

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News



extension.psu.edu

Volume 17, Number 6

May/June 2011

New Resources for Private Forest Landowners Display

Paying attention to the most successful displays at the Farm Show and Ag Progress Days, Dave Jackson, Penn State Extension Forester, Centre County, decided to create a new display that would serve as a one-stop shop for private forest landowners interested in learning more about their woodlands.

With support and information from many forestry organizations, including Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee, and the PA Forest Stewards, to name a few, Dave, the Penn State College of Ag design staff, and others created an attractive display and a handout entitled Pennsylvania Partners for Sustainable Forests. Descriptions and contact information are available for the numerous agencies and organizations available to assist private forest landowners in caring for their woodland.

And now a call to arms (or staffing, really)... This display will be unveiled at Ag Progress Days, August 16-18, 2011, Rock Springs, Centre County. Open hours are Tuesday, August 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 17 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Thursday, August 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We're looking for PA Forest Stewards and other volunteers willing to staff the display and help direct other forest landowners to important resources.

Please consider volunteering your time to staff the display for a few hours. Contact Allyson with your availability. Thank you!

PA Forest Stewards and Social Media Sites: Administrator Wanted

More and more these days, we're seeing a big movement to the use of social media

websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn) to market programs and messages. Those of you who have "Liked" the PA Forest Stewards Volunteers page on Facebook know that I'm not the best at regular updates. We wonder if there is someone out there who is old-hat at the social media thing and could help us improve our social media presence. We'd be happy to feed you information. The doing of it just gets lost in the shuffle of other work. Thanks for your consideration.

A Spring Day at Logging Camp

By Matthew Miller '10

June 5 was a beautiful late-spring-green day at logging camp after a solid and peaceful night's rest. The teamster awoke at 7:00, later than usual, and rose at 8:00 after listening to the birds sing and watching the sun stream through the window as he heard the morning news and weather forecast broadcast over the airwaves. On rising, he gave thanks to God, raised the flag, and gave the team, Daisy and Dyna, half a bale of hay for breakfast and two buckets of water. Then while safety and security officer Radar checked the campsite for evidence of bears and varmints, the teamster tidied up the campsite from last night's gathering. After these morning chores were done, he sat down to his own breakfast of cereal and coffee with milk and juice that his wife, Kate, had brought to camp the previous evening. An apple topped off his tank and he saved the core pieces for horse rewards. While the horses were working on breakfast he and Radar went to cut kindling from an old crude-oil-soaked tub tank. The equipment they took was saw and gear and four loops of baler twine. Radar pulled in three boards, and the woodcutter carried a bundle in one hand and his saw over the other shoulder. The other light work job of the morning was to gather points, wedges, and tops from the locust fence posts that formed the one-acre fence containing the team.

The order of work preparation was that Radar, dog dish, and radio went to the stable in the shade of the hemlocks by the old pond. Then the ponies came in for inspection, brushing, and hoof cleaning. Finally the harnesses, bridles, and lines were installed. After turning out, the teamster hitched the team to the double tree with chains as they had been positioned from yesterday's job.

Up the hill they went as Radar worked a bone and stood watch at the stable. They drove past three small poles that Kate and he had chained together during last evening's walk with the safety officer and then they hooked onto a 20-foot 10-inch sweet birch log. On the way downhill, he stopped the team and snagged the three poles before baby-stepping down the steep section of the trail. Although he had debated the quality of the hook-up, one of the three poles came out as Kate had predicted. For the time being, the only choice was to leave the pole orphaned along the trail to be brought in later. The first skid of the day went to the landing by the swing-set for later processing.

Turning about and going back up the hill, he had to stop the team to chain up the orphan to be snagged on the second skid down. At the top, he hooked into another 10-inch birch that was five feet longer than the first and then succeeded in snagging the orphan on the steep pitch. At the switchback, the little one again came out so they continued to the landing with just one log. After turning out the third time, he heard the security officer announcing an event at the stable. Not an alarm event, so the team leader decided it must be a friendly visitor who could wait until the third skid came in. Again he had to chain up the orphan on the way uphill. At the top, he hooked up two 20-foot sections of 8-inch beech and headed in for the last skid of the morning. The orphan was snagged and all 3 poles made it to the landing by the apple tree and the team returned to the stable. No visitors were present so the boss suspects the excitement from the security guard was his reaction to sniffing out tempting scents on the rising thermals carried up the hollow.

The guard was counseled on proper behavior while on duty.

After work, the horses got brushed and sprayed, a drink of water and a bale of hay in the pasture. The teamster got washed and cooled in the spring, a change of clothes, and an apple with a hunk of sharp cheese washed down with a cool drink. After lunch he changed hats and took on the roles of dish washer and laundry boy. Radar, being off-duty, napped in the sun. Breakfast dishes having been done and laundry having been hung up to dry, the man went to his sister's house for visits. He visited with his wife, and a couple friends, Charlie and Dave, and made arrangements for the ponies' ride home tomorrow at 10:30. Back at camp he packed up for travel day, worked on his list of odd-jobs, and set up camp for the evening activities. He then took his rest in the shade by the spring with the feeling of having been in harmony with the natural forces for the greatest part of the day.

Thank You for Completing the Survey!

A huge thanks go out to all of you who took the time to complete the Exploring the Private Forestlands of Peer Volunteers survey, either online or in hard copy format. It was a tremendous effort on your part. We had a 48% response rate online and a 53% response rate for those who filled out the paper version. We very much appreciate your willingness to share your experiences and help us improve, not only how our program operates, but also our outreach vehicles and messages. We'll be compiling a report and

making it widely available for your use.

Next steps in this project are to create some outreach messages promoting working forests (anti-parcelization). We'll be looking for volunteers to test these messages and take part in some training opportunities. We'll keep you posted.

Dates for Your 2011 Calendar

Friday, July 15, 2011 – The Ins and Outs of Road and Trail Layout Inservice Training, Park Farm and Forest, Columbia County. Send in your registration soon!

Saturday, July 16, 2011 – Annual Meeting, Park Farm and Forest, Columbia County. Send in your registration soon!

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.

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.

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
<http://extension.psu.edu/paforeststewards>

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Pennsylvania Forest Stewards
416 Forest Resources Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802