

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News



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Your Help Needed at the Pennsylvania Farm Show

PA Forest Stewards volunteers will once again help staff the Forest Landowner Information and Assistance display at the upcoming Farm Show, January 5-12, 2013. Please check your calendars and contact Dave Jackson if you have any time available to help staff the display. It is a big commitment to cover all the time slots – increments of four hours. The display will be in the special forestry area along with the Wood-Mobile, PA Forestry Association, and The American Chestnut Foundation. We'd love to have your help. Contact Dave at drj11@psu.edu or 814-355-4897. Thanks!

New From the Woods: Amphibians

After much effort, there is a new publication in the *From the Woods* series. This four-page publication focuses on the amphibians that live in Pennsylvania's forests. While written for a middle and high school youth audience, these informative and colorful publications are a great asset to any outreach program. Contact our Extension office to get your copy of the latest addition today.

Northeast Region

Steering Committee representatives from the Northeast region contributed to this issue of the PA Forest Stewards Newsletter. Here are the resources available in that region.

Woodland Owners Associations:

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners' Association, PO Box 473, Wysox, PA 18854, Email: thebsfla@yahoo.com

Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association, c/o Williams, 348 Sereno

Hollow Road, Millville, PA 17846, Email: CSWOA1@gmail.com

Lycoming Woodland Owners' Association, 1220 Arthur Road, Montoursville, PA 17754, Email: erd2@pct.edu

Pike-Monroe Woodland Owners, c/o Mike Roche, DCNR, HC 1, Box 95A, Swiftwater, PA 18370, Email: miroche@pa.gov

Susquehanna County Forest Landowners' Association, c/o Stuart Slocum, 1371 Slocum Road, Thompson, PA 18465, Email: slocumsw98@yahoo.com

Tioga County Woodland Owners Association, c/o Tom Socha, 517 Linder Road, Osceola, PA 16942

Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association, 45 Springhouse Lane, Equinunk, PA 18417, Email: info@wlfla.org, <http://www.wlfla.org>

Service Foresters:

Bradford and Sullivan Counties: Chad Gadsby, cgadsby@pa.gov, 570-946-4049.

Carbon County: Frank Snyder, frsnyder@pa.gov, 570-385-7807.

Columbia, Montour and Northumberland Counties: Robert Martynowych, rmartynowych@pa.gov, 570-387-4255.

Lackawanna and Wayne Counties: John Maza, jmaza@pa.gov, 570-945-7133.

Luzerne County: Ben Hardy, behardy@pa.gov, 570-450-4073.

Lycoming County: Jason Smith, jasonsmith@pa.gov, 570-753-3196.

Monroe and Pike Counties: Mike Roche, miroche@pa.gov, 570-895-4000.

Snyder and Union Counties: Gerald Hoy, gehoy@pa.gov, 570-922-3344.

Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties: Ryan Brown, rybrown@pa.gov, 570-945-7133.

Tioga County: Steve Hoover, shoover@pa.gov, 570-724-8124.

PGC Wildlife Diversity Biologist:

Richard Fritsky, rfritsky@pa.gov, 570-879-2575.

Penn State Cooperative Extension:

Vinnie Cotrone, Urban and Community Extension Forester, vjc1@psu.edu, 570-825-1701.

Bob Hansen (Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan), Extension District Director, rsh7@psu.edu, 570-265-2896.

Craig Altemose (Lycoming), Extension District Director, cea10@psu.edu, 814-863-6095.

Terry Schettini (Luzerne, Wyoming, Lackawanna), Extension District Director, tms15@psu.edu, 570-963-6842.

Nancy Grotevant (Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Carbon), Extension District Director, neg2@psu.edu, 570-296-3400.

Ken Balliet (Columbia, Union, Snyder, Montour, Northumberland), Extension District Director, klb26@psu.edu, 800-851-9710.

Northeastern Contribution: What Kind of Holiday Tree?

By Carol Hartley, '09, and Bob Wagner, Susquehanna County FLA

There are several reasons to consider using a natural evergreen tree this holiday season. They are often locally grown, which provides local jobs and they are a renewable resource. The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Christmas Tree Association believe it is environmentally sound to use real evergreen trees as your traditional Christmas tree.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of active Christmas tree farms. Susquehanna County, for one, has between 15 and 20 active Christmas Tree farms ranging in size from 1 acre to several hundred acres. These traditional Christmas tree farms grow a renewable, sustainable resource that is biodegradable and recyclable. As the trees grow they provide oxygen, take up carbon dioxide, help control soil erosion and provide valu-



able wildlife habitat. After the holiday season, a real Christmas tree can be made into compost, chipped for mulch, or used for conservation purposes such as filling in gullies, creating a brush pile for wildlife habitat or sinking into ponds and lakes to provide better fish habitat.

Taking the family to a local Christmas Tree farm is a fun tradition. Susquehanna County Forest Landowner Association members Teri and Bob Wagner reflect back on their 30+ years of having people come to their Christmas tree operations. Teri notes, "...during the years that we operated our small tree farms we especially enjoyed our repeat customers and the kids who came along to harvest their 'perfect' trees. The children's enthusiasm made you smile as they dashed about finding the trees, cutting the trees and helping to drag the trees out to their parents', grandparents' or relatives' vehicles. The kids' faces would really light up when we showed them that their tree had a bird nest in it. If there had been a fresh snow we showed them the animal tracks - rabbit, deer and the winter birds. I believe that we had as big a smile on our faces as they did on theirs." Bob also notes that while they no longer operate their Christmas tree operation as a business, the remaining trees are homes for wildlife and a few trees are harvested by family members.

The Wagners continue to plant trees, both evergreens and nut and fruit producing trees, each year. Christmas tree farms plant between 800 and 1200 evergreen trees per acre every year. Those of us who manage our woodlands and plant trees do so, you could say, because "Those who plant trees believe in the future."

Lost Camera?

After the second weekend of this fall's basic training and the fall in-service, as we were collecting our things to go, we found a very nice digital camera left in the back corner of the room. If you brought your Canon PowerShot to the fall inservice training on soils and didn't bring it back home with you, please contact Allyson. We'd be happy to get it out to you.

Regional Foci for PA Forest Stewards News – Southwestern Region, You're Up!

Just a gentle reminder for those of you in the Southwestern region of Pennsylvania... Your region is responsible for an article in the January/February issue of the PA Forest Stewards News. Fred Lau (fredlau2@hughes.net), Bill and Margaret Baber (baberm@lhtot.com), or Gary and Page Wetterberg (gwetterberg@hotmail.com, pwetterberg@hotmail.com) are taking the lead in compiling the region's piece(s). Please contact them if you have items of interest to share.

And heads-up to the South Central region! You're on tap for the March/April newsletter. Please contact Mike and Laura Jackson (mljackson2@embarqmail.com), Don McCann (mccann.mccabin@verizon.net), or Charles and Grace Snyder (witchsnyder@aol.com) with your items for that future newsletter.

We're looking forward to hearing from you all!

Dates for Your Calendar

May 10-11, 2013 – 2013 Private Forest Landowners Conference: the Future of Penn's Woods, Blair County Convention Center, Altoona.

Please note: The PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the May 10-11 Conference. While we won't be gathering in July, we hope to see you in Altoona in May!

Contact Penn State Natural Resources Extension

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