



News You Can Use November 2015

produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies

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Report from PFA's Annual Meeting

In the PFA year, our annual meeting, focused on learning and fellowship, is always one of the highlights. This year, members and friends gathered on October 16 and 17 in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, Lancaster County, for the 129th PFA Annual Meeting. In 1681 when William Penn became the state's namesake, Lancaster County was mostly forested. Today, only 16% of Lancaster County remains forested. This suggested the theme for this year's meeting – Conservation at Work. The loss of working forests that provide ecological, social, and economic values to all of us is a statewide concern emphasized in this rapidly changing part of Pennsylvania.

The Lancaster County Conservancy, with a mission to "Save and steward the ecosystems and landscapes upon which we depend for food, clean water and air, economic and public health, and the restoration of soul and spirit," hosted the field tour on Saturday, October 17. Their Executive Director, Mike Burcin, ably led us to several sites on the conservancy's 5,000 acres of protected woodlands and 37 preserves, including the river ravines at Shenk's Ferry and the grand Pinnacle Point view over the Susquehanna. We enjoyed an outdoor lunch at their Climbers Run Education Center and spent the afternoon inspecting their stream bank restoration work and warming up in their education center/renovated barn.

The Awards Banquet, Saturday evening, featured a great presentation by Craig Highfield, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Coordinator of Forestry for the Bay. Forestry for the Bay promotes sound forest management practices to increase the vitality of woodlands and improve the health of local streams, rivers and the bay. Craig's talk focused on how our land use decisions in the small headwaters of places such as Lancaster County affect the Bay.

An important feature of our annual meeting dinner is the presentation of the Sandy Cochran Award for Education and the Rothrock Award for Forest Conservation. Please join us in congratulating Beth Sanders (Cochran) and Paul Lyskava (Rothrock) for their extraordinary contributions. We also congratulated the 2015 PA Tree Farmers of the Year, Harold and Gay Thistle, and the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, Ken Gibbs.

Joseph T. Rothrock Award

As noted in the Annual Meeting report, Paul A. Lyskava received the 2015 Joseph T. Rothrock Award which recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions to the conservation of the Commonwealth's forest resource. (Because Paul was unable to attend the meeting, PFA member Marc Lewis presented it to him at a later event.) Paul was named the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council (HDC) in 1998. Under his leadership, the HDC Created the "Sustaining Penn's Woods" curriculum for middle and high school students in Pennsylvania, participated in trade shows throughout the U.S., Mexico and Germany, and assisted lumber suppliers in finding new markets abroad for their hardwood. In 2002 he became the Executive Director for the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association which later changed its name to the PA Forest Products Association (PFPA). Under his guidance, the PFPA developed a WoodMobile which served as a portable museum and interactive educational showcase for PA hardwoods. In 2015, WoodMobile Two made its maiden appearance at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Paul has led the PFPA through tough economic times while still managing to promote it as the influential organization it remains today. Read more about Paul's achievements in the Fall issue of *Pennsylvania Forests*. Congratulations, Paul!

Sandy Cochran Award

PFA's 2015 Sandy Cochran Award was presented at the Annual Meeting to Beth Sanders, the Director of Education for the Ned Smith Center. Beth has fostered a partnership with the Center, the PA Game Commission and Trout Unlimited's *Trout in the Classroom* program to engage elementary and middle school students from a six-county area through an approach that combines art with education. She has developed the Center's Youth Art Contest for grades 1-12 which has expanded to attract international submissions, promoted a Discovery Lecture Series which provides evening nature talks for the public, and supported the development of a traveling trunk educational kit that meets PDE environmental education requirements. Read more about Beth's activities in the upcoming Fall issue of PFA's *Pennsylvania Forests*. Congratulations, Beth!

PFA Board of Directors Receives Detailed Report From Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee

The PFA Board of Directors met on October 16th during the PFA Annual Meeting in Lancaster County. In addition to routine agenda items the board received a detailed report from Susan Benedict of the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee (PTFC). She reported that the PTFC had recently completed development of a strategic plan which details how the committee envisions its future relationship with PFA. The PTFC has formed three committees to guide the future activities as follows: Board Development, Certification/Inspection, and Communications. An MOU must be finalized with American Forests Foundation by December 31, 2015. The PFA Board will continue its discussions with PTFC during its December 8, 2015 meeting.

New PFA Officers Elected

During the PFA Annual Business Meeting the following new officers were elected or re-elected to represent the association during the next year: Gene Odato, President; Richard Lewis, Vice President; Norm Lacasse, Secretary; and Greg Schrum, Treasurer.

New PFA Dues Schedule Effective January 1, 2016!

Throughout 2015 the PFA Board of Directors has been deliberating on a revised dues schedule which the Board approved in June for its initiation in January of 2016. Some membership fees will be reduced, however we hope you will continue your support of Pennsylvania Forests

by choosing the membership level of your choice. Membership (dues) categories have been reduced to the following seven categories:

1. Individual/Family Member @ \$30/year
2. Student Member/Library @ \$15/year
3. Individual Lifetime Membership @ \$1,000 (can be billed quarterly upon request)

Please consider upgrading to a Contributing Membership or at least maintain the level of support you have made in the past:

4. Oak \$50 - \$99
5. White Pine \$100 - \$499
6. Chestnut \$500 - \$999 (10% to PA American Chestnut Foundation)
7. Black Cherry \$1,000 and up

All contributing members will be listed in the *Pennsylvania Forests* magazine each time they renew their dues to indicate their level of contribution (unless requested otherwise). All new members and new lifetime members as well as contributors to endowment funds are also acknowledged in the quarterly magazine. (PFA is a 501c(3) organization. Check with your tax consultant for advise on tax deductions for non-profit organizations.)

PFA Vice President, Richard Lewis, to Address PFFMA Annual Meeting

Richard Lewis, recently elected PFA Vice President, has been invited to address the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association on November 9th. Lewis will provide an overview of PFA's current activities and a look back at the history and development of PFA.

2015 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year!

Last month the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) awarded Raul Cheisa and Janet Sredy, managers of Becketts Run Woodlands in Allegheny County, the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award at a ceremony in Washington, DC. Presenting the award were Senator Bob Casey, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, and Tom Martin, President & CEO of the American Forest Foundation (AFF). [Read more](#) about their outstanding work and this admirable achievement. Congratulations, Raul and Janet!

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DEP Citizens Advisory Council Staff Change

Michele Tate, an 18-year veteran of environmental policy, recently abruptly left her position as Executive Director, of the DEP CAC. Tate had served as Executive Director since 2014. A precedent for this occurred four years ago when the DCNR CAC Executive Director, Curt

Leitholf, was dismissed. The Advisory Councils to both DEP and DCNR provide citizen guidance and input to both agencies.

Environmental Issues Forum to be Held

The Joint Conservation Committee will conduct an Environmental Issues Forum on November 16th at noon in Room 8E-A, East Wing of Capitol Building in Harrisburg. The focus of the forum will be the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

PFA Board of Directors to Meet

The PFA Board of Directors will meet on December 8, 2015 in State College to conduct the business of the Association. PFA members desiring to attend the meeting should contact the PFA office for times and location.

Volunteers Needed for PA Farm Show

Help! PFA members are needed to staff the PFA exhibit at the PA Farm Show from January 9-16, 2016. If you are able to help, contact the PFA office at 1-800-835-8065 or 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. Thank you for assisting in this important PFA activity!

Growing Greener III

PFA President Gene Odatto asks that PFA members stay abreast of the Growing Greener III proposals in order to have a healthy discussion and to provide comments. Check out the [survey](#) and join in the discussion.

Frost and Freeze-Hardy Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus is a species that is widely grown in the frost free, and freeze free, zones of the world as a commercial timber species. A well respected company called Arborgen has developed a genetically superior genome of [Eucalyptus](#) that is frost and freeze hardy to 14° F.

Eucalyptus has superior wood fiber characteristics for use in pulp and paper making processes especially for the manufacture of tissue and hygiene paper products.

Up until now Eucalyptus could not be grown northern climes because it is easily killed in the winter by frost and freezes. A genetically modified frost and freeze resistant Eucalyptus might become a future commercial species in those Northern States where the winter temperatures don't fall below 14° F degrees. (In most areas of Pennsylvania winter temperatures frequently drop below 14° F.)

The article outlines the controversy brewing over the introduction of this genetically modified tree species and outlines the potential advantages, as well as the potential disadvantages, of growing the genetically modified Eucalyptus trees in the United States on a commercial basis.

PFA has not taken a position one way or the other on the planting of Eucalyptus and recommends that Pennsylvania's forest owners carefully review both the advantages and the disadvantages of planting Eucalyptus before doing so.

Legislatively Speaking

Although Versant Strategies does not lobby for PFA, we do keep an eye on legislation that impacts PFA members and will alert you to issues being considered from time to time. Currently, there are several bills that were introduced to protect landowners who open their property for recreational use free of charge from lawsuits for injuries sustained

on that property. Rep. Dan Moul's bill would expand current landowner liability law (protection for hunting & fishing activities) to include protection for recreational uses including exercise, sport, education, recreation, relaxation or pleasure, including snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicles and motorcycle riding. His legislation would also award legal fees to landowners who are sued and deemed not liable. Rep. Moul's bill is moving in the House of Representatives and we will keep you apprised of further developments.

Many thanks to Linda Finley, Nancy Baker and Richard Lewis for submitting articles for this newsletter.

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 11-04-2015 [**PFBC Reminds Public that Three Lakes Closed for Construction**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-04-2015 [**Thompson introduces legislation protecting private mineral rights**](#)
U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., introduced legislation Tuesday aimed to protect privately held mineral rights on the Allegheny National Forest. "This is a piece of legislation I have been working on for some time," Thompson told The Era, "given the threats that we have had..." - [*Bradford Era*](#)
- 11-03-2015 [**PGC: Promising Bear Season Awaits**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-03-2015 [**Pennsylvania Game Commission updates CWD rules**](#)
Pennsylvanians who hunt deer, elk or other cervids out-of-state might be affected by newly updated rules that prohibit the importation of specific high-risk cervid parts into Pennsylvania from states and provinces where chronic wasting disease has been detected.... - [*York Daily*](#)
- 11-02-2015 [**DCNR: Independent Review Hails Management of Pennsylvania's State Forests**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-02-2015 [**Scars yield to chestnuts - Opinion**](#)
In no place is the optimism of the American chestnut restoration more evident than on the barren slopes of abandoned mines on the tops of Appalachian mountains. Here, hybrid American chestnuts are being planted to reclaim the ruined landscape and provide information essential to the widespread... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 10-30-2015 [**CBF: Native Plants a Cool Choice for Fall Planting**](#)
(Press Release)
- 10-27-2015 [**Controlled burn planned for Blue Mountain near Appalachian Trail**](#)
Controlled burns planned this fall along the Appalachian Trail aim to improve forest habitat on the Blue Mountain, near the site of several wildfires in spring. The burns are planned for State Game Lands 217 in Schuylkill County, near the Lehigh County border.... - [*Easton Express-Times*](#)

- 10-27-2015 [**Greenland Is Melting Away**](#)
This river is one of a network of thousands at the front line of climate change. By Coral Davenport, Josh Haner, Larry Buchanan and Derek Watkins On the Greenland Ice Sheet — The midnight sun still gleamed at 1 a.m. across the brilliant expanse of the Greenland ice sheet. Brandon... - [*New York Times*](#)
- 10-26-2015 [**Keystone College workshop to discuss state tree, the hemlock**](#)
LA PLUME — Pennsylvania's eastern hemlock now faces the risk of being wiped out, and a group of arborists and landscape architects want to talk about saving the state tree. At a free workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, in Keystone College's Lackawanna Hall, experts are set to discuss how the... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 10-22-2015 [**States Confront a New Era of Crazy Wildfires**](#)
NORTH FORK, Montana—The 2003 Wedge Canyon fire missed Molly Shepherd's property by a quarter mile. From her cabin deck, she watched flames lick down the mountainside through acres of pine and larch forest toward her home. The fire burned for more than two agonizing months,... - [*Stateline.org*](#)
- 10-20-2015 [**PGC: Tree Stands, Blinds Left on Game Lands Need to be Tagged**](#)
(Press Release)
- 10-20-2015 [**Wood energy gives back to forests**](#)
There is a group of people in Pennsylvania, and similar groups across the country, that believes a good way to prevent forest fires is to burn wood — close to, but outside of, the forest. When forests aren't properly managed — and funding for such maintenance efforts is as tight as it's ever been in Pennsylvania — ... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 10-20-2015 [**Drought-stressed California forests face a radical shift**](#)
Biologist Greg Asner first heard the numbers in April, but they did little to prepare him for what he saw. The Forest Service had estimated that nearly 12.5 million trees in the state's southern and central forests were dead. But as Asner peered down upon the same forests from his airplane at 6,000 feet, he saw something far... - [*Los Angeles Times*](#)
- 10-14-2015 [**Secretary of Health Releases Landmark Report on Lyme Disease in the Commonwealth**](#)
(Press Release)

Questions? Contact the PA Forestry Association at thepfa@paforestry.org or 1-800-835-8065. The PA Forestry Association is located at 116 Pine Street, 5th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The newsletter is produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies.