



News You Can Use December 2015

produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies

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PFA Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The PFA Board met on December 8th in State College and took the following actions: 1) As a follow-up to the PFA Annual Meeting, the Board had the opportunity to congratulate Paul Lyskava who was in attendance at the Board meeting. Lyskava was announced as the recipient of the Joseph T. Rochrock award at the PFA Annual Meeting in October but was unable to attend at that time to receive the award, 2) Approved a PFA position statement on the draft DCNR State Forest Resource Plan which will be forwarded to DCNR during the public comment period, 3) Adopted a formal gift policy to guide individuals desiring to provide financial and other assistance to PFA, 4) Agreed to serve as a sponsor of the 2016 PA Farm Show Blue Ribbon reception and have several board members in attendance, 4) Discussed and endorsed proposed wording in a committee report on the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force that could have positive impacts on forest landowners and those landowners who participate in certification programs for affected woodlands, 5) Adopted a balanced budget for 2016, and 6) received a report on the strategic plan adopted by the PA Tree Farm Committee which sets the stage for integration of that committee into the PFA structure in 2016.

New Dues Structure Effective 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 maintaining 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.)

If you have questions, please contact the PFA office at 1-800-835-8065 or thepfa@paforestry.org

2016 PA Farm Show

Heading out to milkshake heaven next month... er, the [PA Farm Show](#)? Be sure to check out the PA Forestry Association's exhibit in the Main Hall along the Maclay Street side of the building complex. There are still some spots open for volunteering to staff the exhibit. Please contact Debbie at 1-800-835-8065 to sign up to help.

2016 Conservation Dinner

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the PFA's 2016 Conservation Dinner scheduled for **Saturday, March 5** at the Genetti Hotel & Suites in Williamsport, PA. More details will be included in the Fall issue of *Pennsylvania Forests* which should be arriving on your doorstep imminently!

Former DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis Tapped

Michael DiBerardinis, former DCNR Secretary, was tapped by newly elected Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney, to serve as Managing Director in the Kenney Administration. DiBerardinis currently serves as Commissioner of the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Commission and as Deputy Mayor.

Maryland Fertilizer Law Takes Effect

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced recently that the blackout authorized in the Maryland Lawn Fertilizer Law took effect on November 16th and runs through February 2016. The blackout prohibits application of fertilizers containing Phosphorus and Nitrogen during the blackout dates. Fertilizer applications may resume on March 1, 2016 if the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is predicted. Similar legislation may soon appear in Pennsylvania.

DCNR Extends Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the draft state forest management plan has been extended from November 30 to January 31, 2016. Extension of the deadline date for comments provides an opportunity for additional public input on the plan.

Joint Conservation Committee Hears From PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative

The Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee received an overview of the education and training programs of the SFI recently at the state Capitol. Chuck Coup, Program Manager for the PA SFI, said his group "promotes sustainable forest management and provides consumer confidence in the marketplace. A representative of Versant Strategies attended the briefing.

DEP Finalizes Nonpoint Source Management Plan

DEP recently published notice in the PA Bulletin that it has finalized an update to its statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan. The Plan is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to describe how the Commonwealth plans to address nonpoint source pollution and milestones to demonstrate progress in reducing nonpoint source pollution.

CNRAC Assists DCNR in Conducting Public Meeting

The Advisory Council to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources conducted a public meeting to assist the DCNR Bureau of Forestry in soliciting public comments to the draft State Forest Management Plan. The public meeting was held in the Rachel Carson State Office Building and was attended by several dozen individuals, many of whom provided public input. Versant Strategies is represented on the Advisory Council and can provide additional details of the meeting upon request.

Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force

An additional meeting of the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force is scheduled for December 16 fro 1-4 p.m. at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office on Elmerton Avenue in Harrisburg. Interested? More details [here](#).

Records Conversion Nearly Complete

Versant Strategies and its bookkeeping contractor have been working this calendar year to complete the automation of PFA's membership records. All membership records will be automated and will be utilized in performing membership billings, preparation of fiscal reports, etc., beginning January 1, 2016.

Gifford Pinchot's Legacy

Last month WITF 89.5 aired a video clip on Gifford Pinchot's legacy. You can still access that clip [here](#).

Hunting Legislation

Just an fyi for hunters....legislation has been introduced in the Pennsylvania House and Senate to allow for Sunday hunting. We'll keep you "posted" on the progress of this issue. Additionally, a bill that allows for Sunday hunting with birds of prey has passed in the House and Senate and currently awaits the Governor's signature. Expect that to happen soon.

A Curious Site

A few weeks ago, we stumbled upon an interesting article on a forest of [crooked trees](#) in Poland. We thought you might want to check out the photos.

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 12-09-2015 [**New Pheasants Forever chapter in Pennsylvania: Outdoor Insider**](#)
Pheasants Forever has launched its newest chapter in Allegheny County. Known as the Greater Allegheny Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the group will focus on restoring upland habitat for pheasants and other wildlife, while educating younger generations on the importance of wildlife habitat... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 12-08-2015 [**Keep PA Beautiful: Surveillance Cameras In Michaux State Forest Fight Illegal...**](#)
(Press Release)

- 12-08-2015 [**PFBC: Holidays Mark Beginning of New Fishing Season**](#)
(Press Release)

- 12-08-2015 [**Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Access Program recognized by Outdoor Life magazine**](#)
Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com Outdoor Life magazine has selected the

Pennsylvania Game Commission as an Open Country award winner, in the State/Government Agency category, for the commission's Hunter Access Program. According to the magazine, the annual awards "celebrate these visionaries... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 12-07-2015 **[Outdoors notebook: Wild trout streams given protection](#)**
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commissioners — in what has become a theme — gave preliminary approval to adding a host of stream sections to the state's wild trout list at their fall meeting. Designated were 102 waters. They included Beaverdam Run, Fox Run, Peg Run,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-07-2015 **[Chasing a Climate Deal in Paris](#)**
By 2030, according to some estimates, it should be possible to cut the carbon intensity of new cars powered by fossil fuel by 50 percent from 2005 levels. The problem is that, from the perspective of climate change, it will do little good. The number of cars on the road around the world is expected to double, and... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-04-2015 **[Trail expansion is goal of Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy](#)**
The Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy Inc. wants to get more people out on the trails, and to entice them the conservancy is planning a major expansion of the trail network in the northern region of Pittsburgh. The conservancy is a nonprofit organization that maintains the 35.7-mile... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-04-2015 **[State parks remain active](#)**
Winter is just around the corner, but that doesn't mean you have to stay indoors - local state parks have a lot going on. - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 12-02-2015 **[EDITORIAL: Game wardens have big job](#)**
For some of the state's deer hunters, the Pennsylvania Game Commission may as well have a bull's-eye on its back. After all, the organization has become a favorite target of criticism from certain sportsmen. Each year, on the Monday after Thanksgiving, hundreds of thousands of... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 12-02-2015 **[Timber industry officials rebut ANF timber figures](#)**
KANE — Recent comments made to The Era by Allegheny National Forest public affairs officer Ruth Sutton about a possible increase in timber offered on the forest leaves out several details, according to several local timber industry officials. Sutton told The Era last week the estimated timber to be offered is... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 11-25-2015 **[DEP News for November 25, 2015](#)**
(Press Release)
- 11-25-2015 **[PGC: Pennsylvania to Employ New CWD Testing Initiative](#)**
(Press Release)
- 11-24-2015 **[Hemlock Loss Addressed at Forum Through Environmental Grant from PA American...](#)**
(Press Release)

- 11-20-2015 [**Timbering on pipeline path begins at Pine Ridge Park**](#)
A 12-acre swath of Indiana County's Pine Ridge Park is being stripped bare of trees to make way for a major utility pipeline, and county officials have said there was nothing they could do to halt the federally-endorsed project. As partial compensation, the county will receive payment for the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 11-20-2015 [**Natural landscapes need to be preserved**](#)
By Ed Perry At the end of September, one of the most important conservation programs in the history of our country was allowed to expire because Congress failed to act. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the program that has helped us protect our most precious places for conservation and recreation. There is... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 11-18-2015 [**PDA: Two Additional Berks County Townships Added to Spotted Lanternfly...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-18-2015 [**Hunt here, says Pennsylvania Game Commission: Deer Hunting 2015**](#)
Hunters wondering where they should go for deer-hunting opportunities this year are getting new guidance toward "Deer Hunter Focus Areas" from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Spots on state game lands that have recently seen timber harvests or other habitat modifications that tend to concentrate deer with an abundance of... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-18-2015 [**Trexler Nature Preserve bridge completes Master Site Plan**](#)
County executives, members of the Trexler Trust and the Wildlands Conservancy celebrated the completion of a pedestrian bridge at the Trexler Nature Preserve on Tuesday that completes the master Site Plan for the 1,108-acre nature preserve. The bridge completes the Border Trail on an improvement project that has... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 11-17-2015 [**Outdoors with Tom Venesky: A day in the turkey woods**](#)
I sat against the thick trunk of an old tulip poplar and stared at the blank canvas in front of me. A drab pallet of brown and gray, the woods were still and empty. But I knew if I was patient enough, life would appear. Considering I was hunting fall turkeys, I was hoping that "life"... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 11-17-2015 [**Game commission executes controlled burn**](#)
The Pennsylvania Game Commission executed a controlled burn in State Game Lands 228 in Shade Township Monday in an effort to, "Restore oak forest and oak woodland habitats," according to Roger Brown, a field forester for the commission. He said the burning of 150 acres will be "valuable... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 11-16-2015 [**PGC: Follow the Map to Whitetails**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-16-2015 [**Outdoors notebook: Change in rattlesnake status coming**](#)
The timber rattlesnake has been classified as a "candidate" species — one on the verge of being considered endangered or threatened — in Pennsylvania for three decades. That might soon change. With some new sampling showing there likely are more of the snakes than... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 11-16-2015 **[Global climate change threatens Pa. forests](#)**
HARRISBURG — The majestic forests that Pennsylvanians are familiar with today won't be the forests that future generations know because of global climate change, said John Quigley, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. While outlining his agency's agenda on a number of fronts earlier this... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 11-09-2015 **[PGC: Elk Harvest Results Released](#)**
(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.