- Creating Plans for Your Property

For more information and to register, go to <https://extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard-series> or call 877-345-0691. **Registration deadline: January 17.**

USDA NRCS Announces Changes to Management Planning

Nationwide the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made several changes to planning and the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program recently, and one of the most pertinent changes for the Pennsylvania forestry community is the change in Forest Management Plans.

The NRCS Forest Management Plan, which was formerly called a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 106, is now broken into two separate plans. These two plans are the Conservation Planning Activity (CPA) 106 and the Design and Implementation Activity (DIA) 165. In most cases, NRCS field offices in Pennsylvania will be pairing CPA 106 with DIA 165 for Forest Management Plans in one Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract (learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip). Both the CPA 106 and DIA 165 will be on the NRCS Fiscal Year 2022 EQIP cost list. The criteria for both the CPA 106 and DIA 165 can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd1833492.