



Forestry News You Can Use January 2016

produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies
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New Dues for 2016 Now in Effect

Just a reminder that the 2016 dues structure has been revised. Past membership fees have been reduced to the three categories listed below but PFA has added contributing membership categories to give you the opportunity to increase your support for the Association in addition to your regular dues support. Dues renewal categories are:

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

100th PA Farm Show Set for January 9-16

The 100th Anniversary of the [PA Farm Show](#) will be held in Harrisburg from January 9-16. PFA members will staff an exhibit during the show. Be sure to stop by the exhibit located in the exhibit hall closest to the Maclay Street entrance to the complex.

2016 Conservation Dinner

Mark your calendars and purchase your ticket now to support the PFA's 2016 Conservation Dinner scheduled for **Saturday, March 5** at the Genetti Hotel & Suites in Williamsport, PA. Tickets are \$100/person and can be purchased by sending your payment to the PFA office at 116 Pine Street, 5th Fl., Harrisburg, PA 17101. Proceeds support the yearly operations of the Association. More details will be included in the winter issue of *Pennsylvania Forests* which should be arriving on your doorstep very soon.

Events of Note!

Dr. Peter Linehan, PFA member and President of the PA Forest Fire Museum, will be giving a presentation on [Elwood Brock](#), the first African American forester, on February 17 at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg from noon to 1:00 p.m. for DCNR and DEP employees.

In March, PFA secretary Norm Lacasse will be giving a presentation on [Mira Lloyd Dock](#), a university-trained botanist and ardent conservationist. Details to be announced in future newsletter.

Surveillance Cameras Fight Illegal Dumping

The Michaux State Forest has recently increased efforts to catch and identify illegal dumpers and hold them accountable. Cameras have been located along several roads and trails. With evidence obtained from the hidden cameras several citations have been issued and are awaiting pleas.

DCNR Watershed Education Program has New Website, Water Quality Database

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn recently announced improvements are being made to the [Watershed Education Program](#) intended to give children in grades 6-12 a knowledge base on water-related issues in the hope they will become future community leaders. The new water quality database and redesigned website will make it easier for teachers and students to collect and store data on mobile devices, allowing for real-time data entry at a stream site.

Drillers Win Procedural Ruling on DEP Permit Review For Impacts on Public Resources

Commonwealth Court ruled recently that DEP does have to file responses to a challenge from the PA Independent Oil and Gas Association challenging DEP's right to review conventional oil and gas drilling permits for their impacts on rare and endangered species, parks, drinking water supplies, and other public resources.

Funding, Experts Available to Help Farmers Transition to Organic Production

Farmers considering the [transition](#) to organic production can apply for funding to help ensure a smooth process through the Organic Transition Assistance Program. The program is the most recent offering of the Department of Agriculture to help farmers and agribusiness in the transition process. Up to \$1500 will be reimbursed for costs associated with the process.

News from PA Forest Heritage Association

The PA Forest Heritage Association (formerly the PA Forest Fire Museum Association) has released the 2015 fourth quarter newsletter, [Burning Issues](#), detailing activities of the Association.

New Director for Bureau of State Parks named by DCNR

John S. Hallas has been appointed as the new Director for the Bureau of State Parks to replace David L. Kemmerer who has retired after serving various positions at DCNR since 1975 and as State Parks Director since 2012. Hallas has worked for the Bureau of Parks since 2000, first serving as a park manager trainee at the Region 3 Office in Schellsburg, Bedford County. He has work experience with the Canoe Creek State Park Complex in Blair County, Prince Gallitzin State Park in Cambria County, and Tobyhanna State Park in Monroe County.

Maintaining Dirt and Gravel Roads in Your Woodlands (thanks to John Laskowski for sharing this information)

Mike Klimkos, former Dirt and Gravel Road Program Coordinator with the State Conservation Commission will be the featured speaker at the Thursday, January 14 meeting of the Cumberland Woodland Owners Association. He will be speaking about the importance of proper design and maintenance of roads for private forest landowners. The meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Cumberland County Extension Office which is located at 310 Allen Road in Carlisle. You do not have to be a member and there is no cost to attend.

Runoff from dirt roads is a major source of sediment in streams. It contributes to flooding, increases streambank erosion and decreases water quality. There are practices for new or existing roads that private forest landowners can use to minimize erosion potential. The benefits of road stabilization include less road maintenance, less wear and tear on vehicles, better access, improved water quality and reduced flood damage. To learn more about the resources available to assist landowners with designing and maintaining forests roads, plan to attend this meeting.

The Cumberland Woodland Owners Association is an organization of forestland owners and others interested in forestry issues in south central Pennsylvania. For more information about the meeting or the Cumberland Woodland Owners Association, contact Fred Peabody at 717/776-3565 (email: fredp5@earthlink.net) or Mike Waldron, 717-677-7317 (email: mdwald57@yahoo.com).

Timber Tax Filing for the 2015 Tax Year (thanks to Nancy Baker for passing along this opportunity)

You are invited to attend our latest Live Webinar sponsored by: USDA Forest Service, NC Cooperative Extension, Southern Region Extension Forestry, Texas Agrilife Extension.

Title: [Timber Tax Filing for the 2015 Tax Year](#)

What will you learn?

Timber tax laws have changed due to the new tax law that was passed by Congress in December 2015. Brand new tax provisions on capital gains for timber corporations will affect timber businesses and owners. Business deductions on equipment costs have been increased significantly. Special charitable donation deduction on qualified conservation easement was extended. To help the 2015 tax return filing, this one-hour webinar will cover the rules for timber tax reporting, including the latest law changes. It will cover the 1099 filing that the foresters must know. Bring your tax questions to get answers from the presenter. [learn more here..](#)

Presenters/Authors:

Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, USDA Forest Service

Education Credits from the following organizations continuing education programs have been approved or applied for: Society of American Foresters - 1 hour Category 1 Credit [status: Approved]

How to Obtain Get instructions on how to obtain Continuing Education Credits.

Session Details:

Jan 22, 2016 1:00 pm US/Eastern Duration: 01:00 (hh:mm)  [Export Event To Calendar](#)

*** Please join the session 15 minutes prior to the start of the webinar. ***

Who should participate?

landowners
foresters
loggers
timber companies
extension agents
natural resource agency program staff and directors
CPAs
Tax Enrolled Agents
attorneys
other tax preparers

Share This Event:   

[How to Join](#) Get instructions on how to Join this event.

This webinar is sponsored by: **USDA Forest Service, NC Cooperative Extension, Southern Region Extension Forestry, Texas Agrilife Extension**

Stay up-to-date:

Need a refresher or continuing education credits? Watch recorded webinars on hundreds of natural resource topics [here](#).

SUBSCRIBE Want to stay up-to-date with the latest research and industry practices in forestry, conservation, bioenergy and natural resources? Subscribe to our e-mailing list to receive announcements on webinars that will help you!

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 01-06-2016 [Why the Government Owns So Much Land in the West](#)
The United States government owns 47 percent of all land in the West. In some states, including Oregon, Utah and Nevada, the majority of land is owned by the federal government. Of course, it used to own nearly all of it. And that remaining ownership and management of large tracts of forest and... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-04-2016 [PGC: Seedling Sales Have Begun](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-04-2016 [PDA: History of Farm Show Chronicled in 100th Book, Available During Upcoming...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-04-2016 [Outdoor notes](#)
Huntington Mills United Sportsmen Camp 271 will host its annual coyote hunt beginning Jan. 22. The hunt begins at midnight on Jan. 22 and runs through 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 24. Cost per hunter is \$25 with a \$1,000 grand prize to the heaviest coyote. A \$500 prize will be awarded to the second place finisher. There will be a... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 01-04-2016 [USFS fighting Emerald Ash Borer](#)
The U.S. Forest Service is on the attack against Emerald Ash Borer on the Allegheny National Forest. A remediation initiative has been proposed by the USFS "to reduce the decline of white ash, eastern hemlock and American beech" due to the invasive bug in a project area of 102,832 acres on the ANF, according to a... - [Warren Times Observer](#)

- 01-04-2016 [**Outdoors calendar, week beginning Jan. 9**](#)
SATURDAY Explore the Winter Woods of Speedwell Forge: 10 a.m.-noon. For ages 6 and up. Join naturalist Andy Yoder to celebrate "Winter Trails Day" at Speedwell Forge County Park, 480 Speedwell Forge Road, Lititz. Participants will get to explore the frozen wet meadows, field edges and... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-04-2016 [**Comments sought on emerald ash borer project**](#)
The Allegheny National Forest's Bradford Ranger District is proposing a project to reduce the decline of white ash, eastern hemlock and American beech due to the emerald ash borer. Proposed activities on the 102,832 acre Bradford Emerald Ash Borer Remediation project include tree harvests,... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 12-29-2015 [**Pennsylvania Game Commission cutting staff**](#)
Pennsylvania Game Commission officials warned late last summer without an increase in the cost of hunting licenses, there would be consequences. They have arrived. It is the agency's employees who are feeling them first. Commission press secretary Travis Lau confirmed Monday the agency is... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-28-2015 [**Looking back on a busy 2015 in the outdoors**](#)
From cutting deer browse in frigid February temperatures to trapping doves in the August heat, we experienced a lot of extremes in the outdoors in 2015. And a lot of species. Everything from trout and osprey to bats and bears, 2015 was a busy year in the field offering a firsthand look at the wildlife that roams the region... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 12-28-2015 [**The Yellowstone of the Future**](#)
Bozeman, Mont. — PERHAPS, like me, you were among the tens of millions who visited one of our national parks this year. If you did, you most likely shared my appreciation for the foresight of previous generations to set aside treasures like Yellowstone. This legacy of conservation has long... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-22-2015 [**Chester County land groups and legislators praise budget passage**](#)
The \$1.1 trillion tax and spending legislation signed into law last week by President Barack Obama features two initiatives that are being hailed by local land conservation groups and members of Congress as essential to preserving open space and park land across the region and the country.... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 12-22-2015 [**Gene Drives Offer New Hope Against Diseases and Crop Pests**](#)
Biologists in the United States and Europe are developing a revolutionary genetic technique that promises to provide an unprecedented degree of control over insect-borne diseases and crop pests. The technique involves a mechanism called a gene drive system, which... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-21-2015 [**Walkabout: Where the birds are, by the thousands**](#)
On the coldest morning of the season so far, a clutch of birders gathered at the Wingfield Pines Conservation Area on Saturday. By 8 a.m., Dave Wilton and John Schreiber had already counted 3,000 birds. To see the most birds in action, you have to get there before you can see... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-21-2015 [**Letter: Citizen tip helped finger dumper in forest**](#)
On November 27, the Pocono Record ran a short editorial, "No pretty picture: Pocono scenes we'd rather not see," and a photograph of a garbage dump site in the Ivan Swamp Parking Area, in Delaware State Forest, in Monroe County. The editorial included the contact information for... - [Pocono Record](#)

- 12-20-2015 [**Mild weather modifies wildlife patterns across U.S.**](#)
For now, the El Niño-driven mild weather is a boon to some wildlife, which are able to forage for more food and are using less energy surviving, experts say. But for some species — like snowshoe hares, whose white fur makes them conspicuous to predators — the lack of snow isn't good... - [AP](#)
- 12-20-2015 [**Congress has refused to pay the bill for fighting wildfires. The country's Agriculture chief is fuming.**](#)
Round fire burning at Wheeler Crest near Bishop, Calif. in February. (AP Photo/Jim Stimson via CalFire) Now that Congress has inked a budget deal, more details are spilling out about who won and who lost, and in the crucial area of fighting wildfires, the U.S. Forest Service definitely lost.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 12-20-2015 [**Firewood, timber prices up this winter**](#)
The price for firewood is up this season with timber experts saying a shortage in last year's long, bitter winter has inspired folks to hoard it. A dump truck's worth of wood, or roughly 6½ cords, costs about \$700 split and delivered. That's up \$50 to \$100 from last year, said Paul... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-20-2015 [**Letters to the Editor 12/20/15**](#)
Tax incentive vital to conservation effort Farms and forests, natural areas, green spaces in our neighborhoods — all help define the places that we think of as home. These lands don't just provide scenic beauty; they safeguard drinking water, reduce flooding,... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 12-20-2015 [**Outdoors with Tom Venesky: A game changer for Pennsylvania wildlife**](#)
It's tough to ignore. When I spent the opening days of deer season in a heavy coat and insulated pants to protect against the morning cold, and finish the season two weeks later wearing a sweatshirt and baseball cap as temperatures reached into the 60s, it makes me believe there's some merit to the notion that our... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 12-18-2015 [**DCNR: Salvage Harvest of Hazardous Trees Planned at Bald Eagle State Park**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-17-2015 [**Water industry wins round in fight against ban on plastic bottles in national parks**](#)
The bottled water industry and the National Park Service have been wrestling for eight months over the parks' campaign to slash sales of disposable water bottles to visitors to reduce the litter they leave behind. This week, Big Water's allies in Congress put the parks on the... - [Washington Post](#)
- 12-16-2015 [**Employer focus: Presque Isle State Park, one of Erie's main tourist attractions**](#)
The peninsula became a state park in 1921. Before that the Erie Waterworks managed the waterworks area as a picnic and recreation area. The rest of the peninsula was undeveloped. The park has grown and changed significantly since its inception. It has around 4 million visitors a year. Most of the visitors enjoy the... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 12-16-2015 [**Allegheny forest opening snowmobile trails even with no snow**](#)
WARREN - The Allegheny National Forest is opening its snowmobile trails this week - whether it's snowed by then or not. Crews plan to open the trails at 8 a.m. Saturday. Forest supervisor Sherry Tune says "While we cannot predict if there

will be snow cover by Saturday, we will have the trails open and ready for use... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

- 12-15-2015 [**Jt. Legislative Conservation Committee Environmental Synopsis for Dec. 2015**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-15-2015 [**Marshall Legislation Authorizing Wheelchair Use During Hunting Signed into Law**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-15-2015 [**Preserving land protects more than just open space | Editorial**](#)
A Princeton couple has given an early holiday gift to their neighbors, and to Garden State residents in general. It's one that will keep on giving for generations to come. Last month, Barbara and Michael Blumenthal donated 10 acres of land in the Princeton Ridge area – 10 acres teeming with migratory bird species and... - [Trenton Times](#)
- 12-14-2015 [**A nostalgic look at Christmas tree production in Pennsylvania**](#)
In 2002, Pennsylvania was ranked No. 1 in Christmas tree production with 2,164 farms in 66 counties dedicating land to the business of growing commercial evergreens. - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 12-14-2015 [**Conserve land for public benefit**](#)
Farms and forests, natural areas, green spaces in our neighborhoods — all help define the places that we think of as home. These lands don't just provide scenic beauty; they safeguard drinking water, reduce flooding, provide food and timber, protect wildlife and more.... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 12-13-2015 [**Doe tag regulation could become law**](#)
Heard the one about the guy with 40 doe tags? A legislative bill would turn a current Game Commission regulation into a state law limiting to three the number of antlerless deer licenses a hunter can receive per year. An exception could be made in areas with special... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

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.