



## ***News You Can Use October 2015***

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### **Last Reminder to Register for PFA Annual Meeting!**

There is still a little bit of time remaining to sign up for the PFA's Annual Meeting scheduled for **October 17 at the Doubletree Resort in Lancaster**. Still need the details? Contact the PFA office at [thepfa@paforestry.org](mailto:thepfa@paforestry.org) or call us at 1-800-835-8065!

### **Senate Adopts Hutchison Resolution Supporting PA Timber Industry**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the State Senate adopted a [resolution](#) introduced by Senator Scott Hutchison that will protect and promote the state's forest areas and the thousands of family-sustaining jobs provided by the wood harvesting industry. Senate Resolution 55 reinstates the Forestry Task Force under the administration of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. "The Task Force will be a bicameral and bipartisan committee that will investigate and look to improve the current state of Pennsylvania's forests and provide long-term forest management strategies," Senator Hutchison said. "The task force will consider topics such as invasive species, local government interaction, reinvigorating the timber harvesting industry, and developing a state forest management plan."

### **Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Program Announcement**

DEP Secretary John Quigley told the DEP Citizens Advisory Council at their September meeting that his plan for rebooting the Chesapeake Bay cleanup program is not done yet, but he hopes to be able to make an announcement in the near future. Quigley stated that he continues to work with Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding and DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn on the reboot.

### **Farm Show Volunteers Needed**

The PFA is requesting volunteers to help staff the PFA Educational Exhibit at the [2016 Pennsylvania Farm Show](#) scheduled for January 9 - 16. Volunteers are encouraged to contact the PFA office in Harrisburg at 1-800-835-8065 or [thepfa@paforestry.org](mailto:thepfa@paforestry.org) to sign-up for a half-day shift – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee Strategic Planning Session to be Held**

The PTFC will conduct a Strategic Planning Session in October to plan for an orderly transition of the administration of the program. The American Forest Foundation will provide

a facilitator to assist in the development of the plan to ensure that the program maintains its importance and viability in the decade ahead.

### **DCNR Plans Series of Public Meetings To Review Draft State Forest Management Plan**

A series of 12 statewide meetings has been planned by the State Bureau of Forestry to seek continued public input on changes to its master management plan charting the course of Pennsylvania's state forests for future generations. The last State Forest Resource Management Plan was adopted in 2007 and the 2015 SFRMP will propose changes to address new threats and challenges to Pennsylvania's State Forest Land. Information on the dates and locations of the twelve meetings are available from DCNR Central Office or at the 20 State Forest District offices. Written comments can also be submitted at [StateForestPlan2015@pa.gov](mailto:StateForestPlan2015@pa.gov) until November 30, 2015.

### **Seminar on American Chestnut Restoration**

Last month a notice was sent out announcing a two-day workshop on October 23-24 at the PennStater Conference Center focused on the American Chestnut tree. "Integrating Genomics Tools in American Chestnut Restoration" is a collaboration of the American Chestnut Foundation and the Schatz Tree Genetics Colloquium. Topics being presented include genome sequencing, genetic mapping, and marker-assisted selection techniques. Registration and additional information can be accessed [here](#).

### **Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs**

DCNR will partner with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Community and Economic Development and experts from private industry to launch a short-term forestry commission to develop an action plan to conserve our forests while creating and sustaining forest-related jobs. A report of the [Green Ribbon Task Force](#) will be submitted in May 2016.

### **McCorkel Tree Farm Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Thanks to Jim McCorkel and Kathy Malone for submitting the following article and photo featuring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the McCorkel Tree Farm located in Huntingdon County! Following are some of the activities that were enjoyed that day and a brief history of the tree farm:

- There was a walk in the woods for children and adults, focused on identifying trees and shrubs.
- We planted 2 hybrid American Chestnuts and learned that our hill had been called "Chestnut Hill" prior to the Chestnut blight early in the last century.
- There was a walk around the 151 acre property.
- We organized a cover dish supper for 70 family members, friends, and neighbors, with an educational slide show on raptor banding and handouts on the history of the Tree Farm.
- A work group ranging in age from 14 to 76 spent a few hours culling invasives -- Privet and Ailanthus ("Tree of Heaven") --foaming the cut stems with undiluted herbicide using Best Management Practices.
- And we gathered on Sunday morning to give thanks (see photo).



In 1940 Roy and Betty Bonsall McCorkel had to borrow money from friends and relatives to purchase this hilly property, with its view of Mount Tussey, and its stream corridor along Warrior's Mark Run.

The woods had not been cut over since the 1890s, and the McCorkels soon went to the Department of Forestry or what was then called Pennsylvania State College for advice to "scientifically manage" the forest. They soon became fast friends with Professor Arthur Meyer and his wife Elsie.

Professor Meyer brought his forestry students to study the property, and by 1947 one of them had completed a master's thesis entitled, "Management Plan for the McCorkel Woodlot". This was the beginning that led to registration as Pennsylvania's 161<sup>st</sup> Tree Farm in 1957, and later to a Forest Stewardship Plan (1996), a Wildlife Diversity Plan (2006), and a Conservation Easement with The ClearWater Conservancy in State College (2008).

Today the McCorkel Tree Farm is also an "experiment in community" with 14 cabins, a swimming pool, shower and sauna building, and a Common Room where we gather. Through the "Spruce Creek Recreation Association" formed in 1966, family members and friends live in the "Spirit of the Tree Farm" accepting responsibility for some of the Tree Farm's common facilities, chores and expenses, all of us committing to respect the land and the natural order of the Tree Farm and share our concern for its survival in its natural state.

### ***Articles of Interest***

*Following are articles specific to your interests:*

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness – [September newsletter](#)

10-06-2015

#### **[Park officials list favorite, best places to see fall splendor](#)**

Though the Spring and Summer seasons began with an overabundance of rain followed by hot temperatures, forecasters are saying that fall foliage spectators will still get quite a show this Autumn. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

- 10-02-2015 [\*\*Nature Conservancy & Partners Celebrate Protection of 1,000 Acres of...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-02-2015 [\*\*Lumber rafting in Pennsylvania on tap for woodland owners meeting\*\*](#)  
Huge rafts of freshly cut timber coursing down the Susquehanna River will be revisited in a program on lumbering and rafting in the Susquehanna River Basin from colonial days through the 19th century by Stephen Runkle at the Thursday, Oct. 8, meeting of the Dauphin County Woodland Owners... - [\*Harrisburg Patriot-News\*](#)
- 10-02-2015 [\*\*State Game Lands system passes 1.5 million-acre mark across Pennsylvania\*\*](#)  
The 1.5 millionth acre of state game lands in Pennsylvania almost was in Central Pennsylvania. At their meeting this week the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners voted to buy 18.6 acres in Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, as an addition to State Game Lands 170. The tract was offered at \$400 per acre by... - [\*Harrisburg Patriot-News\*](#)
- 10-02-2015 [\*\*Forbes naturalist to lead fall foliage hike\*\*](#)  
A Forbes State Forest naturalist is scheduled to lead a fall foliage hike at 10 a.m. Oct. 17 at the Lick Hollow picnic area parking lot. To register, send an email to [rachristie@pa.gov](mailto:rachristie@pa.gov) or call 724-238-1200. - [\*Somerset Daily\*](#)
- 10-01-2015 [\*\*DEP News for October 1, 2015\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-01-2015 [\*\*Governor Wolf, DCNR Announce Additional State Forest Roads Opening for...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-30-2015 [\*\*New tracts of land present challenge for Bureau of Forestry\*\*](#)  
Asked about the biggest changes to the state forests in Northeastern Pennsylvania during the past decade, District Forester Nicholas Lylo said there's more land to manage. "The district had about 10,000 acres of state forest. Now there's about 48,000," Lylo said Friday.... - [\*Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice\*](#)
- 09-29-2015 [\*\*NRCS accepting applications for Conservation Programs\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications to help producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and... - [\*Honesdale Wayne Independent\*](#)
- 09-29-2015 [\*\*New areas give growth to state forest\*\*](#)  
Asked about the biggest changes to the state forests in Northeastern Pennsylvania during the past decade, District Forester Nicholas Lylo said there's more land to manage. "The district had about 10,000 acres of state forest. Now there's about 48,000," Lylo said Friday.... - [\*Hazleton Standard-Speaker\*](#)
- 09-28-2015 [\*\*Arbor Aid benefit raises funds for Tree Pittsburgh\*\*](#)  
Trees are tops! That was the consensus during the seventh annual Arbor Aid benefit for Tree Pittsburgh on Saturday night. It's the first time the party was held along the Allegheny River in Lawrenceville at the new Heritage Nursery. The VIP Mulch Mixer started things off as guests enjoyed... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 09-25-2015 [\*\*PGC: Celebrating 1.5 Million Acres of State Game Lands\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)

- 09-25-2015 [\*\*Forest Service to pay attorney fees for industry group in Allegheny Forest flap\*\*](#)  
The U.S. Forest Service has agreed to pay an oil and gas industry group \$530,000 for attorney fees it incurred in a long-running battle over drilling in the Allegheny National Forest, according to a court document filed Thursday. The Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association sued to overturn a... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-24-2015 [\*\*DCNR: Maurice K. Goddard State Park Trail Named in Honor Of First DCNR...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-23-2015 [\*\*New publication highlights nature in Somerset County\*\*](#)  
With a new publication at his disposal, Somerset Conservation District Manager Len Lichvar is attempting to open the eyes of residents and lawmakers to the natural beauty and resources of Somerset County. The 12-page publication, titled "Conservation in Somerset County,"... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 09-21-2015 [\*\*Outdoors notebook: Osprey plan tweaked in time for meeting\*\*](#)  
Message received. Pennsylvania Game Commissioners agreed a few months back to put the agency's osprey management plan out for public review. But even as they did, they told agency staff they wanted changes made. Their concerns — ranging from details on population goals to the cost... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-17-2015 [\*\*DCNR acquires 270-acre addition to state park\*\*](#)  
CENTRE HALL — About a mile east of Centre Hall along Route 192, at the foot of Mount Nittany, lies the Decker farm. In 1927, the farm was purchased by James and Verna Decker, who also owned and operated another farm just a few miles away. Both farms were run by... - [State College News](#)
- 09-15-2015 [\*\*Northwest forests under increasing insect attacks\*\*](#)  
Northwest forests under increasing insect attacks By Tom DiStefano CLARION NEWS Writer THE WOODS The hemlocks received a brief reprieve, it's too late for the ash trees, cherry trees are under attack up north, pine bark beetles are invading from the south, but have yet to move west.... - [Clarion News](#)

Questions? Contact the PA Forestry Association at [thepfa@paforestry.org](mailto:thepfa@paforestry.org) or 1-800-835-8065. The PA Forestry Association is located at 116 Pine Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The newsletter is produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies.