



# Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program

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## 2009 Basic Training

We've done it again! We graduated another class of PA Forest Stewards into the ranks. On October 4, twenty-five new volunteers officially became PA Forest Stewards. After spending two weekends at Camp Susque in Lycoming County, these new volunteers are now ready to go out and share what they've learned. As they go forward in their outreach, we'll be looking for opportunities to network with all of you.

We had ten active PA Forest Stewards join us for the tour to Jim and Cheryl Redmond's property, dinner, and the evening program. Glad you all could come out!



Field tour to Jim and Cheryl Redmond's Property

As you come across the new PA Forest Stewards, please make them welcome!



Class of 2009

## 2009 PA Forest Stewards Survey – SEND IT IN!!!!

If you haven't already done so, please return your 2009 PA Forest Stewards Biennial Survey. So far we've gotten a 50% response rate. Our goal is 100%. Allyson is going to keep bugging you.

We use the survey to update our database with new contact information, remove volunteers who no longer wish to take part, and report to our funders all the good work that you do. Help us share all you accomplish! But first you have to tell us about it.

If you've misplaced your survey, please contact Allyson. She'll mail or email you a new one. In future years we hope to have an online survey available for use (see below), but in the interim we're compiling by hand.

Please don't forget. Allyson sure won't... Da da da dum (sinister organ playing).

## Dates for Your Calendar

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 and e-Data

The PA Forest Stewards volunteer program has been chosen to be an early adopter of Penn State Cooperative Extension's new e-Data website. Created as a platform

to advertise, track attendance, and keep records, e-Data allows volunteers to log in and report what they've done, register for events, and get updates on their programs. We anticipate advertising all future events there in addition to our current methods; eventually we'll take registration there too. And in the future, we hope to keep a copy of the Biennial Survey ready to track all that you do.

This effort is still in the works, and we aren't sure the form data will come back to us, so there are still some kinks to work out.

We'll do a more formal launch once we're more familiar with the site's tools. Keep an eye out for future updates.

If you want to visit the site and start the registration process, go to: <http://extension.psu.edu/cnregion/edata/default.htm>. You'll need to become a Friend of Penn State to access the site. Details on how to do this are available there as well.

## Getting Rid of Unwanted Woody Vegetation

Jill O'Neill, PA Forest Steward from Westmoreland County, sends another useful tip your way. In her efforts to control woody weeds, at appropriate times of the year, Jill carries a small squirt bottle (her preferred bottle is an empty Terro Ant Killer bottle) filled with full strength woody stem poison. Using her ever present knife Jill hacks an opening on less desirable woody stems and then places a drop or more of her herbicide of choice into this opening on the trunk, stem, or vine she wishes to kill. Doing this

on-the-spot when she sees the weeds works best for her. She has managed to eradicate all ailanthus on her property in this way.

Keep those ideas coming!

## PA Forest Stewards Endowment Update

The PA Forest Stewards Endowment Committee has been working closely with the Penn State College of Agriculture's Development Office to brainstorm ideas on how to grow our rainy day fund. If you haven't already heard, our funding situation is getting more and more tenuous. The federal stewardship dollars allocated to Pennsylvania were reduced by almost 40%. Due to strong support from the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, our program here only took an 11% hit, but things are not looking up. In 1991 our programs received \$289,000 in pass through dollars to support private forest landowner outreach and education, including the PA Forest Stewards program. This year, we received \$139,000. We'd like to ensure the sustainability of the PA Forest Stewards program. This endowment is that vehicle.

The School of Forest Resources' Development Liaison, Kirk Swanson, has been working closely with the committee to plan a giving campaign for our volunteers and others identified by them. The committee is also designing a

marketing campaign to take our plea beyond the volunteers to foundations and organizations.

We'll keep you posted on the endowment as this effort moves forward. As of October 14, the endowment stands at \$57,000. It is fully endowed at this point and will remain in perpetuity.

If you have ideas about who to approach, how best to approach people, or want to talk over your own personal gifting plan, contact Kirk Swanson, [kms24@psu.edu](mailto:kms24@psu.edu) or 814-867-2230. Thank you for your support.

## Telling Your Story about Forest Stewardship

*By Jim Finley*

From time to time, I find myself talking with folks from extension in other states and federal program leaders (in this case, the people who fund the PAFS). They all know about what we do in Pennsylvania and want to follow our successes.

In nearly every issue of this newsletter, Allyson makes a plea for the stories only you can tell. I'm going to add my plea as well. If your stories about advancing forest stewardship were here, I could use them to make a difference.

Whether the story is about taking on one invasive plant at a time, helping a neighbor find a forester, organizing a meeting, or growing your WOA, it helps

us share the good work you do. It is one thing for us to say we had 22 years of volunteer service where you touched 19,500 people. It is another thing to say, you made a difference on the land, or affected someone in a specific way, or got a kid excited about looking at trees.

Please, come on; tell us what you are doing!! It might seem trivial to you, but it helps people appreciate and understand that together we are making a big difference in our forests for today and tomorrow!

Thanks!

## Contact Forestry Extension

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## Program Sponsors

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