

2005 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Biennial Survey

Summary Report



PA Forest Stewards

January 2006

Brief Summary

The 2005 edition of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PA Forest Stewards) biennial survey shows that PA Forest Stewards volunteers continue to actively promote forest stewardship in their communities. The number of volunteer hours reported was comparable to the number reported in the 2003 survey, with a significant number of volunteers (16.6%) not responding to our survey or phone calls. New to the survey this year are numbers of friends, neighbors, or members of the public reached (estimated 12,400 people), ways in which the PA Forest Stewards program has helped stewardship or outreach activities, preferred contact information, continuing education suggestions, and space to share events and activities of which volunteers are most proud. The most common outreach activity remains talking to neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship. PA Forest Stewards volunteers continue to be active members and supporters of Pennsylvania's local/regional woodland owner associations: 124 PA Forest Stewards (57% of respondents) were members and 55 (25% of respondents) were board members or in leadership roles.

Survey Methods

We sent a survey form (sample on the last four pages of this report) to all of the PA Forest Stewards volunteers in the database (N=288). We sent a second identical survey form to those who did not complete the first form by the deadline, and a third identical form to those who did not respond by the second deadline. We telephoned each person who did not respond to the third mailed survey and offered the option to respond via telephone. If we were unable to talk to the PA Forest Steward, we left a message asking them to call us back.

Three hundred ninety-three PA Forest Stewards volunteers have been trained since the program's inception and three hundred nine remained in the program at the start of the survey. (This number includes the new volunteers from 2005. These new volunteers were not surveyed this calendar year.) Although we made no attempt to contact people who were no longer involved in the program before the survey began, we do know that we have lost some PA Forest Stewards over the years when they moved out of state, sold their forestland, suffered from deteriorating health, or passed away. In 2005, we removed 6 people from the database, who said they were no longer interested in the program.

Results and Discussion

Response Rate

Of the 288 PA Forest Stewards to be surveyed in the program at the beginning of the survey period, 237 provided survey information (82.3% response rate). Separate surveys were sent to each PA Forest Stewards volunteer within a household. Several volunteers responded for themselves and their partner. The data presented below reflects the number of responses (n=216 out of 259 households or 83.4%).

Ownership Information

One hundred ninety-one PA Forest Stewards volunteers own forestland (88.4%). PA Forest Stewards own land in 52 out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania, as well as New York, Wisconsin,

South Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia. PA Forest Stewards own over 40,800 acres of land, of which 34,300 is forested (84%).

Current Status

The survey asked PA Forest Stewards to indicate their volunteer status: active in the past 12 months; inactive in the past 12 months, but wish to remain in the program; and no longer interested (see Table 1). One hundred seventy-nine (69.1%) said they were currently active. Thirty-one (12.0%) indicated that they were currently inactive but were still interested in remaining in the program. Many of the inactive volunteers cited time limitations and health factors as reasons, but hoped to become active again in the future. Six (2.3%) indicated that they were no longer interested in the program, and forty-three (16.6%) did not respond to either the written surveys or telephone calls.

Table 1: Status of PA Forest Stewards Volunteers

Status	Number	Percentage
Active	179	69.1
Inactive	31	12.0
Did Not Respond	43	16.6
No Longer Interested	6	2.3
Total	259	100.0

Outreach

PA Forest Stewards volunteers were asked to estimate how many friends, neighbors, or members of the public they reached through their stewardship-related outreach activities. One hundred ninety-three volunteers responded to this question with an estimated 12,400 people reached. The breakdown of responses can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: People Reached Through Stewardship-Related Outreach Activities

Estimated Range	Respondents	Percentage
1-10 people	68	35.2
11-25 people	55	28.5
26-50 people	22	11.4
51-100 people	23	11.9
101-500 people	20	10.4
Over 500 people	5	2.6
Total	193	100.0

Volunteer Hours

The survey also measured PA Forest Stewards volunteer hours. PA Forest Stewards were asked to provide hours for over thirty-one categories of activities on their own land and working with others to promote Forest Stewardship in the past 12 months. The hours reported is probably an underestimate, because it is likely that some of the 43 non-respondents also had volunteer hours that went unreported.

The PA Forest Stewards who did provide quantitative information collectively reported 38,111 volunteer hours in all Forest Stewardship activities (average = 176.4) reaching an estimated 12,400 people. These numbers indicate a high rate of involvement in light of the initial agreement PA Forest Stewards make at the time of their training. Their commitment is limited to 40 volunteer hours in the 12 months after training; no further commitment is required. However, the active volunteers averaged over 176 hours of service in the past year alone, and many of these volunteers went through the initial training years ago.

The new volunteers (Class of 2004) were surveyed for the first time this year. Twenty-three new volunteers were surveyed with twenty-two responding. The new volunteers reported 2,859 volunteer hours in all Forest Stewardship activities (average = 130 hours).

Table 3: Number of Hours and Average Hours Volunteered in the Past 12 Months

Volunteers	Number of Hours	Average Number of Hours
All Volunteers	38,111*	176.4
New Volunteers (2004)	2,859	130.0

* Greater than 19 full-time employees at 40 hours per week for 50 weeks.

Stewardship Activities

The survey also asked PA Forest Stewards to list their Stewardship activities. One primary objective of training Forest Stewardship volunteers is to provide them with the tools they need to effectively encourage their friends, neighbors, and other community members to become good stewards of their own lands. The most frequent PA Forest Stewards activity was talking to neighbors and other woodland owner about Forest Stewardship (see Table 4). One hundred sixty PA Forest Stewards reported doing this activity in the past year.

The other most common outreach activities were attending forest conferences, workshops, and seminars (131), working to support an existing woodland owners association (95), referrals to consulting foresters (67), distributing Forest Stewardship information (62), and working with children/schools (51).

The most commonly cited stewardship activities that PA Forest Stewards implemented on their own properties included removing competing vegetation (118), planting trees/ reforestation (115), maintaining trails and roads (101), wildlife enhancement (95), and timber stand improvement (94). One hundred fourteen PA Forest Stewards reported miscellaneous forest management activities on their own land that were grouped into the “other forest management activities on own land” category.

Table 4: Forest Stewardship Activities in the Previous 12 Months

Activity	Number
Talking with neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship	160
Attending forestry conferences, workshops, seminars	131
Removing competing vegetation/invasive plants	118
Planting trees/reforestation	115
Other forest management activities on own land	114
Maintaining trails and roads	101
Working to support an existing woodland owners association	95
Wildlife enhancement	95
Timber stand improvement	94
Referrals to consulting foresters	67
Distributing Forest Stewardship information	62
Working with children/schools	51
Assisting service forester	48
Deer fencing/census/control	47
Watershed-related activities	46
Planning and coordinating workshops/conferences for woodland owners	45
Providing input to elected representatives and government agencies	43
Serving on Advisory Committees	43
Presentations to adult groups	40
Staffing forestry exhibits	40
Writing and providing information to media about forest stewardship	37
Leading and hosting woodland tours	37
Other conservation volunteerism	34
Timber sale and preparation	33
Conservation easements on land	23
Preparing new forest stewardship plan	21
Growing non-timber forest products	17
Community tree projects	16
Working to start new woodland owner group	13
Volunteer in state forests/parks	7
Assisting with PSU research projects	6

Local Woodland Owner Associations

Local woodland owner associations (WOAs) are important catalysts for promoting Forest Stewardship in Pennsylvania. Each group is independent, and most sponsor education programs, woodland tours, and newsletters to provide woodland owners with information about managing their forestlands. The “Nurturing WOAs” subcommittee of the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee has targeted supporting existing associations, helping to make connections between strong and struggling groups, and starting new groups in parts of the state where no such organizations exist. As part of this effort, the first statewide conference for all of Pennsylvania’s WOAs was held in November 2005.

One hundred twenty-four (57%) PA Forest Stewards belong to at least one local or regional WOA and fifty-five (25%) reported that they were board members. Ninety-five respondents reported working to support an existing woodlands association and thirteen PA Forest Stewards said they were working to start new associations. Since the last Biennial Survey in 2003, four new associations have formed.

Table 5: Local Woodland Owner Association Memberships

Name of Local Association	Number of PA Forest Steward Members
North Central Forest Landowners' Association	15
Woodland Owners of Centre County	14
Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association	13
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies	13
Lycoming Woodland Owners' Association	11
Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners' Association	10
Susquehanna County Forest Landowners' Association	6
Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association	6
Woodland Owners of the Clarion-Allegheny Valley*	5
Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association	5
Allegheny Mountain Woodlands Association*	4
Laurel Highlands Forest Landowners Association	4
Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association	4
Clarion County Forest Stewardship Council	4
Mercer County Woodland Owners Association	4
Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association	3
Tioga County Woodland Owners Association	3
Southeast Forest Resources Association	3
Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners' Association*	1
Mifflin County Forest Landowners Association*	1
Perry-Juniata Woodland Owners Association	1

* New association formed since the last survey.

Other Associations and Memberships

PA Forest Stewards are active in many other organizations related to forest stewardship (see Table 6). Common affiliations include Forest Stewardship Property (124), American Tree Farm System (75), Pennsylvania Forestry Association (55), land conservancies (45), the American Chestnut Foundation (37), wildlife conservation organizations (31), and watershed protection organizations (23).

Table 6: Other Memberships and Affiliations Related to Forest Stewardship

Organization	Number
Forest Stewardship Property	124
American Tree Farm System	75
Pennsylvania Forestry Association	55
Land Conservancies	45
The American Chestnut Foundation	37
Wildlife Conservation Organizations	31
Watershed Protection Organizations	23
Farm Organizations and Committees	13
The Ruffed Grouse Society	11
Recreational Organizations	9
Natural Resource Professionals Organizations	6
Government Related Committees	7

PA Forest Stewards served in leadership positions for various local and state governmental organizations: county conservation district boards (11), county Cooperative Extension Boards (5), township environmental boards (1), township planning commissions (1), Pennsylvania Game Commission (1), and the Pennsylvania State Legislature Forestry Task Force Chair (1).

Assistance

PA Forest Stewards were also surveyed as to how the program has helped their stewardship or outreach activities during the last year. The top answers were:

- Provided useful resources and materials
- Motivated me to learn more or take additional workshops
- Improved my basic understanding of forest stewardship concepts
- Motivated me to be a better steward of land I own or help manage
- Helped focus my stewardship or conservation activities

Continuing Education

Space was provided in the survey for PA Forest Stewards volunteers to suggest topics for continuing education, or follow-up training in the coming years. The most common responses were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Reforestation | • Tree grafting |
| • Wood-related industry | • Forest ecology |
| • Forests & global warming | • Estate taxes |
| • Improving cash flow off land | • Soil amendments & herbicides |
| • GIS/GPS | • Chainsaw maintenance and safety |
| • American Chestnut | • Timber sales |
| • Invasives control | • How to lobby |
| • Woodland roads | • Wildlife |
| • Conservation easements | • BMPs |

- Marketing “small quantities” of lumber
- Pests & diseases
- TSI
- Walnut trees
- Tree ID
- Use of tree tubes

Preferred Method of Contact

To facilitate our dissemination of information and outreach around forest stewardship opportunities, the survey queried preferred means of contact for the PA Forest Stewards volunteers. The most preferred were:

- Direct mail (newsletter, other paper mailings)
- Forest Leaves (quarterly newsletter)
- PSU Cooperative Extension Office

Proud Events

Unlike previous years’ surveys, the 2005 survey included space for volunteers to share their proudest activities from the past year. A smattering of results...

I introduced several woodlot owners to the stewardship program (which they are completing) and referred several misguided woodlot owners to private foresters

I just finished installing 30 wildlife nesting boxes, created and planted two new food plots, prepared for and signed a contract for shelterwood cut on 40 acres next year

I like being able to contrast a "high grade" versus a shelterwood type harvest and explain each to other landowners

Recently I donated a power sprayer to members of the NCFLA for their use on their woodlot. I'm looking forward to expand this program with additional equipment if the woodlot owners use the initial offer.

I helped friends begin their own reforestation projects. I donated some of my own native trees/shrubs from my nursery

The activities are creating a growing appreciation in me as to the value of stewardship for our own land and the chance to make a significant impact on it and how to fit it into the "worldview" of the other interests competing to influence it for their measurement/value systems.

Chance visit with owner of 500-acre woodland (200 miles away) at a dinner theater. He is just starting to get involved with family lands. I helped solidify his approach and thinking (as we went through this in part eighteen years ago. Follow-up, through my family, indicated he is moving ahead with timber mgmt decisions. My direct experience plus forest stewardship role was positive.

I'm trying to educate public and school board members regarding proper forest management and options available to board regarding preserving and conserving school property (wooded mountain land) behind the school.

I spent four hours showing off and explaining our two exclosures, deer problems, etc. to WPSX host, cameraman, etc. for a show to air this fall.

Currently, I'm working with my local forester (Tom Erdman) and the teachers and students in our local high school who are taking forestry classes using my land as a field study.

Through contact with the Boy Scout groups and presentation of Forest Conservation awards, it is nice to meet young people who work toward these goals and act as responsible members of their community.

I helped biology classes in local school district plant a mix of hardwood and ornamentals on newly acquired land; set up with local forester to staff local high school career day with forestry exhibit

I have been amazed at the number of people who see our Stewardship Forest sign and ask about what it means which gives an opportunity to talk about WOA, forest management goals for our particular property, how others can be involved in forest stewardship

While camping with Boy Scouts I am able to share the ethic of forest stewardship. As we camp and hike through the woodlands and forests of our state (and nation), we see all types of management including poor techniques and no management. It is easy to weave education into these outings. The youth are very receptive. Because the learning is not classroom or lecture formats and the youth are living in the forest, they see conditions or situations and ask the questions. They are then ready to learn. It is then easy to teach. I make sure to point out the real life affects of human decisions. It is effective for them to understand/internalize their responsibility for people to be active stewards of the forest/environment.

2005 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Survey and Directory Update

Name(s): _____

If your contact information has changed recently, please share it with us:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I own forestland (Circle one): YES NO

If yes, in what county/counties? _____

How many acres? _____

How many forested acres? _____

Current Status (check one);

Active: I have volunteered time to promote Forest Stewardship sometime in the past 12 months.

Inactive: I have not volunteered time to promote Forest Stewardship in the past 12 months, but I am still interested in the PA Forest Stewards program and would like to be listed in the directory and remain on the mailing list.

No longer interested: Please do not list me in the directory and remove my name from the mailing list.

Additional Comments: _____

Over the past 12 months, please estimate how many friends, neighbors, or members of the public you reached through your stewardship-related outreach activities:

- None
- 1-10 people
- 11-25 people
- 26-50 people
- 51-100 people
- 101-500 people
- more than 500 people

From the list below, please select you Forest Stewardship volunteer activities in the past 12 months and estimate the hours spent in each activity. If you do not see an activity listed, please write it in the space below.

Activity	Hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Talking with neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working to support an existing woodland owner group	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Attended forestry conferences, workshops, seminars	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working with children/schools	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Planting trees/reforestation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentations to adult groups	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing and providing information to media about forest stewardship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning and coordinating workshops/conferences for woodland owners	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other forest management activities on own land	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Served on Advisory Committees	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading and hosting woodland tours	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife enhancement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing Forest Stewardship information	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining trails/roads	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Timber stand improvement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Providing input to elected representatives and government agencies	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Removing competing vegetation/invasive plants	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisting service forester	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Staffing forestry exhibits	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working to start new woodland owner group	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed-related activities	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Timber sale and preparation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer fencing/census/control	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other conservation volunteerism	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Referrals to consulting forester	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing non-timber forest products	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in a state forests/parks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparing new forest stewardship plan	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community tree projects	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation easements on land	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____	_____

Affiliations:

I am active in a woodland owner association (circle one): YES NO

If yes, which association(s): _____

If yes, are you a board member or officer of the association: YES NO

Other affiliations:

- Forest Stewardship Property
- Tree Farm System
- Pennsylvania Forestry Association
- American Chestnut Foundation
- Wildlife Conservation Organizations (please list): _____
- Watershed Protection Organizations (please list): _____
- Farm Organizations and Committees (please list): _____
- Land Conservancies (please list): _____
- Other memberships or affiliations related to forest stewardship: _____
- _____

In the past year, has the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards helped your stewardship or outreach activities in any of these ways? Check all that apply.

- Provided useful resources materials
- Motivated me to learn more or take additional workshops
- Helped connect me to other volunteers with common interests/concerns
- Improved my basic understanding of forest stewardship concepts
- Connected me to new resource professionals
- Motivated me to be a better steward of land I own or help manage
- Helped focus my stewardship or conservation activities

Are there topics you would like to see offered as follow-up (continuing education) training for PA Forest Stewards in the coming year?

How do you like to be contacted by the PA Forest Stewards program? Please check all that apply.

- Email
- Direct mail (newsletter, other paper mailings)
- Telephone
- Forest Leaves
- PA Forest Stewards Listserv (VIP Discussion Listserv)
- PSU Cooperative Extension Office
- Personal connections with other volunteers
- Other (please specify) _____

Please tell us about your PA Forest Stewards volunteer activity(ies) you are most proud of in the past year.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the PA Forest Stewards volunteer program or outreach during the past year?

Please return this form in the accompanying postage-paid envelope to:
Forest Resources Extension
7 Ferguson Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802