



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program

Volume 15, Number 6

May / June 2009

Forest Roads... Continued

By Tom Fitzgerald

Over a year ago, we printed a story by Tom Fitzgerald about a forest road he was creating on his New York property. If you'll remember, Tom laid out the road himself using a clinometer, marking the center of the road and aiming for a slope of less than 7 percent. Tom marked the general layout of the road with flagging. He then measured 12 ½ feet from the center line to make a 25 foot swath for his forest road. He and a cousin removed the small trees from the swath and then hired a logger from an adjacent timber sale to complete the cutting of the bigger trees while in the area. This road "trip" continues...

Last fall, we had enough money to get about 2/3 of the road system built. Normally this is done as part of a timber sale, but I decided to make this investment prior to the next timber sale so that I could be present during the construction and make sure it was done the way I wanted it done. The contractor did excellent work. I would recommend him to any forest landowner in Potter and McKean counties. (I don't know how much farther he can afford to travel afield from his headquarters and still charge reasonable rates.) We will

definitely hire him again when we are able to get the other third built.

Incidentally, the dozer operator complimented me on a good layout job. I hadn't expected that.

Below is a picture of the brand-new road taken in the same general area as last year's picture. Most recently, I seeded the road with a Cyclone hand-crank seeder using a mixture from the Ernst Company plus a couple bags I bought from the Ruffed Grouse Foundation. I decided to wait until spring to reduce the amount of seed eaten by critters during the winter.



Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference

We have set the date for this year's Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference and the agenda has jelled nicely. Just recently, a heads-up memo was sent to all twenty-seven woodland owners

associations (WOAs) across the state, putting this event on their radar and encouraging them to participate in this workshop on **Saturday, November 21** from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Penn State School of Forest Resources, University Park.

If you are a member of a woodland owners association, make sure this event is being considered by your group.

We will start with coffee and registration at 9:30. The morning program will consist of a presentation on Farm Bill opportunities for private forest landowners by Jim Stiehler of the DCNR Bureau of Forestry. New this year is a **poster session** over lunch at which WOAs can showcase an event or activity of which they are most proud.

In the afternoon, we'll hear from speakers outside of Pennsylvania. Gerry Mich of the Wisconsin Family Forests will share his experiences in a program to reach out to unengaged landowners and draw them in to the stewardship community. Rita Neznok of the American Forest Foundation will close out the day with a presentation and discussion on representing/advocating for woodland owners' association interests with government officials.

We can accommodate four members from each of the state's woodland owners associations.

New this year is a \$10 registration fee per person (or \$30 for a group of four) to help cover meeting costs.

Registration information will be sent in early September. Assistance with poster creation is provided by Nancy Baker (the Bradford County Conservation District has offered to print large size posters very inexpensively). Posters are due to Nancy by September 30. Contact Allyson (see below) for more information.

We hope members of your woodland owners association will consider joining us this fall.

Endowment Subcommittee: Building the PA Forest Stewards Endowment

Out of our strategic planning exercise evolved some priority issues. A big one, especially in light of another cut in our forest stewardship funding, is the growth of our PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund. The subcommittee has been working to develop a plan for soliciting outside of our membership. The committee has developed a marketing piece/leave behind to use in conjunction with letters or face-to-face contacts with potential donors.

The endowment currently stands at \$56,992.48. Almost \$2,000 was given in memory of Jack Murray and his contributions to Pennsylvania forest stewardship.

Annual Meeting Registration

Don't forget! Your annual meeting registration is due to Allyson by June 17!!! We hope to see you in Forest County in July!

Dates for Your Calendar

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.

Forest Funnies By Barry Poglein



OK. We know it's human; but what species?

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