

# Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 5

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## Chair's Column: The Nitty Gritty Numbers

By Nancy Baker, PA Forest Stewards '00,  
Steering Committee Chair

Ah, yes; if you took our surveys last fall, Many, Many Thanks.

We know it was bothersome: some of you told us so! Some of you told us off! Some of us experimented with an online reporting app that drove us bonkers. Some of you said, "Why do you need all this information?!!!"

Right. Here's the nitty gritty: Your dedication and good works, **when reported**, help us scrounge enough money to keep our nationally exceptional programming going. The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests and its predecessors (going back to the program's origin in 1991) have remarkable experience in foraging and salvaging dollars—and pinching each one of them to have creatively made this all work for 30+ years. The results speak for themselves—your work, **when reported**, is valued at nearly a half million dollars per year!

Your training was free—to you. But there were certainly monetary costs associated with the training. Your expert presenters were primarily compensated by their employers: the Finley Center, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension, land trusts, industry representatives. Other individuals volunteered their time and may even have paid for their own lodging and transportation to assist you. All of them sacrificed weekend personal time. You were housed and fed, toted around to various field sites, provided with a ton of printed informa-

tion and links to digital info on multiple websites.

Of course, your training is not the only element of the program. There are summer meetings, in-service trainings, news releases, webinars that supplement that training. This Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Newsletter isn't made out of thin air, either. The dollars come from multiple sources, but the largest chunk comes from the USDA Forest Service through DCNR.

I asked John Schwartzter, the Bureau of Forestry's Woodland Stewardship Practices Specialist, to help me understand how this all works in tune with our pesky surveys. Here's how he replied:

"The USDA Forest Service provides what is known as Core Forest Stewardship Funding to state forestry agencies to help run their Forest Stewardship Programs (FSP). This congressionally determined pot of money has drastically diminished in the last 15 years. Pennsylvania's DCNR, instead of providing a dozen hours of overtime pay and a case

of paint to each forest district, passes most of the state's FSP funding to the PA Forest Stewards program. The several hundred strong active PA Forest Stewards have vastly more volume of educational opportunities and on-the-ground impact than the DCNR's 24 full-time equivalent service foresters ever can.

"The Core Forest Stewardship Funding (the federal funding stream) is allocated based on an equation. Each state receives a base allocation of \$100,000; additional money is added, based on the state's forest cover, the number of landowners, and some performance measures. Forty percent of the additional funding is based on number of forest landowners and acres of forestland; performance measures provide 60% to the allocation. The performance measures are based on plan numbers and locations, implementation of plans, and landowner education. The graph on page 5 shows how this breaks down.

*Chair's Column, continued on page 5*

## PA Forest Stewards Summer Meeting July 20!

All Stewards, mark your calendars! We are excited to announce our PA Forest Stewards Biennial Summer Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 20 at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA. Check-in opens at 8 AM, so come early and enjoy a continental breakfast and a show-and-tell of PA Forest Steward accomplishments.

Program activities will run from 9:30 AM through 4 PM. Lunch will be served at 1 PM. Open to all Stewards and their guests, the day will be packed with learning opportunities, program updates, good food, and conversation.

A registration packet with details will be sent out at the end of May. This is a one-day event; you are welcome to make your own overnight accommodations.

## Applications for Class of 2024 to Go Out in May

Application materials for nominees for the 2024 class of PA Forest Stewards will be mailed out in early May. If you have sent in nominations, please plan to check with them to make sure they received a packet.

This year's basic training will be held September 19-22 at Krislund Camp and Conference Center in Madisonburg, PA.



*Last year's timber harvest training session.*



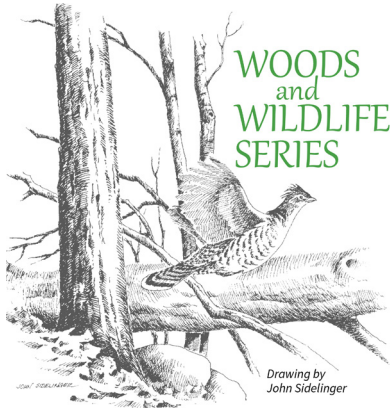
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# Oh Deer! What Could the Matter Be?

Article and Photos by Mike and Laura Jackson, PA Forest Stewards, Class of '00



*This article is part of a series exploring animals and their dependency on forests. Each article blends personal experiences with factual information and will challenge you to look closely in your woodlot for evidence that you are a habitat provider for the species.*

First it was the virgin hemlock forest just south of us in Bedford County—Sweet Root Natural Area—1,526 acres, including 69 acres of old-growth hemlock. Although this rocky cove escaped the widespread logging that destroyed so many large trees in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and although it is part of the Old-Growth Forest Network (dedicated in 2022), most of the virgin hemlock were killed by hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in the late 1990s. Today, just a few of the hemlocks are treated to withstand the HWA's deadly assault. It's still an important habitat for birds, wild trout, Allegheny woodrat, and many other wildlife, but the essence of the forest is gone.

Then the ash trees were killed—hundreds on our property and hundreds of millions of ash trees in Pennsylvania and beyond succumbed to another alien insect called the emerald ash borer, native to Asia. It was very traumatic to live among these majestic, old trees and to experience their sudden death, mostly in 2014, on our property. Our house was nestled under and near about 30 white ash trees, some over 100 years old. Hundreds more in our forest died. Not only did we have to pay to have the close ones removed, or cut down to 16-foot snags, but we lost most of the shade in our backyard, and we lost a piece of biodiversity in our forest.

We thought we experienced, to a small extent, what people might have felt when the American chestnut was wiped out by an exotic fungus just about 100 years before the ash succumbed. We have found the remnants of American chestnut logs in our woods, and many years ago we found a hollow chestnut snag still standing, a skeletal reminder of what once was one of the most majestic trees that produced the richest food for wildlife and for people in eastern forests.

We mourn for those fallen giants and hope that someday researchers will be able to propagate trees that will withstand the adelgid, the ash borer, or the chestnut blight.



*These twin fawns are voracious eaters—they need to consume about 6-8% of their body weight in green foliage and browse each day to stay healthy.*

Now we are in the midst of another tragedy, but this time, it affects our state mammal, the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). We didn't realize, at first, how SEVERE it would be. After all, a nickname for white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania is "mountain maggots" because there are so many and because they are so destructive to native tree and shrub seedlings.



*We can clearly see the lack of regeneration in our forest, due mainly to the overabundance of deer.*

We thought this new disease, called Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), would cull the weaker deer, but wouldn't decimate the population. Mike would still be able to hunt successfully; it would just be more of a challenge, and we'd see better regeneration in our woods. But now we are wondering, since we rely on venison instead of beef, will there be any venison for the table in a few more years?



*Seth, our 19-year-old great-nephew, faces an uncertain future when it comes to successful deer hunting in our area of Pennsylvania.*

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) wants more deer killed in our Deer Management Area (DMA) #2 to reduce the spread of CWD, so Mike applied for more DMAP tags. In 2020, Mike legally harvested seven deer. He turned in the head of each one to be tested for CWD, and two of them were positive. We don't eat the ones that test positive, but turn in that meat to the PGC. In 2021, all three deer legally harvested tested negative. In 2023, two tested positive out of five deer legally harvested, but it was getting harder to even see deer when hunting, unless they were already dead in the woods. Now the latest statistics, told to us just recently by a retired PGC Bureau manager, show that 30% of the deer harvested in DMA #2 in 2023 tested positive for CWD.

**Deer, continued on page 3**



*It's no longer uncommon to find dead deer in our woods—we located this one because turkey vultures were feeding on it. One species' loss is another species' gain.*

Bedford County is the hotspot for CWD in Pennsylvania, and it is gut-wrenching to see sick and dying deer in our forest. The vultures and coyotes usually find the dead deer, or we smell their decay. Sometimes we see one close to death, unable to run properly, unafraid of people, skinny, and lethargic. This disease is caused by a tiny protein particle called a

prion. The prion that causes CWD is misfolded and tends to accumulate in the brain and lymphatic system, eventually causing death. There are no treatments or vaccines for this fatal disease.

Just a few days ago, Laura drove up our lane through the woods in the dark and stopped when she saw a deer standing partly on the lane. It didn't move at all so she slowly inched the car closer and closer, and eventually drove very slowly around the deer since it wouldn't move off the lane. The next morning, we looked for the deer and found it bedded down at the edge of the woods, near where Laura had seen it the night before. We watched it wobble to another spot in the woods and bed down, but it wasn't there the next day—it's probably dead. The disease works swiftly and causes death in about 24 months. Although there's no evidence (yet) that CWD is transmitted to people or other animals outside the Cervid family (deer, moose, elk), we don't want to eat any infected deer.

Fortunately, the PGC is conducting research on CWD, so we enrolled our property in the study. Last year, PGC technicians trapped a doe and her yearling on our property. They took blood samples and collared the deer with a



*Even a healthy-looking deer can test positive for CWD. Studies show that does can transmit the prion that causes CWD to their fawns. An infected doe will also give birth to fewer offspring.<sup>1</sup>*

transmitter so biologists could monitor their movements. If the signal from the collar does not move from one spot, most likely the deer has died, so biologists locate the deer, retrieve the collar, and perform studies on the dead deer.

We've always enjoyed watching deer. It's exciting to find a newborn fawn, and we get a kick out of watching deer when they act like little kids at recess. The field below our house used to be a playground for deer in the spring. We watched as many as 15 deer run really fast in big circles, kick up their heels, and frolic like they didn't have a care in the world. We hope a few will show up this spring to entertain us with their antics, but the woods are strangely still these days.

Search online for "CWD in Pennsylvania" to locate an excellent PGC website chock-full of information on CWD.<sup>2</sup> Click on the photo, then scroll down to see the dynamic map of CWD cases in the state and focus on DMA #2 to see how the number of CWD cases has increased over the years. Oh deer, that's right where we live. We hope that some deer will develop resistance to CWD so future generations will be able to hunt, study, or enjoy our majestic state mammal.



*The PGC trapped and collared this doe and her yearling on our property in late winter 2023 and, so far, they are still alive. We took this photo in April 2023, about two months after they received their transmitters.*

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3743758/#:~:text=Moreover%2C%20we%20demonstrate%20here%20that,percentage%20of%20live%20birth%20offspring>

<sup>2</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ddfce74f89d24a91b116a84ddf126ac6>

## Peaches and Power

By Brian Zeidner, PA Forest Steward, Class of '20

I really dislike bad news. It seems that the older I get, the more often I receive bad news. A forester friend recently confirmed that my prized peach tree is on life support.

The beautiful old peach tree is on the south lawn of my Bradford County farmhouse, and it usually produces wonderful peaches. I am not sure who planted the tree, but long-gone family members canned its fruit annually, I've enjoyed caring for it, and my children have fond memories of growing and harvesting peaches from this special tree.

It's time to get some additional fruit trees established in that area, but one challenge I've encountered is my electric cooperative has a powerline running across my south lawn. I'd hate to establish a tree only to have it cut to the specifications of the right-of-way program.

As an employee, I know that the cooperative has the right and the responsibility to maintain the powerline right of way. I looked back in my records and found that in the 1930s, my family had completed and signed an easement to allow powerline construction across the property. At that time, many in our rural area were excited about getting electricity. The easement allowed the cooperative to access and maintain the powerlines to include tree trimming and brush cutting.

You may wonder if an easement is still binding if you are not the one who signed it, or if it was not recorded in the county courthouse. Such an easement is legitimate and binding. Most people, including me, enjoy affordable, reliable electricity and are willing to accommodate needed utility work to ensure the power keeps flowing. The co-op maintains a 40-foot right of way (20 feet on each side of the line) for most of its high-voltage powerlines. They mow or cut vegetation on a maintenance schedule or as needed.

So, where is the best place to plant my replacement peach tree? I reached



*Some of the delicious fruit harvested from the beautiful old peach tree and apple trees the Zeidners have enjoyed over the years. Photo provided by Brian Zeidner.*

out to Josh, my cooperative Right-of-Way Manager, to ask that question. He had some great advice regarding my plantings.

Creating pollinator habitat was an idea he encouraged. Other acceptable considerations for planting in the rights of way were a variety of grasses, forbs, ferns, and wildflowers.

If I were considering low-growing trees and shrubs (like dogwoods or blueberry bushes), Josh noted they should be on fringes of the right of way, rather than in the center. This made sense as powerline repairs and maintenance may necessitate vehicles moving, turning, and working in that 40-foot corridor.

Based on excellent training through the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program, I understand that any plants I choose should be native and not an invasive species. Although autumn olive and multiflora rose won't grow up into a powerline, they should never be deliberately planted, and I have been working hard to eradicate these invasives.

Ernst Seeds has some great options for planting in utility rights of way. They

offer outstanding native plant mixes, and they can help you choose what is right for your property.

Additionally, most utilities have information on their website or professionals you can reach out to regarding questions on plantings in the rights of way. Conservation districts also have great resources, including knowledgeable professionals, and sometimes, seed sales and equipment rentals.

As for my replacement peach tree—I have the option to plant one anywhere on the south lawn—just not in the utility right of way. I'm thinking close to the old tree, and within view of the front porch, where I like to drink tea, admire peaches, and receive good news.

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*Brian Zeidner and his wife Pat own and operate a 42-acre beef farm in Bradford County. Brian also works as the Director of Member Services for Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, serves as a Bradford County Conservation District Director, is a Pennsylvania Forest Steward, and is a United States Air Force veteran.*

“Each state selects Federal Investment Areas (FIAs) that they spend the majority of their efforts in. FIAs are limited to 50% of the forested acres of the state. The goals for FIAs include:

- Reducing wildfire risk to communities (such as fuels reduction, prescribed fire)
- Enhancing wildlife habitat (such as game and non-game)
- Protecting water resources (such as water quality, watershed management)
- Supporting jobs (i.e., rural prosperity)

“Because PA’s FSP funding is mostly passed through to the PA Forest Stewards Program, DCNR selected counties that have high numbers of active PA Forest Stewards and greater forest coverage as Federal Investment Areas. Then, non-forested land was removed from the calculations, which helped to spread the FIAs to as many counties as possible.

“Forest management plan implementation within the Federal Investment Areas is the most impactful metric that we can affect in the allocation formula, providing 30% of the performance-based allocation. Each year, service foresters monitor a sample of the active (less than 10 years old) Forest Stewardship Program plans within the Federal Investment Areas for implementation. A monitoring visit involves a quick chat about the plan objectives and any activities accomplished from the plan.

“The next highest impact to funding is the total number of active plans in and outside of Federal Investment Areas. The more plans Pennsylvania has implemented, the higher our Forest

Stewardship Funding goes. Education and technical assistance to landowners provide a smaller bump in funding; PA Forest Stewards’ activities count toward this! Your PA Forest Stewards annual reporting directly impacts the federal funding level for the state’s FSP.

“Ultimately, the more Stewards accomplish, the more funding the program can receive. If a landowner has a plan and the service forester doesn’t know about it, the federal PA Stewardship Program funding doesn’t reflect that plan. If Stewards are doing landowner visits and education and do not report it, the Bureau of

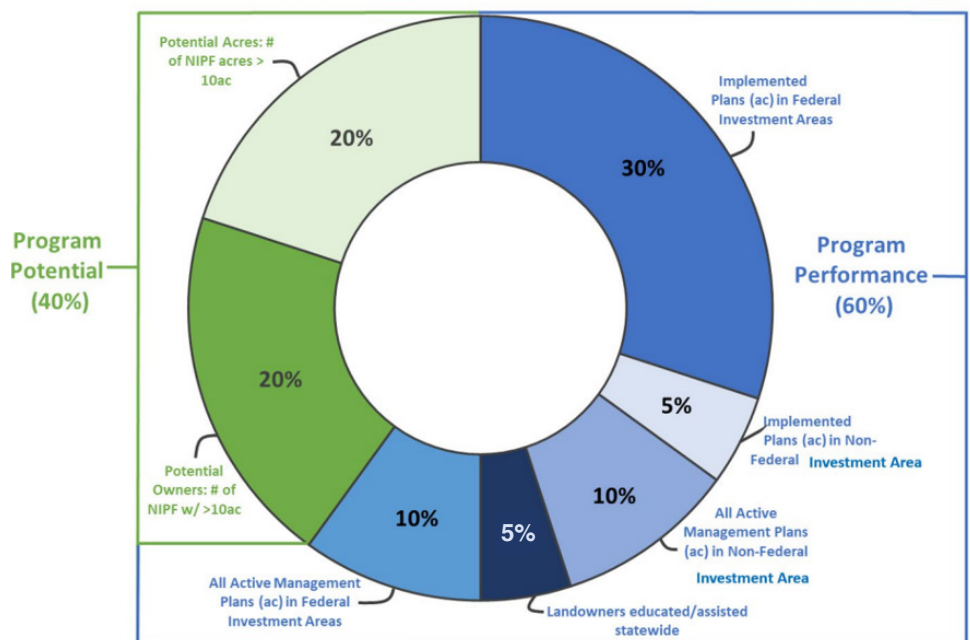
Forestry and the program, in turn, do not receive the appropriate funding. In summary, get a plan! Tell others to get a plan! Work on the plan! Report those activities! The forest is counting on it.”

So, when you see John Schwartz at the PA Forest Stewards Summer Meeting this year, please thank him for being the explanation guru. And know that we appreciate all that you do, and we want to know all about it too!

Best regards,

Nancy  
bakerii@epix.net

**Forest Stewardship Allocation Components**  
Base Allocation for all States and Territories is \$100,000



### Opportunity for PA Forest Stewards to Participate in Research

## You Can Take Part! Collaborating to Advance Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship and Carbon Management

A project getting underway under the direction of Dr. Margarita Fernández seeks your help to advance the understanding of the current status of private forestlands and their potential to mitigate climate and their resilience to future management scenarios and natural disturbances.

Dr. Fernández is recruiting forest owners across Pennsylvania to participate in a study related to the co-benefits of carbon management. If you own a hardwood forest of 10-60 acres with low to good levels of hardwood stocking, this might be your opportunity to collaborate with the research.

Participation will help the research have a more realistic understanding of removals, forest structure, and forest health on private forestlands. A regional baseline assessment of the current situation will help to assess and model strategies to increase future climate resilience and carbon management scenarios. The publicly available datasets might not reflect the current status and silvicultural practices being done in private forestlands; therefore, better assessments will benefit from landowners’ feedback and participation.

Recruitment and preliminary sampling are planned for this summer, and

participation and surveys will extend over the summer of 2025. Participation includes field visits to your forestland to develop forest inventories and forest health assessments. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a survey where you can share your experience and challenges on keeping your forests growing healthy and developing invasives management.

**If you are interested and want to learn more about the project, please contact Dr. Margarita Fernández at [mmf5814@psu.edu](mailto:mmf5814@psu.edu).**

# Management for Wildlife Yields a Memorable 2023 Hunt

By Dale Spitzer, PA Forest Steward, Class of '14

The second day of our 2023 Pennsylvania deer firearms season was one of the most memorable days of my 60 years of hunting.

We hunted three days during bear season, and one of those days allowed me to see 47 deer; 17 were legal bucks. As a long-time hunter, these were really good numbers. I have hunted North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Vermont, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick. These numbers of deer are as good as I have seen over the years. Almost a two-to-one doe-to-buck ratio gives me a nice warm, fuzzy feeling.

The 132 acres in Tioga County that I own and manage for wildlife are starting to pay off. I have done about 20 acres of crop tree management, about 8 acres of food plots, border cuts, and switchgrass next to the border cuts. All this work seems to make the wildlife, especially

the game, like this area. About a quarter-mile southeast of me, a farmer planted 600 acres of corn that were not harvested due to wet weather. (As of Christmas, the fields were still not harvested, which is not usually the case.) As people entered the woods during hunting season, the deer movement changed drastically.

The second day of deer season was very interesting. I sat in my hunting stand from 6:30 AM until 5:10 PM. I saw two grouse and no deer at all. If you told me this story, I wouldn't believe you. After long deliberation, I decided that the deer moved into various groundhog holes and the unharvested cornfield.

My friend Irv and his son Brian hunted during the first day of deer season, and Brian harvested a nice two-and-a-half-year-old eight-point buck with a split brow tine early that first morning.

On this second day, as I was in my stand, Brian sent me a text to say he

saw a very respectable eight-point buck moving between our stands. I sat until 3:00 PM and noticed only a few does. At 3:00, nine does were within 30 yards of me. Nine sets of eyes allowed me very little room for movement. At 3:15 PM, five does came out of the upper woods and milled around the field about 150 yards away. An instant later, a nice eight-point buck chased one of the five does downhill and out of sight. The buck returned and chased another doe uphill and out of sight. I did not see him again until 4:55 PM, when I was finally able bring him down.

That ended one of the most memorable hunts of my life. The successful hunt was a gift from God that was a result of all that has been done over the last 30 years of managing our property. Not many people get the opportunity to enjoy such blessings.

## Excellent Legacy Planning Resources to Use and to Share

By The Finley Center Communications Committee

Those of us who are involved in the land stewardship community recognize the importance of putting plans in place for the future of our land. The decisions landowners make, or do not make, can have immense consequences for the land they love, for their families, and for society as a whole. As Pennsylvania Forest Stewards, we can help many neighbors, natural resources professionals, and other professional advisers (estate planners, lawyers, tax advisors, etc.) understand the importance of protecting forested lands so all of society can continue to enjoy the environmental, recreational, and economic benefits they provide.

Taking on estate planning can be quite daunting. Transferring ownership in ways that protect what we love about our land while meeting the financial and emotional needs of our families can be a complex and highly emotional process. While our firsthand knowledge can be very helpful in guiding others, the Finley Center fortunately has several resources available that we as volunteers can offer to landowners and professionals to help them get started.

The publication, *Their Land, Their Legacy: A Guide to Help Inform Pennsyl-*

*vania Landowners' Decisions about the Future of Their Land*, provides an overview of Pennsylvania's forest landowners and conservation-based estate planning as well as a roadmap for professionals to follow in introducing conservation-based estate planning to landowners.

The publication, *It's Your Legacy: A Pennsylvania Landowner's Guide to Conservation-based Estate Planning*, outlines the importance of proactive estate planning, provides advice on setting goals for one's land, describes available estate planning tools, and discusses the tax considerations to be explored with different strategies.

The publication, *Legacy Planning Stories: How Forest Landowners "Like Me" Are Ensuring the Future of Their Land*, contains the stories of 12 landowners and families, the variety of plans they are putting in place for their land, and the legacies they are creating.

A worksheet, entitled *My Plans for the Land after Me*, prompts landowners to consider their future land use and ownership preferences and outlines steps they need to take in their planning.

These resources all can be found on the Finley Center website at:

<https://ecosystems.psu.edu/legacy>

The research underlying *Their Land, Their Legacy* was recently published in an article entitled "Conservation-Based Estate Planning: Toward a Sustainable Future for Private Lands" in *Society and Natural Resources*. This article, by co-authors Paul Roth, Finley Center Ph.D. graduate and Council member; Allyson Muth, Finley Center Director; Alex Metcalf, University of Montana Associate Professor of Human Dimensions; and the late Jim Finley, the Center's co-founder and namesake, highlights findings from a study of professional planners, and sheds new light on what is unique about estate planning done with conservation in mind. This open access article can be accessed at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08941920.2024.2310229>.

As you pursue your stewardship activities for your own land and talk with your neighbors about theirs, we hope you will consider sharing these resources with them and with their advisers. Encouraging forest landowners to be proactive in their estate and legacy planning is one of the most important activities we can undertake as volunteers to ensure a sustainable future for Pennsylvania's forested landscapes.

# The Back Page: The Mohawk's Day, Part 1

By Bob Slagter, PA Forest Steward and Retired Steering Committee Chair, Class of '08

*Over the years, Bob has penned stories combining his love of history, good forest stewardship, and adventures in the woods. Enjoy this tale of a hunt, set many years ago in Penn's Woods.*

The Mohawk brave waited patiently as he did most of the time while hunting. It wasn't about chasing game around the woods, or running the game into ground, or shifting randomly, looking for signs of deer, turkey, or bear. He lived in these woods with the animals, so he knew where the game slept and ate. He knew when and how they traveled from one area to the next. He spent as much time looking at food for the game as he did for the animals themselves, for he knew the major need for the deer was where the mast crops were the most plentiful. So he hunted beech and white oak and hickory groves, for that is where the deer must come to live.

The only thing that can keep the animals from the food is predators. The bears loved to eat early fawns and the puma killed and ate deer of all sizes, as did the wolf, and these killers came to the groves as the brave did—to find their next meal. He saw their tracks often and sometimes saw the animals as well. They brought him no fear, for he knew much about each of them and knew what to do when they found each other.

The bear was poor of sight and, if the brave could get downwind of his brother bear, he could watch the bear pass very closely without being spotted. It was almost comical, being within two bow lengths of a bear that was three times bigger than he was and the bear didn't know he was there.

The puma was so wary, he never worried about seeing the puma; he only watched his back in case the mountain lion thought the brave might be a good candidate for his next meal. This was not scary, but it was worth watching because if the puma decided to stalk the brave, the Mohawk would then hope to turn the tables on him and get an arrow into this fleet adversary. He would then have something truly impressive to show the rest of his band. His wife would smile at his hunting power. The wolf was also an adversary, but he could be a friend as well. Many times in winter, the brave had followed wolf tracks as a pack chased

down some deer. When he caught up with them, he would find one of the deer that the wolves missed, the deer spent from being chased, and take the deer easily. The wolves could turn the tables on him if wasn't careful and, although it had not happened to him yet, he had heard tales of wolf packs taking a kill from other hunters.

But today, it was just him, hunting at dawn, moving with the wind, slowly and silently. He had been born with the ability to move as one with the motion of the forest. It was easy, really. You just watched the trees and felt the breezes and then moved along the easy contours of the ground that unfolded ahead with each step at a speed dictated by the motion of the trees and bushes around you. This morning was breathless of wind with a slight dampening of rain falling on his hair.

It was perfect, his favorite hunting conditions. The drops of rain caused the leaves to move in the trees, so there was a lot of motion around him to cover his steps, and the sound of the rain was more than enough to shield the sound of his steps on the wet, soft ground. The rain was also nice enough to keep his scent very close to his body, so it was impossible for the deer to use its great nose to know he was close. He didn't think about it, but when hunting one-on-one with deer, it was essential to be as wild as the deer. Wild—it's a part of every living thing. White man becomes civilized and sometimes ceases to listen

to his wild side. He moves too fast, tries to see the game before he feels them. He blunders through the woods and uses guns to make up for moving the game out ahead of him. The Indian remains wild, he is part of the woods and the wind and the weather. He is as much of nature as the game he hunts, for only in this way can he live as he does, as part of the wilderness.

As he sat next to a hemlock whose low, thick branches shielded him from some of the rain while it hid his subtle movements from the deer, he thought about little, maybe just some hunger for the backstraps off a freshly killed doe. He could taste it now, cut off the back and roasted on a sharp stick until the outside was dark and crispy and the inside was red enough so that juices ran down his chin when he bit into the morsel. His wife would cook the deer for tonight and tomorrow and maybe the next day. She would also smoke strips that they could use for food in the days to come. He hunted deer a lot because he liked the taste better than most other game, and a nice doe of 100 pounds would give enough food for a week for his family. The deer was easy to clean, the skins were worn by his whole family year-round, and even the bones were carved into implements and small toys for the children.

*Will the Mohawk brave's hunt be successful? Read Part 2 of Bob's exciting tale in the next issue.*



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards  
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### **Invasive Plants? Check Out these Resources, and Share with Fellow Landowners!**

It's that time of year when the invasive plants in your woodlot are leafing out all over. We wanted to remind you of Penn State Extension resources you can use to identify the plant pests on your property and ways to control them.

You can find fact sheets on common invasive plants in Pennsylvania's forests, recorded webinars, videos, and articles at:

<https://extension.psu.edu/forests-and-wildlife/forest-management/invasive-and-competing-plants>.

Check out the over 70 resources available and share the link with fellow landowners. For more information, call us at 814-863-0401 or email us at [PrivateForests@psu.edu](mailto:PrivateForests@psu.edu).

### **Dates for Your Calendar**

**Saturday, July 20.** PA Forest Stewards Summer Meeting. 9:30 AM – 4 PM (check-in opens 8 AM). Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA 17018. (See article on the front page of this newsletter.)

**September 19-22.** PA Forest Stewards Class of 2024 Training. Krislund Camp & Conference Center, Madisonburg, Centre County, PA.

For more information about these and other upcoming events, check the Finley Center website:

[ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests](https://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests)

### **Program Sponsors and Partners**

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