



Forestry News You Can Use February 2016

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Farm Show 2016 Wrap-up Richard Lewis

PFA was pleased to exhibit again at the 2016 Pennsylvania Farm Show. We offer thanks to PFA members and friends Linda and Jim Finley, Norm Lacasse, Richard Lewis, Walt Peechatka, Roy Siefert, John Laskowski, Martin Stolpe, Terry Hoffman, Mark Ott, and Dave Twining who helped staff the PFA Booth this year. Reports from those who staffed the PFA booth indicate that there was very good "traffic" during most days and that they "engaged" hundreds of attendees during the eight day Show. Sales of Chainsaw raffle tickets and "May The Forest Be With You" T-Shirts were brisk! The complimentary copies of the Forest Birds" Winter Issue of *Pennsylvania Forests Magazine* were picked up by hundreds of attendees.

While answering Farm Show attendee's general forestry questions PFA Members also explained the benefits of PFA Membership.

2016 Conservation Dinner Mark Ott

The Annual PFA Conservation Dinner is quickly approaching! This largest fundraiser of the year for PFA will be on March 5, 2016 from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. Don't miss your chance to win \$10,000!!! Tickets are \$100 each and only 350 tickets are available. You do not need to be present to win. However, there are also many great items to bid on in the Live and Silent Auctions. Many of these items come from PFA members and are of great value to those who have an interest in Forestry and the Outdoors. There are practical as well as whimsical items. There are books, tools and historical items. Of greatest interest are the items of art and handmade wood items such as carvings, turned bowls, box calls and furniture.

Contact the PFA office for your tickets today – before they run out!

Most importantly, all PFA members are asked to scour their garages, attics, bookshelves, walls, storage units, vacation homes, woodlots and fields for items to donate for the auctions. No items are too small or large. Great chance to re-gift some of those things that were just not right for you (and what was the gift giver thinking?!). Contact your local businesses and ask if they can support the PFA with a donation to the auction. We are spread across the entire state and there are thousands of opportunities out there. If you are not able to attend the dinner but have items to donate, please contact the office so that arrangements can be made to get the items to the dinner.

Please give your utmost thought, concentration and action to this very important aspect of the event of the year! Tired of that old Ned Smith signed print on the wall? Donate it! Fed up with that old shotgun that can't seem to hit the broadside of a turkey? Donate it! Signed letter from Gifford Pinchot appointing your ancestor to the PA State Forest Service taking up valuable space in your home office? Donate it! Too much wild blueberry jam from a bumper crop in your woodlands? Donate it! You all get the idea, now, please, get out there and find things to fill the auction tables!

Attached is a word file with the silent auction bid sheet. If you fill out the top of one of these for each item you are submitting, it helps to speed up the process of setting up on the day of the Dinner. This is a two sided file, but if you can only print one side, the first page is fine. **If you have any questions, please contact Mark Ott at 814-470-0777.**

NGO's pushing for a "National" Environmental Policy Act on PA State Forests (Source: PFFPA)

A coalition of eleven environmental groups are calling on DCNR to implement a version of the environmental impact process similar to what is used on National Forests under the National Environmental Policy Act. The coalition sent a letter to DCNR as part of the comments on the State Forest Resource Management Plan prior to last week's closure of the comment period. These groups are calling for public meetings on all environmental impacts related to forestry activities or surface access on DCNR lands for gas extraction.

The coalition also calls upon DCNR to follow its obligations under Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution (Environmental Rights Amendment) to conserve and maintain Pennsylvania's State Forest Resources. Furthermore that DCNR should clearly and expressly explain how any development on state forest land will prevent material damage to the forest. The coalition notes that If DCNR is not able to explain this the activity should not occur out of deference to the ERA.

Some of the groups signed onto the letter are PennFuture, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, PennEnvironment, Keystone Trails Association, Clean Water Action, and the Audubon Society.

PFA leadership will be monitoring this situation closely because it appears on the surface to be another thinly veiled attempt at further curtailing the already reduced and very sustainable levels of current PA State Forest timber and pulpwood harvesting.

Governor Wolf Announces Task Force to Maximize Job Creation in Forest Products Industry

Acting on recommendations of Governor Tom Wolf, a panel of forestry experts from private, public and academic sectors recently kicked off a series of meetings to analyze current limitations to forest conservation and job growth, and to develop an action plan to address both objectives. "One of Pennsylvania's greatest strengths is our natural resources," said Governor Wolf. Over 57% of Pennsylvania is forested and prioritizing conservation and job growth related to this field is vital to creating a sustainable, dynamic industry." The [Green Ribbon Task Force](#) was called together following extended discussion between Governor Wolf and DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn on how Pennsylvania's nearly 17 million acres of forestland could best plan an active role in his call for statewide job creation.

DCNR Announces New Staff Appointments

John Norbeck, former Director of DCNR Bureau of State Parks, has assumed the position of Deputy Secretary of Parks and Forestry. John Hallis, former Assistant Director, Bureau of State Parks, has been promoted to Director, Bureau of State Parks in DCNR. Dr. Gale Blackmer has been named Director, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, at the agency.

Pennsylvania Unveils a Comprehensive Strategy to "Reboot" the State's Efforts to Improve Water Quality in the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay

After 30 years of work that has prevented millions of pounds of pollutants from reaching Pennsylvania's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, the Commonwealth continues to face immense pressure from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve water quality. The new plan, developed [jointly](#) by the departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, as well as the State Conservation Commission brings new focus to the state's efforts to help protect the Chesapeake Bay while emphasizing the need for balance and resilience. "The agriculture industry is responsible for contributing three-quarters of the total nutrient reductions expected by 2025" said Agriculture Secretary, Russell Redding. "Of the many best management practices that improve the quality of waters and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the single best may be the restoration of riparian forest buffers along stream banks to provide critical barriers between polluting landscapes and receiving waterways" said DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn.

Susquehanna North Branch Named Pennsylvania River of the Year

The free-flowing Susquehanna River North Branch in northeastern Pennsylvania has been voted the 2016 Pennsylvania River of the Year following a five-week public voting period.

Governor's Office Announces \$28 Million for DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grants

DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn recently announced on behalf of Governor Wolf an [investment](#) of \$28 million for 176 projects across Pennsylvania that will create new recreational opportunities, conserve natural resources and help revitalize local communities.

PFA Accelerates its Public Relations Effort

Following the submission of PFA's comments on the Draft State Forest Management Plan to DCNR recently, PFA issued a news release to the agricultural press outlets outlining the PFA positions on several important aspects of the SFRMP. PFA members are encouraged to look for the release in newspapers and newsletters throughout the state. Attached are a copy of the news release and the Final SFRMP comments that PFA submitted.

Making Maple Syrup in Your Back Yard from George Hurd, Penn State Extension & forwarded by John Laskowski

Have you always wanted to make syrup from the maple trees on your property? Here's your chance to learn how. "Making Maple Syrup in Your Back Yard" is the topic of the Monday, February 8, 2016, meeting of the Cumberland Woodland Owners Association. Wilbur and Peggy Wolf will speak about the basics of making maple syrup on a small scale in your own backyard. Information will include selection of trees, tapping, sap collection, equipment overview, and boiling as well as finishing and storing syrup. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM, at the Franklin County Ag Heritage Building which is located at 185 Franklin Farm Lane in Chambersburg. The meeting is open to the public. You do not have to be a member of the association and there is no cost to attend. The meeting is handicap accessible. Click here for [directions](#).

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).

PA Mammal Atlas

The [Pennsylvania Game Commission](#) and its partners at the Pennsylvania Biological Survey have created a website for gathering information and photos on elusive animals that you may have spotted in your county. The atlas project is designed to map the current locations of the 64 wild mammal species found in Pennsylvania. In addition to the survey being conducted by professional wildlife biologists to capture these photos and information, input from the general public – citizen scientists – will help the PA Game Commission survey more territory and creating a more comprehensive snapshot. According to DCNR, "In completing the Pennsylvania Mammal Atlas project, citizens and researchers will gather much-needed information on rare and elusive mammal species. Species distribution maps will be updated, and researchers will have a greater foundation for future projects and a better understanding of where to focus conservation efforts." Grab your camera!

Events Reminder!

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.

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

PFA receives an interesting weekly email publication from the National Woodland Owners Association called "Wednesday Woodland Word". [View as a webpage](#) Check it out.

[The Governor: Executive Orders: Governor's Advisory Councils for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#)

By way of Executive Order No. 2015-13, Gov. Tom Wolf established the Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, and the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation.

- 02-03-2016 **[Seedling sale supports environment](#)**
Help support a great cause, improve the environment and beautify your property by participating in the 42nd annual Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale. Each year over 20,000 seedlings are sold and planted in York County and surrounding areas. Featured this year are numerous seedlings native to the... - [York Daily](#)
- 02-03-2016 **[Citizen-scientists can report stream health in Pennsylvania](#)**
UNIVERSITY PARK If you enjoy wildlife, fishing, nature walks, paddle sports and other streamside activities, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences now is giving you a chance to parlay those interests into becoming a citizen-scientist by observing and recording environmental and ecosystem... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)
- 02-03-2016 **[The hidden environmental factors behind the spread of Zika and other devastating diseases](#)**
The alarming spread of the Zika virus — caused in major part by the infamous Aedes aegypti mosquito, which can also carry dengue, yellow fever and chikungunya virus — is looking more and more like a public health catastrophe. But it's also, say experts, something else: The latest... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-02-2016 **[Pipeline squeezing out Susquehanna County maple sugar farm](#)**
Sap now flowing from the maple trees on North Harford Maple lands could be pinched off as an interstate pipeline project advances through Susquehanna County. Constitution Pipeline Co. LLC last Tuesday received partial approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to start felling trees... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-02-2016 **[Lumber Liquidators to pay \\$10 million in timber-sourcing case](#)**
Lumber Liquidators must pay \$10 million in fines and penalties for telling U.S. officials that timber for its wood flooring came from Germany rather than the actual source — the habitats of endangered Siberian tigers in Asia. Shares of Lumber Liquidators jumped as much as 17 percent on the news, with... - [Washington Post](#)

- 02-01-2016 **[Outdoors notebook: Chemicals changing bass across Northeast](#)**
If the fish examined in a recent study are any indication, the bass swimming in local waters may be more special than they appear. And not necessarily in a good way. Researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey tested black bass on waters on or near 19 national wildlife refuges... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-01-2016 **[Nature Center given 45 acres](#)**
The Endless Mountains Nature Center recently promoted its mission to encourage the preservation of the natural environment by receiving a generous donation of 45 acres of forest land in Washington Township on Dec. 29. - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 02-01-2016 **[5 things you don't want to miss at the Great American Outdoor Show](#)**
The Great American Outdoor Show opens at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on Saturday, and runs through Feb. 14. This will be the third year the show is being run by the NRA, but a winter outdoors show at the Farm Show building has been a southcentral... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-01-2016 **[Thompson to host forum on threat of invasive species](#)**
BELLEFONTE — Congressman Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., chairman of the agriculture subcommittee on conservation and forestry, announced plans to host a forum from 8-9:30 a.m. Feb. 5 at Penn State University's Forest Resources Building. The event, entitled "The Threat of Invasive Species to Penn's... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 02-01-2016 **[Natural gas income from Pennsylvania forests takes big fall](#)**
A drop in natural gas prices is now also affecting the state of Pennsylvania's coffers... - [AP](#)
- 01-29-2016 **[Alternatives to rock salt keep urban trees, pavements, pets safer](#)**
It's 11 degrees as Ben Boggio and Marah Vecenie stand bundled up at the intersection of Eighth and Penn avenues, Downtown. The pair might be shivering a bit, but they are there to talk about an interesting new strategy for melting ice and snow that is safer for trees,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-27-2016 **[Our national parks are under attack](#)**
For America's national parks, 2016 was supposed to start differently. On Jan. 1, the National Park Service kicked off its centennial celebrations at the Rose Bowl parade, where colorful floats with grizzly bears and waterfalls rolled past cheering crowds in honor of the creation of the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-26-2016 **[Bald eagle nest cam update: Will snow from Winter Storm Jonas impact egg laying?](#)**
The several inches of snow from Winter Storm Jonas now covering most of the bald eagle nest at Codorus State Park near Hanover likely will have no impact on egg laying or nesting success this year. "The snow shouldn't be an issue," said Patti Barber, endangered bird... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-22-2016 **[Flying high — Hike in eagle population draws visitors to Eagle Watch event](#)**
During his past 37 years of employment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, park ranger Steve Lauser has seen the eagle population steadily increase near the Kinzua Dam on Route 59 in Warren County. On Feb. 6, visitors to the Big Bend Recreation Area in Warren County can... - [Bradford Era](#)

- 01-21-2016 [**DEP News for January 21, 2016**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-21-2016 [**Longtime hiker donates 32 acres near Speedwell Forge park to Lancaster County Conservancy**](#)
A longtime hiker and outdoors enthusiast has made a lasting donation to Lancaster County's natural lands. Claire dePerrot, of Lititz, has donated a nearly 32-acre tract of woods in Elizabeth Township to the Lancaster County Conservancy. She purchased the land in order to save it.... - [*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*](#)
- 01-19-2016 [**Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's camera loan program combats illegal dumping**](#)
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, a statewide organization whose mission is to empower Pennsylvanians to make communities clean and beautiful, launched IllegalDumpFreePA.org in 2015, a website that houses community resources to fight illegal dumping. The site includes a Municipalities Toolkit that... - [*Meadville Tribune*](#)
- 01-17-2016 [**Trail improvements planned for Erie's McClelland Park**](#)
A \$10,000 grant from the Sierra Club Foundation will help fund a spring and summer project to improve the recreational trail network at Erie's McClelland Park. The forested, 56-acre public park on the city's east side is owned and maintained by the city of Erie.... - [*Erie Times-News*](#)
- 01-15-2016 [**DCNR gypsy moth removal costs skyrocket**](#)
JIM THORPE — Carbon County will be paying the state twice as much to spray more than 1,000 acres for gypsy moth caterpillars at Mauch Chunk Lake Park this year. The cost to participate in the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' gypsy moth suppression program increased from \$26 to \$54 an... - [*Hazleton Standard-Speaker*](#)
- 01-13-2016 [**Your Woodlands: Looking forward to 2016**](#)
If you are a forest landowner, you should have a plan that organizes your personal objectives into a comprehensive strategy for attaining what you want from your woods. You should have a Forest Stewardship Plan. The most basic function of a Forest Stewardship Plan is... - [*Waynesboro Record Herald*](#)
- 01-11-2016 [**The Larger, but Quieter Than Bundy, Push to Take Over Federal Land**](#)
DENVER — Ken Ivory, a Republican state representative from Utah, has been roaming the West with an alluring pitch to cattle ranchers, farmers and conservatives upset with how Washington controls the wide-open public spaces out here: This land is your land, he says, and not the federal... - [*New York Times*](#)

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.