

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Working at the Intersection of People and Forests



THE JAMES C. FINLEY
CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS



Building Community, Caring Well for Forests

Bringing new perspectives and solutions to today's natural resources challenges

Founded in 2011, the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State has established itself as a trusted leader in studying and supporting private forest landowners and their land by building an engaged community committed to forest health, resilience, and vitality. Building a strong community that cares well for our woods takes coming together, finding common ground, strengthening connections, and forging the tools to do the work. This is the heart of our mission.

The Center's work is informed by the decades of groundbreaking scholarship of its co-founders, the late Dr. Jim Finley, Professor Emeritus of Private Forest Management and Human Dimensions and Natural Resources and Ibberson Chair at Penn State, and Dr. Allyson Muth, current Center Director. Their foundational research characterized private forestlands and their owners and explored innovative ways to provide landowners with the inspiration, skills, and support needed for effective stewardship.

Our work continues to uncover research-based insights to inspire and cultivate stewardship of private forests. We're developing better stewardship tools and resources to help woodland owners as they care for and make decisions about their woods. We're seeing the whole of the forestry community come together, creating a space for conversation and building trust, and together setting a vision for how to practice forestry on privately held lands. In short, we're learning more every day.

While research is the foundation on which the Center's work is built, it is imperative that our research serve others—informing practice, affecting policy, enhancing programs and resources, and supporting those who own the majority of forestland.

We want our work to make a difference!

"Nurturing our woodlands has enriched our lives as much as we have enriched the lives of our trees. And we give our sincere gratitude to all of the staff at the Finley Center for what you have taught us and for all you do for Penn's Woods."

- Rebecca Trigger,
Private Forest Landowner
(shown with son Mark Foley, right, and
granddaughter Emily Foley, left)



Key Aims Guiding the Finley Center's Work and Programs

- 1. Creating Scholarship**
Developing and sharing research and experience to expand the understanding of private forest landowners, their land, and the professionals who advise them.
- 2. Inspiring Stewardship**
Inspiring and cultivating a growing community of private forest landowners adopting stewardship values and practices on their land.
- 3. Strengthening Connections**
Fostering a shared vision and understanding of stewardship among private forest landowners, professionals, and academic faculty.
- 4. Expanding the Stewardship Community**
Broadening the range of stewardship professionals and organizations collaborating with private forest landowners on the stewardship of their land.
- 5. Informing Policy**
Conveying research-driven knowledge and insights to inform policies and programs designed to foster stewardship of privately owned forests.
- 6. Building Infrastructure**
Building the Finley Center's organization, partnering, and financial capacity to impact forest health and vitality.

Center Renamed to Honor Founder James C. Finley

In April 2022, Penn State and its College of Agricultural Sciences renamed the Center for Private Forests at Penn State in honor of its founder, the late James C. (Jim) Finley, an outstanding academic scholar and teacher whose pioneering work at the interface of people and forests reached tens of thousands of people.

Jim's scholarship and service were national in scope but drew their inspiration from the 740,000-plus private woodland owners in Pennsylvania, stewardship of the 12 million acres of forest they own, and the forestry and natural resources professionals supporting private land stewardship. The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests puts Penn State at the forefront of private forestry research, teaching, and practice nationwide.

"With this naming, the University hopes to recognize Professor Finley's work and to ensure that the innovative research methods and the stewardship values and practices he espoused will endure."

- Eric Barron, President (retired), The Pennsylvania State University

Jim's career had a broad scope, encompassing forestry practice and the connections between people and the natural world. From his beginning as an extension educator in Sullivan County, PA through his service as the Ibberson Chair of Private Forest Management and Professor Emeritus of Private Forest Management and Human Dimensions and Natural Resources, Jim was always innovating, learning, and teaching. He touched the lives of hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom became lifetime friends and colleagues. And he touched the lives of thousands of private landowners and natural resources professionals, inspiring all to be better stewards of private forests.

"His passion for teaching, research, and service, both for others and the forests he loved, was always evident," said Rick Roush, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. "I look forward to seeing the Center continue to thrive and for Jim's legacy to inspire all those who knew him and to motivate future generations."

Excerpts from article by Jeff Mulhollem, Penn State News, last updated April 28, 2022.



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From the Director

Dear friends,

As one would hope for every year, 2022 for the Center was a year of growth and evolution. In April, we were so glad to have the Center officially renamed the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State. While the reasons behind the renaming will always remain heart-breaking, we are proud for the Finley Center to continue to build off the legacy of Jim's decades of research, teaching, and learning in the space of people and their woods.

Our work this year continued to focus on improving relationships between woodland owners, their land, and the people who serve them. Working at the intersection of people and forests, we are:

- expanding our deep understanding of the landowners of Pennsylvania and the ways they care for their land as well as who they trust in doing so,
- collaborating with natural resources professionals to determine how to best influence sustainable forest management,
- continuing to engage with the land trust community to provide adaptive forest management on protected lands to ensure the conservation values for which land was originally protected,



"Our work this year continued to focus on improving relationships between woodland owners, their land, and the people who serve them."

- piloting new engagement strategies to connect more landowners with their land in partnership with Penn State Extension, and
- building the peer volunteer network and supporting their efforts to connect with landowners.

We continue to play roles in convening and supporting partnership efforts across the state and region, from facilitating processes to give ownership to the communities we're engaging, to sharing learning with partner organizations to support their missions and our shared missions, to supporting capacity to ensure outputs of shared projects are completed. We hold to positively influencing the trajectory of landowners' and professionals' engagement with activities leading to good forest stewardship, and an expectation that the improved trajectory—without assigning role or causality—is the desired outcome and will lead to more sustainable forests over the long term.

In 2022 we had the opportunity to build capacity. After almost 10 months without someone in the

role, in November we welcomed Jeff Osborne to the Finley Center as the new Forest Stewardship Program Associate. Jeff's work as a forester for government agencies and his most recent position as a Service Forester bring unique experience and expertise to the role and will help shape the future of the peer volunteer network and the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program as a whole. We also welcomed Megan Whitmer (Pennsylvania Forest Steward class of 2021) as a part-time Conference Coordinator, bringing her years of facilitating conferences to bear on our efforts that come to fruition in March 2023 with our 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference.

In this annual report, you'll see the opportunities we've pursued for research and engagement, the partnerships we've continued and begun anew to influence better care of the woods, and the impacts that all of you, our supporters, have had in this space. We are grateful to all who give of themselves and their resources in support of helping people care well for their woodlands.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allyson Muth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

Allyson Muth
Director



Forest Landowners Survey

Giving voice to the people who own Pennsylvania's forests

With data analysis for the 2021 Forest Landowners Survey still ongoing, preliminary results are already confirming what other Center research is showing: there is a critical need and opportunity to strengthen connections and access between landowners and professionals.

Landowners' responses to questions added since the 2010 iteration of the statewide survey echo a general perception of skepticism toward forestry professionals uncovered in research done by Master's student Abby Jamison and reported in 2021. As a result, we are digging deeper to understand why many landowners are choosing not to take advantage of available technical experts and resources—is it political, trustworthiness, or just a lack of knowledge about available help? This work, being undertaken by PhD student Sasha Soto, will expand our understanding of how the people we serve view our community.

In 2023, Center staff will share the full results of the survey through presentations to a wide array of audiences and at training sessions for PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry staff and partners.

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Hatch Appropriations under Project #PEN04791 and Accession #7001878.

As we continue to examine data from the 2021 Forest Landowners Survey sent to 6,600 Pennsylvania woodland owners, it is clear that more work must be done to understand the opportunities to build strong landowner-adviser relationships. Our research is providing critical insights in finding innovative solutions to engage more woodland owners in actively managing their land. This research is also serving as a catalyst for the Caring Well initiative, a collaborative effort bringing the whole of the forestry community together to set a new vision for how to practice forestry on privately held land.



Looking Ahead: Key Research in 2023

Research launching in 2023:

- **Fuller Family Undergraduate Research Project**—Forest Restoration of Northern Hardwoods Stands. Small-scale restoration of forests after loss of ash; undergraduate students.
- **Forest Resilience Scorecard**—study and adaptation of the forest resilience scorecard to foster effective communication between Pennsylvania landowners and the professionals they engage for stewardship activities; master's student.
- **Forest Landowners Panel Survey**—survey of past participants in the statewide survey (in 2006, 2008, and 2010) who still hold forestland to understand how their values, attitudes, and behaviors have changed over time.

Research continuing in 2023:

- **2021 Forest Landowners Survey**—data analysis and presentation of findings will dominate our work on this important survey. Results of this study will provide stakeholders with important information about the owners of Pennsylvania's nearly 12 million acres of private forestland and insights for encouraging good stewardship of those forests.
- **Forest Owner Climate and Carbon Education (FOCCE)**—Center staff will continue to serve on the education committee of this effort, headed by Dr. Melissa Kreye, Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, supporting the development of a peer education program to train forest landowner leaders in climate-smart forestry.



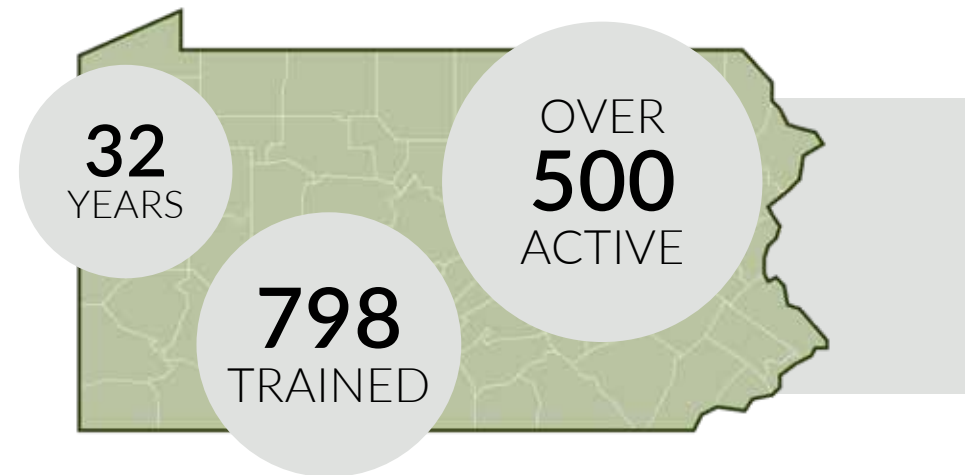
Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Program

Impacting forest stewardship through peer-to-peer outreach

This nationally acclaimed volunteer program led by the Finley Center provides Pennsylvania forest landowners access to volunteers trained in forest stewardship and dedicated to helping them care well for their woods. Over 500 active volunteers currently serve as “boots on the ground” across the state, building relationships, sharing their knowledge, advocating for forests in their communities, and connecting landowners to the resources and advisors to help them care for their land.

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards report reaching hundreds of thousands of people a year through their activities, from writing articles, posting to social media, and staffing displays at events, to participating on conservation-related boards, sharing with youth and adult groups, serving in woodland owners associations, assisting natural resources professionals, and having one-on-one conversations with fellow woodland owners.

This work is funded by USDA Forest Service Forest Stewardship grants and is a cooperative effort of the Finley Center for Private Forests, Penn State Extension, the USDA Forest Service, the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, representatives of the forest products industry, and various environmental and conservation organizations that support the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program.



Since 1991, nearly 800 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards have been trained, building an influential network of knowledgeable volunteers passionate about forest stewardship and dedicated to helping Pennsylvania’s private forest landowners better care for their woods. The class of 2022, left, is one of the largest and most diverse in age and gender.



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Outreach Stories

Reaching Thousands through Media

Nancy Baker, Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering Committee Chair, says, "As peer-to-peer educators, we all become messengers. Through multiple media, each piece blessed with our personal integrity, we can disseminate a wide array of trustworthy information to an assortment of audiences." Brian Zeidner adds, "As a professional communicator and public representative of my rural electric cooperative, I find value in identifying partnerships that are beneficial to both the cooperative and our individual members. Since so many private forest landowners are also electric cooperative members across Pennsylvania, using my network to promote a program with so much mutual benefit is a win-win."



Hands-on Learning for Youth

Keith Smalley created educational wood exhibits, including this ash cross section, for the Lewisburg Children's Museum. "I cleaned out the inside and took the bark off—the marks of the emerald ash borer are on the outside. The kids can also see the good insects that were turning the inside back into soil for the next tree. Kids love climbing inside something like that!"



Leading a Woodland Owners Group

Mike Jackson is president of the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA) and Laura Jackson serves as treasurer and newsletter editor. Mike explains, "Our members are interested in sustainable forest management, which we highlight at our annual conference and various workshops." Laura adds, "It's exciting to learn from each other and work together on projects that benefit wildlife and forests." Every year, Mike builds bluebird boxes and donates them to WOSA's annual conference.



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Class of 2022

The 2022 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Basic Training brought together one of the largest classes in the 32 years of the program, 29 people eager to learn and excited to get to know one another. Participants came to Krislund Camp in Centre County to spend a four-day weekend learning—both in the classroom and in the field—about forests, their management, and the important role of a Pennsylvania Forest Steward in caring well for our woods. This enthusiastic group, diverse in age, gender, and experience, left camp on Sunday ready to share their knowledge and passion with others.

“The Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program was a revelation to us. We discovered that there are other people who have the same problems, concerns, and questions that we have as landowners. Camaraderie alone would have been invaluable, but even better, we met experienced professionals who offered reasonable solutions to many of our concerns. Currently we are awaiting word on our cost sharing application which, if approved, will enable us to move full speed ahead on improving the forest we steward. Pennsylvania Forest Stewards gave us tools and hope!”

- Karen and Andrew Heybey, Class of 2022

“The program was a powerful immersion into Forest Stewardship that included morning educational hikes, course and field work to learn about the timber industry, making a forest management plan, silviculture, and invasives, and resources to help deepen our journey into Forest Stewardship. I also met like-minded people who wanted to promote healthy forests in Pennsylvania.”

- Skip Shuda, Class of 2022



Woodland Stewardship: Guided Engagement with Your Land

In spring and fall 2022, educators from Penn State Extension and faculty from the Finley Center piloted a hybrid course for landowners to support their learning about forests and how to care for them. In the two offerings of *Woodland Stewardship: Guided Engagement with Your Land*, 61 participants worked through a series of educational videos and short readings on their own, learning what it means to be a woodland steward and ways to apply their new knowledge to their own woodlot. This was supplemented with five live online sessions that brought educators and participants together for deeper discussions. Participants could also create a detailed map of their properties to guide their next steps in caring for their woods.

How Participants Responded

100%

strongly agreed the course increased their confidence in caring for their woods

83%

indicated they will use the information in a conversation with a professional consultant

83%

indicated they will conduct a forest, wildlife, or other natural resource management practice

83%

will adjust their management plan or goals for their land

Looking Ahead: Inspiring Stewardship in 2023

- **5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference**—hosted by the Finley Center March 24-25 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.
- **Caring Well for Pennsylvania's Privately Owned Forests**—this forestry community-wide collaborative initiative, begun in 2019, will resume activities in 2023, continuing its work to strengthen relationships and skills among landowners and the diverse professionals who can help achieve sustainable stewardship in privately owned woodlots.
- **Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Program**—highlights include regional summer meetings and class of 2023 training in Westmoreland County.
- **Forest Stewardship Online Learning**—Center staff will continue to assist Penn State Extension in conducting the *Woodland Stewardship: Guided Engagement with Your Land* hybrid course and the *Woods in Your Backyard* online course, reaching hundreds of landowners each year.



Forest Management Under Conservation Easements

Partnering to support active management for today's challenges on protected lands

While the USDA McIntire-Stennis grant that funded the initial stages of this effort ended in 2021, work continued to engage the land trust community to support better forest management on protected lands. Our research under the grant showed that historical easements negotiated with Pennsylvania's conservation organizations often contained language restricting forest management practices permitted on the land in perpetuity. While updated guidance documents are more open to adaptive forest management, the stewardship of these properties is still often restrictive. These restrictions, meant to protect the land, actually are preventing implementation of responsive management practices crucial for addressing today's forest challenges.

Through shared efforts with leadership of WeConservePA, the umbrella organization for land trusts in Pennsylvania, leaders of two prominent land trusts, and a conservation consultant, resources and training are being developed to help conservation organizations understand forest stewardship and the tools available to assist in forest management activities. Land trusts are receptive and responding to this work to encourage the development of flexible management plans and use of forest stewardship activities on protected lands to ensure conservation values are being enhanced—and not degraded through lack of action—in response to threats.

We continue to support the work of WeConservePA, and their member organizations, as they create resources to assist land trusts in obtaining forest management plans on properties for which they hold easements. These plans will, in turn, provide the support needed for management activities that promote forest health to be put into action.



Conservation-based Estate Planning

Helping landowners plan for the future of their land

Forest legacy planning—passing working forests on to the next generation—is a continuing focus of the Finley Center’s work. Our research has shown that many forest landowners don’t know how to plan for their land’s future and many estate planning professionals are less well prepared to help them carry their stewardship ethic across generations. Conservation-based estate planning is a planning approach that involves using a suite of legal and financial tools to achieve the current landowner’s goals while providing to the next owner the largest, intact, undeveloped, and functioning natural land possible.

Under a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, Center staff developed and led workshops and a webinar on conservation-based estate planning for forest landowners, members of the land trust and conservancy community, and estate planning attorneys. These programs help landowners understand the legacy planning process and guide their decision-making about their land, and help the professionals who advise landowners understand planning opportunities that allow successful transition between generations. The Finley Center’s Forest Legacy Working Group played a key role in this work by:

- reviewing curriculum and resources developed by the project team,
- providing engagement strategies, and
- showing the need to address the difference in the way landowners value their land (personal) and how planning professionals value the land (economical).

Additionally, work continued on adapting the publication *Their Land, Their Legacy*, created by colleagues in New England and New York, to be more applicable and accessible to Pennsylvania landowners and to incorporate the model of what successful conservation-based estate planning looks like.

This work is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program.



How the Center's Work Informs Policy

Research that influences how Pennsylvania's forests are managed

Our research on land trusts and conservancies to understand how they approached managing working forests on lands protected by a conservation easement has been informative within the larger land trust community. This work supported a review of the guidance for baseline data collection for forested areas in the WeConservePA Model Easement Document, led to the creation and offering of trainings for land trust staff and boards to learn more about managing for resilient forests, and supported a recent grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for WeConservePA to help land trusts obtain forest management plans on protected lands.

Through participation in advisory groups like the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee and PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry's Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, Center Director Allyson Muth is bringing the Finley Center's research expertise and knowledge of private forest landowners and elevating forest stewardship issues across a diversity of forums.



Building the Center's Capacity

In 2022, the Finley Center Council formed committees to focus on increasing the Center's visibility and messaging and increasing the stability of the Center's funding.

The Center also saw a change in staffing of the Forest Stewardship Program Associate position as we welcomed Jeff Osborne to replace Abby Jamison. After over three years of working with the Center, first as a student and later in a full-time staff position, Abby shifted to the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry as a Forest Program Specialist.

A key part of the Finley Center team is our network of volunteers. These dedicated people help staff special events, make connections with landowners, write articles, provide office support, and serve in so many other ways. We thank every volunteer who steps up to fill a role in the work we do.

Jeff Osborne joined the Finley Center as the new Forest Stewardship Program Associate in November. Jeff's work as a forester for government agencies and his most recent position as a Service Forester bring unique experience and expertise to the role.



Making Forest Stewardship Accessible

A foundational concept of the work of the Finley Center is democratizing access and opportunity to all with an interest in forest stewardship. We want more landowners and professionals to engage and find benefit from accessing our resources, and those of the larger community.

On an annual basis, a large part of our work includes supporting the expansion of the community of professionals being educated through Penn State. Center Director Allyson Muth remains active in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, mentoring the creation of guidance for field safety, and building a welcoming department for people of diverse backgrounds.

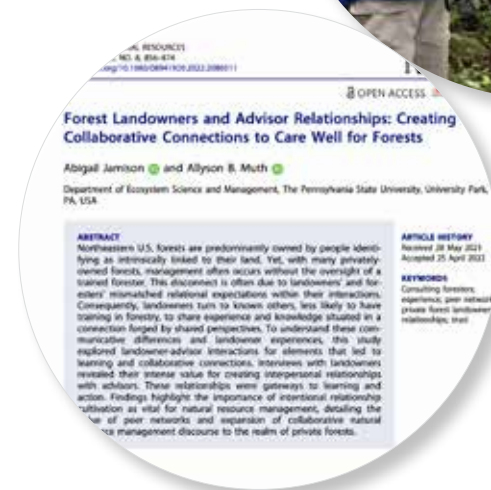
"The Center is committed to making our research and the products produced from it available to audiences that may not have had equal access to the profession or its services in the past. We want to be part of diversifying the workforce and the people served, of overcoming barriers of trust, to support forest stewardship across Penn's Woods."

- Allyson Muth, Finley Center Director

Together with Council Member Susan Stout and other women inside and outside Penn State, Muth has helped convene the newly renamed "Women in Forests" community—a group in which less well-represented members of the workplace can network and build connections to support their professional development. In October, Muth, Center Council Member Rachel Reyna, and former Center Affiliate Sarah Wurzbacher participated in the inaugural Women's Forest Congress, sharing a presentation titled, "Facilitating Ownership and Engagement: Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Complex Forest Challenges." The Women's Forest Congress was designed to create and launch a call to action to equity and inclusion in the forest community.

Muth continues to mentor graduate students, serving on graduate committees within Penn State, and as a methodology advisor for students at other institutions in the U.S.

The Center also continues its long-standing support of access to resources created. We pay open access fees for all scholarly publications to ensure that anyone—not just paid subscribers—can engage with our work and build off it to advance the dialogue of improving forest stewardship and our profession.



Partnering to Build an Engaged Forest Stewardship Community

We are grateful to the many partners with whom we work. Strong collaborative partnerships are at the core of the Finley Center's mission to inspire and equip forest landowners for action. Much of our work happens in partnership with many groups and organizations as we strive together to influence caring well for our forests.

Together we are:

- sharing strategies and knowledge,
- developing creative ways to engage landowners in stewardship,
- producing practical educational resources,
- finding solutions to challenges in changing conditions,
- extending our reach and impact, and
- raising awareness of the importance of good forest stewardship.

We continue to cultivate these relationships and seek to both lead and participate in innovative collaborations to inspire good forest stewardship across our forests.

WE WORK ON...	WITH...
Forest Landowners Survey	PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, USDA Forest Service
Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program	PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, USDA Forest Service
Working Forests Under Conservation Easements	WeConservePA
Woodland Stewardship: Guided Engagement with Your Land (hybrid course)	Penn State Extension
Caring Well for Pennsylvania's Privately Owned Forests	Pennsylvania's Forestry Community
Building Capacity and Legacy Planning for Woodland Owners	University of Wisconsin-Madison; University of Massachusetts
Conservation-based Estate Planning	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Walk in Penn's Woods	9-member Walk in Penn's Woods Partnership
Forest Stewardship Mapping	Penn State Center for Environmental Informatics
Woodland Stewardship Innovation Team	PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Partners
Forest Owner Climate and Carbon Education (FOCCE)	USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science and Management Faculty
The Woods in Your Backyard (online course)	Penn State Extension



Partnership Stories

32 Years and Counting: Bringing Stewardship to PA's Landowners

Our long-standing partnership with the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, started before the founding of the Center, ensures education and engagement with the Forest Stewardship Program around the state. From creating dozens of publications, to hosting educational events for woodland owners, to creating and supporting the award-winning Pennsylvania Forest Stewards volunteer program, this partnership has ensured innovation and flexibility to support woodland owners in the care of their woods.



Caring Well for Pennsylvania's Privately Owned Forests

We are at a critical juncture for the practice of forestry on privately owned land. Great opportunity exists within the profession to attract professionals of diverse backgrounds and interests, expand service provider reach and impact, satisfy demand from forest landowners for practices to promote forest health, revitalize an industry, and promote long-term protection and sustainability of the state's forests. Through a multi-year partnership of organizations across academia, government, non-profits, and the private sector, we are convening conversation about unsustainable forest conditions on the landscape, the practices that lead to those conditions, and the roles we all play in influencing whether or not sustainable practices are adopted.



Walk in Penn's Woods

Since 2017, the Walk in Penn's Woods nine-organization partnership has been working to offer Pennsylvanians a statewide day of walks in the woods on the first Sunday in October. These walks provide an excellent opportunity to get out, have fun, and learn about Pennsylvania's forests, to see forests in new ways, and to understand and appreciate the many values we hold for the woods. In 2022, the Finley Center passed the lead of this effort to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and we're excited to continue to support Walk in Penn's Woods well into the future.



Financial Overview

The future of Pennsylvania's woodlots, both large and small, depends in large part on the private landowners who own nearly 12 million of the state's 17 million forested acres and those who guide them.

The Finley Center, with its extensive experience working at the intersection of people and forests, serves as a trusted resource to both landowners and the natural resources professional community. The perspective of the Center is needed now more than ever to inform and inspire private forest landowners and the professionals who assist them in caring for their land.

Since the Finley Center was founded, we have worked tirelessly to secure funding for our many projects and to build our endowment to support the research and personnel critical to ensuring a sustainable future for our forests in Pennsylvania and beyond. We invite you to take a few moments to read about our endowment and stories of donors who have been inspired to give. For more information about ways you can support the Finley Center financially, please contact:

Lauren Steinberg
Senior Director of Development
College of Agricultural Sciences
lxs229@psu.edu
814-865-0158



Gifts to the Endowment

The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State Endowment supports the work of the Finley Center to pursue our mission and key aims.

How does the endowment work? All funding the Finley Center receives into the endowment is labeled for our exclusive use. Endowment funds are invested by Penn State to provide income for the Finley Center's use in the future. Gifts to the endowment are tax-deductible.

What the Endowment Supports

Gifts to the Finley Center Endowment support undergraduate internships, graduate student fellowships, staffing for project capacity, professional and leadership development efforts, and programmatic resources to support the Finley Center's education and engagement efforts.

ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT

	VALUE
Initial Balance, July 1, 2021	\$758,064.93
Cash Flows	
Gifts and Transfers	71,697.66
Market Appreciation/(Depreciation)	
Includes any market changes for above cash flows	(30,841.27)
Ending Balance, June 30, 2022	\$798,921.32



Sharing Their Stories

The Aikins: “We are all inspired by the Finley Center”

The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests inspires us. Who is “us”? We will start by speaking for ourselves. We met in high school, dated during college, and will soon celebrate 46 years of marriage. Throughout our lives together, we have reveled in family time spent outdoors. For a few years, it was just the two of us, then it was with our four children, and now our four grandchildren. As soon as we could afford it, we acquired our own piece of forested land. We have expanded as opportunities have allowed; now our 215 acres in Venango County is the preferred retreat for our extended family. The Center has given us knowledge and opportunities to improve the land, protect it for the future, and engage with others pursuing similar endeavors.

Our connection to the Finley Center has grown over the past decade as Blaine completed the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program, served on the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Steering



Terry and Blaine Aikin

Committee, was recruited by Jim Finley and Allyson Muth to join the Center’s governing Council and ultimately to serve as current Council Chair. Jim and Allyson positioned the Center to “work at the intersection of people and forests.” We have come to know many forest-loving people through our connection to the Center; they are our greatest source of inspiration.

We are awed by the depth and breadth of generosity by the people who come together from all walks of life to support the Center through

The Demmerts: “The Finley Center has helped us in so many ways”

In 1974 we purchased our forested plot of 60 acres in central Pennsylvania. We had never owned any land larger than a normal residential lot, so we were overwhelmed. We both went through Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program (Leslie 2007, Paul 2009). The Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program gave us access to a universe of information and resources about forest ownership and management that was formerly unreachable to us. We are just two of the community of Pennsylvania Forest Stewards who have benefited from the direct involvement of Jim Finley and the entire staff of the Finley Center in teaching us what it means to manage our forest for the future.

When we recently had the opportunity to focus our charitable contributions, we wanted to pay back/pay forward to the Center, to help it in continuing its mission. Our Individual Retirement Account (IRA) was scheduled for a Required

their commitments of time, talent, and treasure. Time is the greatest asset people can offer because it is limited, precious, and it multiplies its impact by drawing others in. A diversity of talents fosters learning, sharing, and community building. Monetary donations are vital to the health and sustainability of the Center. We feel confident in speaking for our friends and co-contributors of what we collectively have to offer when we say that we are all inspired by the Finley Center and are committed to seeing its mission and vision realized.



Paul and Leslie Demmert

Minimum Distribution (RMD), so we told our fund manager about contributing a portion to the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests, and the manager took it from there.

The Finley Center has helped us in so many ways to be better landowners and we are just grateful that we have the ability to offer in return our own modest support.



Our Donors

Blaine and Terry Aikin ¹
 Nancy Baker *
 John and Joanne Boggess *
 Jeff Bridger and Melanie Doeblér ¹
 Carolyn Brown ³
 Emory Brown ³
 John and Lisa Campbell ²
 René Carey *,¹
 Tracy Cate ¹
 Central Susquehanna
 Woodland Owners Association ¹
 Harry and Damie Crosswell ²
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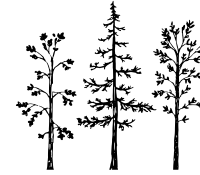
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- Jim Finley, Finley Center Co-Founder





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