

# Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News



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## PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting

On July 15 and 16, PA Forest Stewards and their guests made their way to northern Columbia County to the Park Family Farm and Forest for an inservice training and the 18th PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting.

On Friday, July 15, sixty-five PA Forest Stewards and guests joined us for a full day of learning and discussion around trails. Tom Yahner, Penn State Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, led a discussion about creating a story for your trail to tell. Randy Reibson, erosion and sedimentation technician, Sullivan County Conservation District, led a walking tour through the trails of the deer enclosure to talk soils, wetlands, and construction concerns. Bob Hansen, Penn State Extension Forester, led a field tour to learn how best to use GPS to establish trails.

Friday night, sixty-two participants joined us in downtown Bloomsburg for dinner and fellowship.

On Saturday, one hundred fifty-five people came out for the annual meeting. Bill Park introduced us to his family and their property which has been in their family since 1846. The PA Forest Stewards Update filled everyone in on where we are with the Center for Private Forests (see below) and activities and initiatives of the volunteer program.

Tours took advantage of all the site had to offer. Andy Duncan, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, led a walking tour of the deer enclosure, which has been in place for six years. Gerald Hoy and Ben Hardy, DCNR Service Foresters, took participants to a hemlock stand to discuss what to do with hemlock woolly adelgid and hemlock scale (and how to recover the site once the insect has been through). Jim Park gave a demonstration of the family's small-scale logging and sawmill setups. Scott Weikert, Penn State Coopera-

tive Extension Educator, led a hands-on demonstration hardwood lumber grading (using boards made during the previously mentioned tour). Norm Conrad, Penn State Cooperative Extension Educator, talked about ticks, Lyme Disease, and how to manage your property to reduce tick-human interactions. Scott Singer, Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented on cost-share programs available to forest landowners and how to navigate the system. Linda Ordiway, Biologist, The Ruffed Grouse Society, led a walking tour on early succession wildlife habitat. Marty Martynowich, DCNR Service Forester, visited an Austrian pine stand to talk about what to do to encourage hardwoods as pines near the end of their natural lifespan. Dave Jackson, Penn State Cooperative Extension Forester, gave a tour and demonstration on competitive plant control. Dan Swift, the Park's consulting forester, hosted a practical session on how consulting foresters do PA Natural Diversity Index searches and how that impacts on-the-ground activities. Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, led a tour to talk about forest thinning and regeneration. And finally, the Park Family came together at the end of the day to lead a discussion about how they've handled the tricky question of inheritance and land succession.

Our day ended with a presentation by Dave Kittredge, Extension Forester and Professor of Forestry, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dave was present at the very first PA Forest Stewards (then VIP-Coverts) training in 1992. He reflected on the 20+ years of peer-to-peer education he's been a part of, having started Massachusetts' program before we got started, and shared some of the new directions Massachusetts has taken their training.

The silent auction raised almost \$2,000 towards the PA Forest Stewards Endowment. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Many, many thanks to the Park Family for all their effort: preparing their property and for being such great hosts. As our chair

and emcee for the day, Walt Petrick, noted: "The Park Family and their lands embody and demonstrate everything that our volunteer program is about. Thank you so much for a wonderful event!"

## Mysteries of the Forest: A Family Day in the Woods

By John Burnham '03

*Editor's note: John Burnham was recognized as the 2010 outstanding Tree Farmer for Pennsylvania. He works closely with the Southwestern PA Woodland Owners group.*

On June 11, 2011, we had an overwhelming response for a youth field day at my Tree Farm just outside Prosperity, PA in Washington County. We really didn't know what to expect, but the day was perfect and so was attendance. The Southwestern PA Woodland Owners (SWPWO) sponsored Mysteries of the Forests: A Family Day in the Woods attracted 147 folks including 71 kids. We were really looking for the kids. We wanted to capture their imaginations and get them involved with the natural wonders that they might miss. Importantly, everyone had fun visiting the various learning stations.

The real secret of the day's success were the people who offered their skills to share. Here is what we offered:

- Let's Talk Habitat: Build a Bluebird Box –Stefko, Rich Joyce, Stacy Carroll, Ashley Isiminger (PA Game Commission)
- Discover the Lore of the Woods – Mike DiRinaldo (Bureau of Forestry)
- All Trees Are NOT Created Equal –Arlyn Perkey (US Forest Service, retired)
- Bats Are Good for You – Maureen Adair (SWPWO, 3rd Grade Teacher)
- Work on Your Cub Scout WEBLOS Forestry Pin –Bob McBride (Bureau of Forestry)



- Work on Your Boy Scout Forestry Merit Badge – Mark Fajerski (Merit Badge Coach)
- Talk with a Tree Farmer and Forestry Professional (Merit Badge Requirement) – John Burnham and Bob McBride
- The Wood Mobile – Bob Jacques (PA Dept. of Ag and Hardwood Development Council)
- How Boards Are Made – John Burnham (Tree Farmer and Host)

Notice how people stepped up to help. We put together the program, shared it with the local BSA council and others working with youth in the area. We sent out announcements, accepted registrations, prepared the lunch, and were pleased with our success. Everyone involved felt a high level of accomplishment; we believe we made a difference. I encourage you to think about organizing an event where you are. Give me a call, I'll be glad to tell you more about our effort.

## Center for Private Forests Update

We were hoping to be able to announce that the Center for Private Forests is in existence at Penn State. Alas, we're still working our way through the administrative channels to get to Old Main. Jim Finley has been in discussions with the associate dean who will be shepherding our proposal through to the Vice Presidents and President of the University. We're hopeful to have a final draft ready

to go by the end of August (and now that we know how the budgets and reorganizations are looking to play out, perhaps everyone will be ready to look forward to something good). We'll keep you posted.

## Observations on "The Last Tree"

*By Bob Slagter '08*

What if there was only ONE tree?

If there was only one tree  
 What an amazing sight it would be.  
 People would come from miles to see  
 Every branch, all the bark, every leaf...

All the dogs would run to it just to pee;  
 Squirrels would use every inch for their  
 spree;  
 Some would charge admission, I'd let you  
 see it for free,  
 For it would be home to cardinal, eagle and  
 flea.

I would sit for hours in its lee,  
 And take whatever it gave to me.

Did you hear bad vines now threaten all  
 trees?

It seems trees fit vines to a tee.  
 They could soon be all there is to see  
 With lots of scratching from the poison ivy  
 In a world that's left with only one tree.

## Dates for Your 2011 Calendar

**September 25, 2011** - Forest Fest, 10 a.m.  
 - 3 p.m., Penn State Arboretum, Univer-

sity Park, Centre County. Contact Sanford "Sandy" Smith if your group would like to set up a display - [sss5@psu.edu](mailto:sss5@psu.edu).

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

**In-service Training – October 21** – the Friday before the Second Weekend of PA Forest Stewards Basic Training. Watch for more details coming soon.

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