



Forestry News You Can Use

December 2016

produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies
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Please visit us on our Web site at <http://www.paforestry.org/>

WELCOME TREE FARMERS

The PFA Board welcomes approximately 750 PA Tree Farmers to Pennsylvania Forestry Association membership.

After a comprehensive strategic planning process the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee voted to pursue third-party certification of PA Tree Farms through the American Tree Farm System. This action will yield current and future benefits for PA certified Tree Farms. To be a "Certified Tree Farm" means PA Tree Farmers will join an elite group of Tree Farmers who are recognized globally for sustainable forest management. The ability to offer certified products also supports Pennsylvania's vibrant forest products industry as new "certified" wood markets and products are developed and expanded.

It was recognized early on that Tree Farm certification will require professional record keeping and administration. To this end, the PA TFC voted to consolidate with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA). Both organizations share the objective of sustainable management of PA's timber, water, recreation and wildlife resources.

PFA and the PA TFC are moving ahead with the implementation of a plan to consolidate the PFA and PA TFC operations. Basically PFA has become the "administrative home" for the PA TFC. The following implementation steps are completed or underway.

- Training on the Tree Farm database has been conducted by the staff of the American Forest Foundation for the staff of Versant Strategies, PFA's association management firm.

- The Tree Farm checking account has been closed and the remaining funds have been transferred to PFA for custodial management.
- The Tree Farm Committee is now a PFA Standing Committee and as such will report quarterly to the PFA Board of Directors.
- Tree Farm members will begin receiving Pennsylvania Forests magazine in 2017 and the PFA monthly electronic newsletter "Forestry News You Can Use" beginning in December 2016.
- PFA and the TFC will host the cost of the first year (2017) of PFA Tree Farmer membership. After this one year of hosted PFA TF membership Tree Farmers will be invoiced for PFA TF 2018 annual dues of approximately \$50-\$100 in October 2017.
- The TFC committee will be asked to suggest presentations of interest for tree farmers at the PFA 2016 Annual Meeting.
- The PFA Executive Committee members and Tree Farm Committee leadership members will meet regularly for the first year to further coordinate this joint transition plan.

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association and Tree Farm Committee are excited about the opportunity to move the Tree Farm program ahead in Pennsylvania in concert with the new national initiative to accelerate certification of Pennsylvania Tree Farms.

All future contacts by mail, phone or email regarding the Tree Farm Program should be directed to the following address and phone number: Pennsylvania Forestry Association, 116 Pine Street, 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101
thepfa@paforestry.org, 1-800-835-8065 or 717-234-2500.

PFA & NPC Partner for Documentary Series

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) is partnering with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) to provide regional showings of several PBS documentaries about Pennsylvania conservation heroes. To help disseminate the message, the Forest Conservation Heritage Committee has been working hard to inform people about the work they have done to ensure our wellbeing today and into the future. NPC and PFA would like to help in the effort.

As a beginning, PFA and NPC have partnered to provide the first showing as part of a series of films hosted by the Tioga County Countryside Council (TCCC). TCCC is a citizen's organization, with a full diversity of interests. Their goal is to bridge and cross existing political, social and economic boundaries. Their major function will be to facilitate countywide communications, planning and visioning, and cooperative action throughout Tioga County.

The TCCC 2017 film series will kick off with the PBS documentaries "Mira Lloyd Dock: A Beautiful Crusade" and "Gifford Pinchot's Conservation Legacy" and will take place at the historic Victoria Theatre in Blossburg, Pennsylvania on January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a glimpse into the past to carry on our mission to promote the values of forest land to our citizens.

PFA is looking forward to working with TCCC and other like-minded organizations to promote our own legacy of conservation in Pennsylvania. Look for other showings throughout the northcentral Pennsylvania region.

For additional information check

out: <http://www.paforestry.org>; <http://www.paconservationheritage.org/>; and <http://www.tiogapartnership.org/work-groups/tioga-county-countryside-council/>

2017 PA Farm Show

Make plans now to visit the 2017 [PA Farm Show](#) on January 7 through the 14th! Be sure to check out the PA Forestry Association's exhibit in the Main Hall along the Maclay Street side of the building complex.

2017 Conservation Dinner

Hold the date March 4, 2017 for the PFA's Annual Conservation Dinner Fund Raiser. Registration and ticket information will be in the winter issue of *Pennsylvania Forests* magazine and posted on the PFA web site in January. Tickets are limited and go fast! Don't delay in getting your ticket and the chance to win \$10,000.

2017 PENNSYLVANIA FOREST LANDOWNERS CONFERENCE

March 24 and 25, 2017 the 3rd Biennial PA Forest Landowners Conference will again take place at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA. For registration information: ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference

Domtar Paper Company Presents Check to Bald Eagle Area High School for Forest Management Project



THE EXPRESS Domtar Paper Company, which is the largest North American manufacturer of uncoated paper, has committed \$10,000 to support Bald Eagle Area School District in a collaborative forest management project. From left to right: Tim Cole, Centre County service forester for DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Rep. Glenn Thompson; Gerald Hoy, Mifflin and Union counties' service forester for DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Tom Letterman, Bald Eagle Area School District board member; Mark Ott of Pennsylvania Forestry Association; Jim Finley of Penn State's Center for Private Forests; Grant Forrest, general manager of Domtar Paper Company; Mike Eckley, forester for The Nature Conservancy; and Jeff Miles, Bald Eagle Area School District superintendent.

A collaborative forest management project has been launched to provide many potential opportunities for Bald Eagle Area School District.

The Domtar Paper Company presented BEA with a \$10,000 donation to help fund the project, and several contributors and supporters of the project talked at Bald Eagle Area High School about the project and its future.

"This is an exciting day for me because I've been working on this for six years, so I've been trying to get the school to have a forestry plan for just over 400 acres of forest that they have in Wingate," said Mark Ott, a BEA retiree and member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

To Ott, the importance of the forest management plan, which will serve as a working guide to maximize the forest's benefits and help guide the future of the land, is the educational opportunities it will provide for BEA students. He said it will add value to the school district property, and there will also be value added to any timber that comes from the land. In addition, the school district is also looking to start a forestry program, so this project will be a great opportunity for students in that program.

Republished courtesy of the The Express newspaper and www.lockhaven.com

25x'25 Statement on Final 2017 RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

RENEWABLE VOLUME OBLIGATIONS *Statement by Bart Ruth, Chairman, 25x'25 Alliance, WASHINGTON, DC, November 23, 2016 (passed along by Terry Hoffman)*

The 25x'25 Alliance today commends EPA for its wise decision to increase its final renewable volume obligations (RVOs) above the levels proposed when the agency first recommended the 2017 biofuel blending levels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) back in May. Of particular importance is EPA's decision to raise the RVO for conventional biofuels, including corn ethanol, from the proposed 14.8 billion gallons proposed in May to the full 15 billion gallons authorized by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. The agency's decision to meet the statutory requirement reflects an acknowledgement of the economic and energy security benefits that Congress envisioned from biofuels when lawmakers created the RFS 11 years ago. Biofuels offer a cleaner alternative to petroleum-based fuels and the decision to increase the blending levels in 2017 sends a clear signal to investors that growth in the sector is back on course.

For more information on today's announcement from the EPA, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/final-renewable-fuel-standards-2017-and-biomass-based-diesel-volume>

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

Japanese company to build Oregon plant after honing biomass-for-coal process.

<http://www.forestbusinessnetwork.com/65125/japanese-co-to-build-oregon-plant-after-honing-biomass-for-coal-process/>

OP Ed: Congress must break logjam over biomass

<http://www.forestbusinessnetwork.com/65251/op-ed-congress-must-break-logjam-over-biomass/>

11-30-2016

Gatlinburg Wildfires Force Evacuations: 'It Was Like Driving Into Hell'

Deadly wildfires ripped through the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee on Monday night and Tuesday, forcing thousands to flee as emergency responders sought to contain a blaze that conjured biblical comparison. "Everywhere you looked, there were fires everywhere. It was like... - *New York Times*

- 11-28-2016 **PDA: Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expands to Bethlehem, 23 Other...**
(Press Release)
- 11-28-2016 **DEP: Pennsylvania Environmental Stewards: Apply for 2017 Governor's Awards...**
(Press Release)
- 11-28-2016 **Christmas tree season starts with busy post-Thanksgiving weekend in Lancaster County**
Lancaster County families put down their Thanksgiving leftovers and picked up handsaws this weekend to make sure they got the perfect Christmas tree before pickings are slim. "It has to be a Fraser fir, always a Fraser fir," said Elizabeth Masciale-Walmer who was with her husband, Michael, and daughters Sofia and... - *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*
- 11-28-2016 **ANF has plan to deal with emerald ash borer**
The Allegheny National Forest has a plan for dealing with emerald ash borer. "This project was developed to maintain or improve ecological conditions to improve resilience and diversity in stands affected by emerald ash borer, beech bark disease, and hemlock woolly adelgid,"... - *Warren Times Observer*
- 11-23-2016 **Jt. Legislative Conservation Commission Environmental Synopsis for Nov. 2016**
(Press Release)
- 11-23-2016 **Arson suspected in nearly 50-acre mountain wildfire**
The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources suspects the fire that began Monday evening on Mount Penn in Reading was intentionally set. The "cause is suspicious," DCNR press secretary Terry Brady said in an email. "We suspect it was arson."... - *Easton Express-Times*
- 11-21-2016 **Logging effort above Route 56 in Lower Burrell a labor of love**
A succession of loud snaps from crashing limbs are followed by a final thud as a crew of Amish loggers cut century-old hardwood above Route 56 in Lower Burrell. Although youth football fans who regularly line Flyers Field might not consider the surrounding hillside a forest, to a forester, the heavily... - *Tarentum Valley News Dispatch*
- 11-18-2016 **It's late in the season, but some trees, bulbs can still be planted**
The sun has just peaked over the horizon on a chilly morning as Gary Ord from the Davey Tree Expert Co. uses a tractor to load a huge maple tree headed for a South Hills landscape. "You can plant until the ground freezes," says Dick Till, assistant district manager for the company. "A lot of time it's easier on the... - *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*
- 11-14-2016 **N.J. fights back as invasive beetle wipes out ash trees**
TRENTON — An invasive beetle called the emerald ash borer has been killing New Jersey's 50 million ash trees in droves since it was first found in Bridgewater in May of 2014. "It spreads like wildfire," Paul Kurtz, lead entomologist for the state's Emerald Ash Borer Task Force, said. "Our mission now is to slow the... - *Trenton Times*

11-06-2016

Couple donates 53-foot blue spruce for Pittsburgh's Christmas tree

Nancy Ruttner and Andy Sujdak on Saturday re-gifted one of their wedding presents to the City of Pittsburgh. It was hard to part with something they enjoyed for 33 years, Ruttner of the city's Oakwood neighborhood said, but she couldn't think of a better cause.... - *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

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 with articles contributed by PFA Board members and others.