



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program

Volume 15, Number 5

March / April 2009

Remembering Jack Murray

One of our strongest forest stewardship advocates passed away in early February after a prolonged battle with cancer. Jack Murray served as chair of the PA Forest Stewards steering committee for a number of years (many of you will recognize him as the extraordinary emcee for the annual meeting), and he and his wife Suzanne were instrumental in starting many of the existing woodland owners associations in the state. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude for all they have done to promote forest stewardship on private lands in Pennsylvania. Keep Suzanne in your thoughts.

From the *Muncy Luminary* newspaper: Born in Sharon Hill, PA and raised in Chestnut Hill, PA, Jack attended LaSalle College High School and received his Baccalaureate degree from LaSalle College. He was commissioned an officer in the US Air Force in 1962 after attending OTS at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas.

While in the Air Force Jack served as a Launch Control Officer in the 455th Strategic Missile Wing of the Strategic Air Command, employing the Minuteman ICBM, based at Minot AFB, North Dakota. At the same time he was serving as a missile combat crew member, he earned his Master of Science Degree in Industrial Management from the University of North Dakota.

After achieving the rank of Captain, Jack was honorably discharged in 1970 when he entered the business world, spending 16 years in executive positions with companies in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Manhattan. He formed his own management consulting firm in 1986 and grew that business until retiring in 1995.

Jack then settled in the Hughesville area with his wife, Suzanne, who survives him. He became very active in the local community, volunteering his time and talents to the Lycoming County Conservation District, the Lycoming Woodland Owners' Association, the Hughesville Sesquicentennial Celebration and the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards, among other activities.

Jack fully enjoyed his retirement. He loved reading, traveling, working in his garden and orchard, and hiking in his woods.

Jack was a man of quality and good character with a very creative sense of humor; he touched many lives.

Jack was a wonderful husband, father and friend who will be sorely missed.

Also surviving are a daughter, Margaret Anne Fleming (Annapolis), and sons John Thomas Murray (Schwenksville) and Christopher Thorell Murray (New York) and four grandchildren. His brother Thomas died in 2007.

Gifts may be made in Jack's memory to the Geisinger Health System Foundation, the Susquehanna Home Care & Hospice (through the Susquehanna Health Foundation), or the PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund (through Penn State).

PA Forest Stewards and Jack Murray

We asked members of the PA Forest Stewards steering committee, who worked closely with Jack and Suzanne, to share some remembrances of Jack with the rest of you. If you have stories of your own, send them in.

Our PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee Chairman was a big man with a robust countenance and a hearty voice. He made his presence felt in a

commanding but amiable manner. His humor and humaneness were apparent through his quips to his sidekick, Suzanne. His insight enabled him to lead us to the many steps needed to sustain the PA Forest Stewards. – *Chuck and Grace Snyder*

Jack Murray was a great guy. I had my own illness in 2008 and Jack supported me every step of the way. Perfectly timed phone calls and letters were so encouraging. Jack sent me reading material that he thought would help me understand, and he was exactly right. I miss him. We should remember Jack as the “Encourager.” – *Jim Stiehler*

My first interactions with Jack were intimidating. I had moved to Pennsylvania for this job, leaving all that was familiar behind, and starting out unsure about what I was getting into. Jack, through planning for steering committee meetings and PA Forest Stewards events, impressed on me his organization and administration skills and set a standard for a high level of service both through his own actions and expectations – I think he knew I was a little intimidated. One day, he took me aside and said, “You know, you don’t have to try to do EVERYTHING I say.” A friendship grew out of that aside moment. Jack was an incredibly driven, outgoing, and funny man (Finley Frog? That was Jack’s!). I miss his passion for forest stewardship, his strong opinions, and his friendship. I’m glad to have known him. – *Allyson Muth*

Jack Murray lived life with gusto. He loved his home and paid attention to every detail. He and Suzanne enjoyed all the beauty of house, garden, orchard, and woods. In addition to all the plants and trees, they have bits of whimsy here and there (a moose, some bear, sheep, etc.). All of these critters are named. One day when we stopped by, he proudly showed off the new flag pole. It was a symbol he served our

county in the Air Force as a pilot – he was very patriot. The community benefited from the Murrays' generous gifts of time and interest for trees and soil conservation. Jack gave totally of himself. He was a man for all seasons – a man to be greatly admired. – *Ruth Park*

I first met Jack and Suzanne at a meeting for presidents of woodland owners associations (WOAs) held at Loyalsock View north of Montoursville. The meeting was called by Jack and Suzanne to discuss how to keep WOAs viable. Later that year, Ruth and I were at a meeting of the Central Susquehanna WOA and Jack and Suzanne were there. After spending considerable time with them that day, we developed a lasting friendship. They convinced us we should take the training for the PA Forest Stewards program, which we did in 2001. Through PA Forest Stewards we have learned a lot of forestry, enjoyed meeting people with common goals, and making friends. Over the years we became closer with Jack and Suzanne and began celebrating each other's birthdays and spending more time together. Jack was a unique individual and I'll miss our conversations and his list of mechanical questions. Jack and Suzanne were great advocates of sustainable forestry and touched the lives of a lot of people. – *Bill Park*

Seeking Class Lists

We're working to re-create the class lists from previous year's basic training events. We've managed to track down most of those training classes. We're looking for class lists from the years 1993 through 1999.

We'd like to help those basic training classes stay in contact.

Dates for Your Calendar

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
Non-timber forest products and
invasive plants in-service training
workshop, Shaver's Creek
Environmental Learning Center,
Huntingdon County.

Friday, July 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,
Succession Planning in-service training
workshop, Campbell Tree Farm, Forest
County.

Saturday, July 18, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting,
Campbell Tree Farm, Forest County.

Saturday, October 3, 6:30 p.m. Join
new PA Forest Stewards volunteers for
dinner and slide sharing at Camp
Susque, Lycoming County.

Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. – 4
p.m., Best Practices for Woodland
Owners Associations Conference,
School of Forest Resources, Penn State,
University Park.

PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting Silent Auction

We're seeking items for donation
to the PA Forest Stewards Endowment
Fund Silent Auction held at the Annual
Meeting. Think about items or services
that you can donate to help build our
rainy day fund. And, be sure to bring
your checkbook to the Annual Meeting.
Times are economically hard, but there

just might be something there you can't
do without, and you can support your
volunteer organization at the same time.

Forest Funnies By Barry Poglein



With his management plan intact, Karl was adamant on protecting his oak seedlings.

Contact Forestry Extension

Forestry Extension
Penn State School of Forest Resources
320 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 863-0401
(800) 235-9473
Jim Finley: fj4@psu.edu
Allyson Muth: abm173@psu.edu

Program Sponsors

Penn State Natural Resources Extension
PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
PA Forest Stewards Endowment
USDA Forest Service

PRSR1 STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit Number 1

An equal opportunity employer

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards
320 Forest Resources Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802