

Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Semi-Annual Report

For the Awareness and Knowledge Program Components

(January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009)

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1. SUMMARY

During this reporting period, the *Forest Stewardship* Program at Penn State University made significant, continued progress in enhancing awareness and knowledge about the management of private forestlands. Some of the key accomplishments included:

- Continued to use a Listserv[®] to improve distribution of the *Forest Stewardship News Releases*. The releases currently go to 848 e-mail addresses.
- The *Forest Leaves* newsletter continues to be available in print (9,470), e-mail (1,414 subscribers), and on the Internet.
- Assisted the Bureau of Forestry's Stewardship Coordinator in training sixty-five new Forest Stewardship Plan Writers.
- The PA Forests Web Seminar Center usage continues to grow. In this reporting period twelve seminar topics were offered (noon and 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month for every month except July and August; 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month for July and August). There are currently ~900 participants registered as a Friend of Penn State and able to take part in the seminars.
- The PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee is actively pursuing the goals established in the strategic plan. Committees have been working on the endowment, the Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations conference, and enhancing our communications within the organization.
- Two new woodland owners associations were formed during this reporting period: the Blair County Woodland Owners and the Tri-County (Lancaster, Berks, and Chester Counties) Woodland Owners Association.

2. PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS VOLUNTEERS

A. OVERVIEW OF PA FOREST STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Since the fall of 1991, 495 people have completed volunteer training for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Project. The PA Forest Stewards began as a cooperative effort of Penn State University Cooperative Extension, the USDA Forest Service, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, representatives of the forest products industry, and various environmental and conservation organizations that support the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program.

Woodland volunteer programs are not unique to Pennsylvania. In spring 1993, the then VIP program adopted the Ruffed Grouse Society's COVERTS designation. As a result, PA Forest Stewards volunteer program is the synthesis of the highly successful COVERTS project that originated in New England and Oregon's Master Woodland Manager Program. The Pennsylvania program has drawn from these models and has gone one-step further by linking the volunteers to the nationwide Forest Stewardship Program. In addition to cooperation and support from the Ruffed Grouse Society, the program has received support from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Environmental Education Training Foundation in the past.

The original intent of PA Forest Stewards was to build a network of volunteer forest landowners who would leverage Extension's capability to reach Pennsylvania's private landowners (over 700,000) and who could possibly influence their friends and neighbors more effectively than an educational institution or government agency. PA Forest Stewards volunteers have met our original expectations and, through an evolving program, have gone on to wield even more influence than we anticipated.

They have been the force behind the creation of a growing number of local woodland owner associations throughout the state—associations that now provide additional educational programming for landowners. We estimate that the combined membership of the 27 associations is around 1500 – the largest voice for forest owners in the state.

PA Forest Stewards volunteers have become active participants in local and state government, and many serve on natural resource committees. Their involvement helps shape policy decisions

that favor good wildlife and forest management practices and support for private forest landowners. Many PA Forest Stewards volunteers lead tours and conduct educational programming for people of all ages in their communities. They work closely with their local Bureau of Forestry and Cooperative Extension foresters, conservation districts, and conservation organizations.

MISSION: The PA Forest Stewards program promotes the sustainability of forest resources through a network of trained volunteers passionate about forest stewardship and charged with reaching out to Pennsylvania's private forest landowners and other stakeholders about the care and use of our forests for social, ecological, and economic benefits (adopted 11/13/08).

VISION: The PA Forest Stewards program provides outreach, education, and leadership towards the care and use of Pennsylvania's forests to promote their social, economic, and ecological benefits. PA Forest Stewards is a growing collaboration of trained volunteers and partners advocating sustainable forest management. Our goal is to be fiscally and programmatically independent (adopted 11/13/08).

B. PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS LISTSERV®

The PAFS project LISTSERV, which launched during 2001, continues to serve as a forum in which users can ask and answer questions, share experiences, and discuss issues related to forest management and Forest Stewardship.

The LISTSERV is a private e-mail discussion group open only to PAFS volunteers, Service Foresters, and Extension Foresters. One hundred three volunteers and advisors (i.e., extension educators and Bureau of Forestry service foresters) are currently on the LISTSERV.

C. PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS STEERING COMMITTEE

The PAFS Steering Committee continues to meet twice annually, in March and November. Steering Committee meetings address specific issues as they arise, but always include discussions relevant to the welfare of private forest landowners and Forest Stewardship outreach. (A list of Steering Committee members at the time of this report is in Appendix A).

March Steering Committee Meeting

On March 5, the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering Committee continued the precedent of having spring meeting as a conference call. Committee members called into a conference line and were able to participate in decision-making and discussions about the direction of the PA Forest Stewards volunteer program from the comfort of their own homes.

Following upon initiatives drafted during the 2008 strategic planning exercise, reports were made on activities undertaken since the strategic plan was approved at the November 2008 Steering Committee meeting (see below).

Additionally, discussion occurred around some upcoming events, most notably, the 2009 PAFS Annual Meeting (July 18 in Forest County on the property of John and Beverly Campbell), the 2009 In-Service Training (to be held the day before the annual meeting to take advantage of the site and on June 13), and the 2009 Basic Training for new volunteers (to be held September 18-20 and October 2-4 in Lycoming County).

Minutes of the March 5, 2009 Steering Committee Conference Call are found in Appendix B.

November Steering Committee Meeting

On November 20th, the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee met in State College. PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee Interim Chair Bill Park opened the meeting with introductions of new steering committee members who were joining the group for their first time.

The Forest Stewardship Program Associate reported on 2009 activities including the PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting, Basic Training, and In-Service Training. Planning for the 2010 events was begun.

The chair and program associate also led discussion on the endowment fund capital campaign, communication needs for the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee and among the general volunteer population, and strategic action priorities. In 2010 the committee will focus on marketing and name recognition for the PA Forest Stewards and widespread adoption of forest stewardship plans.

The next steering committee meeting is on March 19, 2010.

Minutes from the November 20 Steering Committee meeting are found in Appendix C.

Strategic Planning Effort

On October 30, 2008, a subcommittee of the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee met in State College to readdress the PA Forest Stewards strategic plan. With input from the entire steering committee, Bureau of Forestry service foresters, and our partners (Ruffed Grouse Society, Pennsylvania Forestry Association), our facilitator led us through an exercise to assess the volunteer group's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, plus helped us to identify strategic direction and 5- and 1-year goals for the group.

At the November 13, 2008, Steering Committee meeting, the strategic direction and goals were presented and the entire steering committee worked to identify action items to achieve our goals, as well as crafted new mission and vision statements.

Movement towards these goals continues with several subcommittees actively working through this reporting period. The Endowment subcommittee has been meeting with the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Development Office to create a marketing piece to leave behind for potential donors. The subcommittee has begun the process of developing a fundraising campaign targeting current volunteers and interested individuals, foundations, and businesses.

The Nurturing Woodland Owners Associations subcommittee met to plan the 2009 Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations conference, held November 21, 2009 at the School of Forest Resources. Committee members contacted the state's twenty-seven woodland owners associations with invitations to attend and heads-up memos were circulated. This conference provided an excellent opportunity for woodland owners associations to network and garner support (see below).

The Communications committee worked to create a new format of the PA Forest Stewards directory so that volunteers find it a more useful document. Databases were formatted to include bibliographic information and photographs. The anticipated product will be a yearbook of current volunteers. We hope that PA Forest Stewards will use the yearbook to remember names before meetings and find connections across the state.

D. BASIC TRAINING

Twenty-five new volunteers completed training in 2009, bringing the total number of PA Forest Stewards trained to 495. Appendix D includes a list of those who attended training in 2009.

Table 1 lists the number of new PA Forest Stewards trained each year since the program began in 1991.

Table 1: Number of New PA Forest Stewards Trained in Pennsylvania by Year

Year	Number of PA Forest Stewards Trained
1991	22
1992	50**
1993	25
1994	47**
1995	40**
1996	23
1997	21
1998	20
1999	0*
2000	17
2001	20
2002	26
2003	38
2004	23
2005	21
2006	36

2007	19
2008	22
2009	25
TOTAL	495

* In 1999, 28 PA Forest Stewards volunteers participated in the program's first advanced refresher training at Camp Krislund in Centre County. No basic training program for new PA Forest Stewards was offered that year.

** Two classes per year.

Camp Susque, a non-denominational Christian camp in Lycoming County, was the site for this year's basic training on September 18-20 and October 2-4, 2009. The training included field activities and tours, as well as a broad array of presentations (see Appendix E). Topics for this year's training included:

- Landowner objectives
- Introduction to the PA Forest Stewards and Forest Stewardship Programs
- Tree identification
- Managing forests for wildlife
- Forest ecology
- How to spread stewardship to youth
- Field tour to Tiadaghton State Forest
- History of Pennsylvania's forests
- Forest taxes and estate planning
- Forests and water
- Legal issues for forest landowners
- Forest finance
- Maple syrup
- Silviculture
- Regenerating hardwoods: managing competition, deer, and light
- Outreach resources for Pennsylvania Forest Stewards
- Forest products marketing
- Forest measurements
- Field tour to PAFS Jim and Cheryl Redmond's property

- Goals, roles, and responsibilities, risk management, and the organization
- Forest insect pests and diseases
- Non-timber forest products
- Forest stewardship outreach goal-setting

As usual, the PA Forest Stewards developed a wide variety of goals for their Forest Stewardship outreach activities including:

- To be more active in my local woodland owners association and to write articles for my local paper pertaining to forest stewardship.
- Talk to my neighbors about invasive species control; work with my service forester to see how I can help him in outreach to the community.
- Join the PA Forest Stewards steering committee
- Facilitate the Junior Forest Steward program; present a forest stewardship informational booth at fall foliage festival and other events in my region.
- Work with the local conservation district, service forester, and others to promote forest stewardship to a wide variety of people in my community.
- Increase outreach by staffing forestry displays at festivals and fairs.
- Develop a program for elementary students related to forest stewardship.
- Write an article on forest roads and bridges for inclusion in stewardship publications.
- Introduce youth to forest stewardship in an urban environment; initiate conversations with adjacent landowners.
- Communicate forest stewardship to fellow lot holders in our region.
- Assist with Envirothon; consider joining Master Gardeners.
- Present forest stewardship presentations at our local grange meetings and other community groups; teach a community-based course using the book “The Woods in Your Backyard” with a local school district or cooperative extension.
- Serve as a resource to regional landowners; distribute forest stewardship information; become more active in my local woodland owners association.
- Help build and sustain the newly developed Tri-County Woodland Owners Association.
- Breathe some new life into already established outreach efforts.

- Advocate for forest stewardship in the agencies with which we already volunteer.
- Work with local scouting troops to present the Junior Forest Stewardship program; create a tour on my property to promote forest stewardship.
- Work with South Manheim Planning Commission and Kittatinny Ridge project to conserve and zone affected areas.
- Get more involved in the PA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation; create a school tree planting program; help with the PA Forest Stewards newsletter.
- I'm already active in the local government, therefore I will represent the forest stewardship ideals to local government entities concerning land issues; serve as a liaison to local organizations as an educational representative for forest stewardship issues.

E. IN-SERVICE TRAINING

As a continuation of our mission to promote forest stewardship by providing resources and education for our volunteers, we offered a continuing education opportunity. *Non-Timber Forest Products and Invasive Forest Plants* was offered on Saturday, June 13 at the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Huntingdon County. Eric Burkhart, Instructor and Program Director, Plant Sciences, led a group of 30 volunteers through field tours and demonstrations to cover in more depth the opportunities for income and diversity enhancement in the herbaceous and shrub layer of the forest.

Participants learned more about non-timber forest products (NTFPs) with a refresher on species, potential economic advantages, and the site requirement and management of several NTFPs within the Commonwealth. In the afternoon, participants learned about invasive forest plants, their growth cycle and habitat, and the manner in which they impact the native forest. Participants spent the majority of their time in the field learning to identify plants and shrubs, noting site characteristics, and methods of management or control.

The announcement for this In-Service Training is in Appendix F.

We again offered a continuing education opportunity tied in to the annual meeting and to take advantage of the site. *Succession Planning* in-service training was a full day (9:30 a.m. until 3

p.m.) discussion covering family communication, succession planning, options for forest landowners, and giving. Fifty-seven PA Forest Stewards and their guests attended the training. Matt Kaplan, Professor, Ag and Extension Education, and Mike Jacobson, Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources, focused on family communication and the ins and outs of succession planning. Barbara Litten, family planning attorney, covered how she works with landowners. Mark Sharer from the Penn State Development Office talked about how to incorporate giving in your planning.

F. ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

The PA Forest Stewards annual meeting and picnic took place on July 18 at the John and Beverly Campbell Tree Farm in Forest County.

Over one hundred forty people attended the event including PA Forest Stewards volunteers, service foresters, extension foresters, other natural resources professionals, and guests. The annual meeting and picnic included presentations, a catered lunch, a business meeting, a display area, and walking tours. (See Appendix G for the invitation brochure and agenda.)

Business Meeting

Bill Park, interim chair of the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee, served as the day's host and led the business meeting. A central message for this year's meeting was action on the strategic plan that has been underway this year and promotion of the PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund.

John Campbell made a presentation introducing the participants to his and Beverly's land and the history and current activities on the property. To close the day, Susan Stout, Program Leader, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Lab, gave a keynote address on determining and recording the history of one's forested property as part of understanding the forest stewardship legacy that came before and that is left.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Pruning Fruit Trees for Production and Wildlife:

Urban Forester Scott Sjolander led a tour exploring fruit tree maintenance for both home and wildlife uses. Participants learned how trees defend themselves from decay and discussed some successful pruning practices.

B. Crop Tree Management:

Ty Ryen, DNCR Bureau of Forestry Forest and Venango Counties Service Forester, led a hands-on tour on the proper ways to undertake timber stand improvement – concentrating growth on desired trees. Four years ago, the Campbells did a crop tree thinning and have recorded tree growth since that time.

C. Chestnut Orchard Management:

The Campbells have carefully cultivated an American chestnut orchard on their property, containing mostly pure American chestnut saplings. Gary Micsky, Extension Educator, led a tour to discuss the American chestnut restoration efforts and the ins and outs of chestnut orchards, inoculation, and cross-breeding to restore this species to Penn's Woods.

D. Recovering from High Grading:

High grading perpetuates the “Green Lie” – our forests are healthy and sustainable because they are still green. Many landowners acquire a high-graded woodlot or commit unsustainable practices before they know otherwise. Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, led a walking tour to talk about restoration practices after a high grade.

E. Native Trout Streams:

What happens upstream trickles down. Land use and development along their reaches impact native trout streams. The Campbell's property sits at the headwaters of a prime Forest county trout stream. Al Woomer, Area Fisheries Manager for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, led a tour of the Campbell's stream to learn about preserving this important habitat.

F. Surveying and Boundary Lines:

Locating and maintaining property's boundaries is an important component to good stewardship. Darrin Preston and Paul Divins, Professional Land Surveyors, and Pamela Moore, co-owner, of Fike Associates presented tools of the trade and the process of surveying and maintaining boundary lines.

G. Timber Stand Improvement for Wildlife:

Landowners have many objectives for owning land and there are myriad practices available to enhance most every objective. Gary Gilmore, Service Forester for Jefferson and Armstrong counties, led a walking tour about potential practices to enhance forest stands for wildlife based on species composition, tree size, and potential habitat structure.

H. Beaver Wetlands:

Love them or loathe them, beaver are an integral component of forested wetlands. Their dams create ponds for wildlife, kill valuable timber, or create scenic vistas, depending upon your perspective. Tim Hoppe, Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, led a tour to the Campbell's beaver pond to talk about the ins and outs of living with beavers and their contributions to wildlife habitat.

I. Cultivating the Next Generation:

This session explored how to cultivate a forest stewardship ethic in landowners' youngest heirs, and other youth. If they're not interested, maybe landowners need to build a fire under them! Along with this presentation of "fire-starting" tips and ideas by Sandy Smith, Extension Specialist in Natural Resources and Youth Education, time for sharing landowners' "cultivating the next generation" experiences was also included! (Indoor Presentation).

J. A Birds-Eye View of Pennsylvania Forests:

Gary Edwards of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society introduced a variety of birds migrating through or nesting in Pennsylvania woodlots. He discussed the status of woodland birds and how they utilize different portions of the forest. Participants met the many colorful visitors and residents of their woodlots (Indoor Presentation).

K. Forest Pests: Threats to the Forest:

Scott Weikert, Forestry Extension Educator, led a presentation on the latest insect pests (both native and non-native) threatening the forests of Pennsylvania (Indoor Presentation).

L. Becoming Firewise:

Wildland fire is not something most landowners think about – Pennsylvania’s forests seem hard to burn. But with more homes built in our woodlands, the incidence of wildland fire becomes increasingly threatening. Laurie Schoonhoven, Penn State Graduate Student, presented the Firewise Program and ways to protect landowners’ forests and homes from wildland fire (Indoor Presentation).

E. PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS WEB SITE

The Forest Stewardship volunteer Web Site (<http://paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu>) continues as a good source of Forest Stewardship information. During this reporting period, we transitioned to new reporting software. No longer available are the numbers of Visits and Unique Visitors, and the Page Views and Hits dropped exponentially. Therefore, these numbers don’t correlate well to our previous web use analytics. In light of this change in software reporting, we will not report web site use in this reporting period.

F. PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS NEWSLETTER

The Forest Stewardship Extension Associate continued to compile and edit the two-page, bi-monthly Pennsylvania Forest Stewards newsletter (*Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News*). The newsletter is available on the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Web Site (<http://paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu>). Pennsylvania Forest Stewards newsletters from this reporting period are in Appendix H.

I. MEDIA ARTICLES FEATURING PENNSYLVANIA FOREST STEWARDS

In 2009, there were several media articles featuring or written by PA Forest Stewards volunteers. Table 3 summarizes the articles, which are included in Appendix I.

Table 3. Media Articles Featuring or Written by PA Forest Stewards Volunteers in 2009

PA Forest Stewards Volunteer(s).	Subject	Media Outlet and Date
Mary Hosmer	Emerald Ash Borer	<i>On Target</i> (Publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportmen's Clubs), March/April 2009
Jim Hissom	Trees of Otter Creek Farm	Trail guide prepared by Mercer Area Girl Scouts Junior Troop 609
PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting	Searching for native brook trout	<i>The Derrick/The News-Herald</i> , July 23, 2009
PA Forest Stewards Annual Meeting	Beaver population either loved or hated	<i>The Derrick/The News-Herald</i> , July 30, 2009
Eugene Dougherty	Dougherty's book on fly fishing	<i>The Standard Speaker</i> , September 22, 2009
Mary Hosmer	Backyard Habitats and those Bright Green Shrubs	<i>On Target</i> , July/August 2009
Ron Johnson, Dave Schreffler	Clean and Green comment	<i>Bedford Gazette</i> , September 4 and 5, 2009
Mary Hosmer	Backyard habitats and windbreaks	<i>On Target</i> , September/October 2009
Nancy Baker, Joe Hofler, Dick Forth, Lucy Forth, Sue Hamilton, Jane Swift, Stacy Koch	Green Career Day	DCNR Bureau of Forestry report, September 30, 2009
PA Forest Stewards Program	Public Help for Private Forests	<i>The Sylvania</i> , publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club, Fall 2009
Nancy Baker	Nancy Baker's Receipt of the Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award	Forestry for the Bay Newsletter

3. FOREST STEWARDSHIP NEWS RELEASES

During this reporting period, we continued to use a Listserv[®] to enhance distribution of Forest Stewardship News Release to media outlets, Service Foresters, PAFS, extension personnel, county conservation district staff, and other interested persons. At the time of this report, we are distributing releases to 848 e-mail addresses. Releases target private forest landowners and cover a wide range of forest resource and management issues. Each news release has a short description of the Forest Stewardship Program and mentions specific Forest Stewardship resources readers can obtain, for no-charge, by calling the Program's toll-free number (1-800-235-WISE). See Appendix J for releases distributed during this reporting period.

The Forest Stewardship News Releases are archived on the PA Forest Stewards Web site (http://paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu/news_archive.html). Clippings from Forest Stewardship News Releases that appeared in newsletters and newspapers are in Appendix K.

4. STEWARDSHIP PUBLICATIONS

A. Forest Leaves

The *Forest Leaves* newsletter continues as a joint venture among the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, the Pennsylvania Tree Farm[®] organization, and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. In this reporting period, we lost the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] of Pennsylvania (SFI) due to a decrease in their funding. All partners provide financial support for the newsletter by paying printing and mailing costs for their organization members. At the close of this reporting period, circulation was 10,884. During this period we continued efforts to clean up our databases and remove invalid addresses. This involved deleting many addresses which were no longer deliverable. In spite of this loss, *Forest Leaves* continues to be one of the most widely distributed forestry publications in the state. See Appendix L for issues released in this reporting period.

Forest Leaves is one publication visitors can download from Penn State's School of Forest Resources Natural Resources Extension Web Site: <http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu>.

Starting in 2003, subscribers could elect to receive *Forest Leaves* via e-mail, which is helping reduce mailing and printing expenses for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program and

other newsletter partners. At the end of the reporting period, 1,414 people elected to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

B. Forest Stewardship Bulletins

All existing Forest Stewardship Bulletins (15 titles) are available on Penn State's School of Forest Resources Web site: <http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu>.

After the initial printing, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences continues to cover the costs of reprinting publications as their commitment to the Forest Stewardship Awareness and Knowledge grant. The College also distributes the publications free-of-charge.

C. Free Publications Flyer

The Forest Stewardship Associate continues to produce and update a Free Publications: Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program flyer, which lists selected free publications available. Appendix M contains a recent copy of the flyer.

5. EVENTS

A. AG PROGRESS DAYS

Ag Progress Days, an annual event held near State College, is a unique opportunity to show case forest management to a diverse audience. Every year the PA Bureau of Forestry and Penn State Cooperative Extension cooperate in hosting tours for through the 30-acre demonstration forest. The theme for the tour varies by year. This year the tour, hosted eight times over three days focused on fuelwood and firewood cutting. Before the show, trees with intermediate crowns were felled on about an acre. The intent of this was to leave their tops on the ground to “build” temporary deer exlosures to encourage oak regeneration. This was an outstanding red oak acorn year in the woodlot, and we it provided a teaching moment to discuss seed sources, competitive trees, and creating appropriate light conditions. Other stops focused on understanding stand dynamics, species, and using firewood cutting as an intermediate treatment tool to improve the overall health and quality of the private landowner’s forest. This year the tour attracted nearly 350 people.

B. BEST PRACTICES FOR WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

The fourth Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference was held on November 21, 2009 in State College. Ninety-three participants representing twenty-three of the state's 27 woodland owners associations (WOAs) attended this full day workshop. Presentations were given on the 2008 Farm Bill and programs for private forest landowners, Wisconsin's example of reaching out to unengaged forest landowners, and how to advocate for woodland owner interests with government officials. New this year was a poster session for groups to showcase events/activities from the past year of which they are most proud. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn, interact, and garner support and resources for their groups. A copy of the conference agenda is found in Appendix N.

6. TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER (1-800-235-9473)

This number continues to serve forest owners as they seek information resources to guide their land management activities. It remains an important link to the PAFS volunteers when they require information, advice, and assistance with their numerous activities. We also list this number on all news releases and publications so that the public can subscribe to *Forest Leaves* or request publications.

7. STEWARDSHIP PLAN WRITERS' TRAINING

The Forest Stewardship Associate, the State Extension Forester, and the Stewardship Coordinator from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry conducted two Stewardship Plan Writers' Training Sessions this year. On April 9, thirty-five resource professionals were trained to write Stewardship Plans through a session at the Bureau of Forestry's Bald Eagle State Forest. On April 30, we conducted sessions at the Pennsylvania College of Technology with students enrolled in the Forest Land Management course. Thirty students completed the training sessions and will be eligible to write plans upon graduation. To write Stewardship Plans in Pennsylvania, foresters and other natural resource professionals must attend a training session.

8. FOREST STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES BY PENN STATE EXTENSION FORESTERS

A. “WHY Care” Initiative

The Forest Stewardship Project at Penn State continues to participate in the Private Forests Initiative known as WHY Care and lead by the BOF. The BOF has assembled a panel comprised of The Nature Conservancy, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust, and Penn State to outline a report on private forest threats and responses for the BOF to address concerns. Following a meeting of the committee in early spring 2008, there was a decision to restructure the draft report. This project continues and should be available early in 2010 when it will serve as a companion document to the stewardship assessment required by the US Forest Service from Pennsylvania.

B. Junior Forest Steward Patch Program

The Pennsylvania Junior Forest Steward program (PJFS) continues to draw adults and youth (ages 8-12). This program which is appropriate for formal and non-formal educational settings allows youth to earn a Junior Forest Steward embroidered patch. To earn the patch participants read an interactive publication and participate in a forest stewardship group activity led by an educator or helper. The program became available in February 2007. Since its launch 4,133 publications have been requested and 2,925 youth have completed the program.

C. Landowner Meetings

Forest Landowner meetings remain one of the important ways of reaching private landowners. Most of the larger meetings occur in late winter and early spring. Local Woodland Owner Association meetings build a sense of community around forests are very important. There is no direct count of these sessions; however, we estimate that during the reporting period 72 sessions reaching approximately 1400 landowners were held.

D. Landowner Associations

The first county landowner association was organized in 1981. Since then, the number of associations has risen to 27 organizations due to continuing efforts by our PA Forest Stewards volunteers and Bureau of Forestry Service Foresters. These associations hold four to six meetings annually. The important impact of these groups is the dialogue they are creating at the county level involving landowners, foresters, loggers, forest industry, and the public. Most often,

PA Forest Stewards volunteers are central players in these associations. The newest associations, Blair County Woodland Owners, and the Tri-County (Lancaster, Berks, and Chester Counties) Woodland Owners Association were formed during this reporting period.

E. PA Forests Web Seminar Center

On October 14, 2008, Renewable Natural Resources Extension personnel launched the PA Forests Web Seminar Center to the general public (<http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb/>). A monthly online presentation with discussion tool, the seminar center allows landowners, natural resources professionals, and other interested parties to participate in a discussion and learn from experts in the comfort of their home or office. With only a high speed Internet connection and audio required, participants listen to a 40 minute presentation by experts in the topic area, and then type in their questions to the presenter for clarification and further explanation.

During this reporting period, twelve seminars were held (seminars are held on the second Tuesday of every month at noon and 7 p.m.): January 13, 2009 – Harvesting Practices, presented by Jim Finley, Professor, Penn State School of Forest Resources; February 10 – Timber Sales and Marketing, presented by David Jackson, Forestry Extension Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension; March 10 – Wildlife Habitat on Your Property, presented by Gary San Julian, Professor, Penn State School of Forest Resources; April 14 – Invasive Insects in Your Forest, presented by Greg Hoover, Senior Extension Associate, Penn State Department of Entomology; May 12 – Succession Planning for Forest Landowners, presented by John Becker, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Law, Penn State; and June 9 – Invasive Plants in Your Forest, presented by Eric Burkhart, Instructor and Program Director, Plant Sciences, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center. In July and August, presentations were held in the evenings on the last Wednesday of the month – July 22 – Summer Tree ID Made Easy, presented by Sanford “Sandy” Smith, Youth Education and Natural Resources Extension Specialist, Penn State School of Forest resources; and August 26 – Plant Yer Own Patch! An Introduction to American Ginseng Forest Farming, presented by Eric Burkhart. In September we returned to our second Tuesday of the month series. Presentations included: September 8 – Improve Your Woodlot by Cutting Firewood, presented by Jim Finley; October 13 – Protecting Water Resources on Your Property, presented by Bryan Swistock, Water Resources Extension Specialist, Penn State School of Forest Resources; November 10 – Forest Management and Regeneration, presented by

Susan Stout, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Lab; and December 8 – Managing Community Natural Resources: Suggestions for Commission Members and Other Citizen Advocates, presented by Bill Elmendorf, Associate Professor, Penn State School of Forest Resources.

Presentations have been confirmed monthly for the next several years. The online seminar presentations have been approved for Society of American Foresters, Certified Forester Education credits, Certified Conservation Planner Wildlife Credits, and Master Gardener Continuing Education Credits.

Currently ~900 participants have registered as a Friend of Penn State to take advantage of the webinar series. Participation is growing as the webinars are advertised more widely. In this reporting period 1,051 attendees took part in the twelve presentations.

F. Pennsylvania Forest Parcelization Study

The rate of forest parcelization and loss in Pennsylvania is perceived as being very large. In 2003 the Brookings Institute report for the state estimated Pennsylvania was losing 385 of acres of farm and forest daily. Recently, some observers have pushed the estimate to more than 600 acres. To better understand the decisions private forest landowners make as they reach the end of their tenure, the Bureau of Forestry is funding a statewide study of forest parcelization. Early key informant interviews in three counties (York, Perry, and Centre) helped to frame subsequent phenomenological interview questions. These interviews have been ongoing during this reporting period and will guide the development of a statewide survey. This information will feed into the state's Stewardship education effort with the intent of conserving working forests at the landscape level. The qualitative data phase of this study is complete and a doctoral dissertation is in preparation. The statewide quantitative study should commence by fall 2010.

LIST OF APPENDIXES

- Appendix A List of Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering Committee Representatives, Coordinators, and Advisors
- Appendix B Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering Committee Minutes (March 5, 2009)
- Appendix C Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering Committee Minutes (November 20, 2009)
- Appendix D Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteers Class of 2009
- Appendix E Pennsylvania Forest Stewards 2009 Basic Training Agenda
- Appendix F *Non-Timber Forest Products and Invasive Plants* In-service Announcement
- Appendix G Pennsylvania Forest Stewards 2009 Annual Meeting Invitation and Agenda
- Appendix H 2009 *Pennsylvania Forest News* Newsletter (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec 2009)
- Appendix I Media Articles Written by or Featuring Pennsylvania Forest Stewards
- Appendix J *Forest Stewardship News Releases* (January through December 2009)
- Appendix K *Forest Stewardship News Release* Clippings
- Appendix L Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2009, *Forest Leaves*
- Appendix M *Free Publications: Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program* Flyer
- Appendix N 4th Annual Best Practices for Woodland Owners Association Conference Agenda