



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

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

Volume 17, Number 4

January / February 2011

Nominations for PA Forest Stewards Basic Training

We are currently seeking nominees for the PA Forest Stewards Basic Training on the weekends of September 30-October 2 and October 21-23 at South Mountain YMCA, outside Wernersville in Berks County. Enclosed with this newsletter, please find a nomination form.

If you know of someone(s) you'd like to nominate, please submit his or her contact information to us by March 1. We'll send out the application form later in the spring and make attendee decisions in early summer.

Center for Private Forests at The Pennsylvania State University

In recent years, we have had many discussions about the future of the PA Forest Stewards in light of declining funding streams – hence the creation of the PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund as our rainy day fund for continued operation. We've had moderate success with our fundraising and many of you have contributed substantially to this "savings account." We are truly grateful for your efforts and support.

However, in conversations about fundraising and considering the future of our volunteer organization, many have questioned Penn State's commitment to ensuring that support is always provided for the PA Forest Stewards that this group

will continue to be a valued outreach arm promoting forest stewardship, and that, when Jim decides to retire, the volunteer group won't retire with him.

Based on these discussions, Jim and others are currently working on a proposal to create a Center for Private Forests here at Penn State. The proposal is currently in the hands of School and College administration. Upon their blessing, it will be passed up to Old Main for approval.

The objective of this Center is to put in place an administrative and support structure focusing research, education, and outreach on Pennsylvania's private forestlands, owners, and stakeholders. The PA Forest Stewards volunteer program would be housed within the Center for Private Forests.

The proposed mission: "The Center for Private Forests at Penn State University will foster the retention and stewardship of private forests by conducting applied research on stewardship issues and creating collaborative learning opportunities for students and stakeholders through participative outreach with private forest landowners, educators, volunteers, agencies, organizations, and the general public."

Specifically it will:

- Increase understanding of the prevalence and importance of private forest lands, and the threats affecting their future functions and values;
- Create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student education and

research on issues related to the management of private forests;

- Seek collaborative solutions to the challenges affecting private forest lands and owners;
- Conduct applied research to facilitate private forest retention, management, and benefits such as watershed protection, ecosystem services, economic returns, wood products, recreation, biodiversity, and quality of life;
- Enhance the efforts of the Renewable Natural Resources Extension group in the College of Agricultural Sciences to reach out to private forest owners;
- Foster the use of peer-to-peer and collaborative learning;
- Improve the ability of natural resource professionals to serve private forest land stakeholders.

The College of Agricultural Sciences is currently undergoing a restructuring effort. It has been charged with taking its current structure of twelve departments down to six or so. We don't yet know how the School of Forest Resource and Cooperative Extension in particular will fare in the restructuring, but we feel confident that with this Center proposal, private forestlands, owners, and stakeholders will remain a central part of our

research, education, and outreach mission. We will let you know as this proposal progresses through the proper channels. We hope that you will support this effort.

International Year of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. Forests cover 31% of total land area of our earth and are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity. The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests and worldwide trade in forest products was estimated at \$327 billion in 2004.

In the U.S., with support from the USDA Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters has partnered with the American Forest Foundation to develop, guide, and facilitate plans for the International Year of Forests. The U.S. goal is to provide all forestry stakeholders with ideas and resources to participate in the celebration over the next year. From a national day of celebration to community-level actions, the partnership is developing tools and

ideas that use the platform of Year of Forests to highlight current forestry issues and the good work being done in the broad forestry community nationwide. Materials and events for celebrating the International Year of Forests are listed at

http://www.affoundation.org/international_year_of_forests.html.

Dates for Your 2011 Calendar

Saturday, July 16, 2011 – Annual Meeting, Park Farm and Forest, Columbia County. Details to come soon.

September 30-October 2 and October 21-23, 2011 – Basic Training, South Mountain YMCA, Wernersville, Berks County.

In-service Trainings – As usual, we'll be having an in-service training the day before the annual meeting. This year we hope to also try to have an in-service the day before the second weekend of training for new volunteers. Both opportunities will allow us to take full advantage of the sites and allow for additional networking opportunities as participants stay for the annual meeting and/or meet

with the new volunteers. We'll keep you posted on topics and dates.

Newsletter by Email?

Would you like to receive your copy of the PA Forest Stewards Newsletter by email? Not only do you save some paper and copying costs, but you get the newsletter a lot more quickly. Please let Allyson know if you'd prefer **not** to receive a paper copy. Thanks.

Contact Forestry Extension

Forestry Extension
Penn State School of Forest Resources
416 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

An equal opportunity employer
University Park, PA 16802
Penn State University
416 Forest Resources Building
Pennsylvania Forest Stewards

College of Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension



PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY