



## **Forestry News You Can Use March 2016**

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### **PFA's Conservation Dinner on Saturday!**

The PFA's 2016 Conservation Dinner will be held this Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Williamsport, PA. There are just a few tickets left for sale so if you are still looking for one, please contact the PFA office immediately at (717) 234-2500 or 1-800-835-8065. If you have secured a ticket and have an item for the silent auction, please use the attached sales sheet to prep your item for Saturday's event. Silent Auction items are available for viewing beginning at 3:00 p.m. so come early to scout for treasures! The live auction will commence after dinner and, of course, the highly anticipated drawing for the \$10,000 first prize will follow the auction. Questions? Contact Debbie at the phone numbers listed or send an email to [thepfa@paforestry.org](mailto:thepfa@paforestry.org) Thank you for supporting **YOUR** association!

### **Hardwood Development Council Names Executive Director**

Wayne Bender, a long-time advocate for Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry has been named Executive Director of Pennsylvania's Hardwoods Development Council.

### **Harrisburg's Famous Peregrine Falcons Return for Valentine's Day**

The city's famous pair of peregrine falcons returned to their nest on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building just in time for Valentine's Day. To celebrate, the Department of Environmental Protection on February 19<sup>th</sup> launched a redesigned falcon website that features a high definition, three-camera live video feed of the nest that will now be streamed year-round. Valentine's Day is typically the time when the falcons renew their courtship behavior. If their courtship is successful, the first of several eggs should arrive around mid-March. The first egg of 2015 arrived March 16<sup>th</sup>. To learn more, visit DEP's new [Peregrine Falcon](#) webpage.

### **DCNR Now Accepting Applications For Community Conservation Partnership Grants**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is now accepting applications for its 2016 round of Community Conservation Partnership Grants. The deadline for applications is April 13. Grant assistance from the Department helps communities and organizations in the Commonwealth plan, acquire and develop

recreation, park and trail facilities, and conserve open space. This year's grant program encourages applications that advance local conservation and recreation vision and those that implement the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019. Applications and instructions are available on DCNR's [apply for grants](#) webpage or contact the Department's Grants Customer Service Center at (800)326-7734.

### **DCNR Secretary Testifies Before Senate Appropriations Committee**

DCNR Secretary, Cindy Adams Dunn, appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee on February 24<sup>th</sup> to respond to [questions](#) about the DCNR proposed budget for 2016-2017. One of the bigger issues discussed was the impact of the decline in revenues generated by the drilling for natural gas under state forest lands. Secretary Dunn informed the committee that the Department will be relying more on general fund revenue to support its operation in the next fiscal year because of the decline in drilling activity and the low price of natural gas at present. To emphasize this point, Secretary Dunn informed the committee that there are currently no drilling rigs on state forest land. The diversity of questions posed to the Secretary ranged from All-Terrain Vehicles access to roads and trails, the absence of life guards at state park beaches, deer management, to the need for increasing the volume of timber sales thereby increasing the economic impact from the harvest of those timberlands.

### **2016 Tree Farm Inspector Certification Training Session** *Dave Jackson*

Thursday, April 7, 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM. Earth Science Center, Room 120, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Montgomery, PA. Prior registration is required. Register by e-mail or phone: Call Penn State Extension – Centre County, (814) 355-4897 or e-mail [CentreExt@psu.edu](mailto:CentreExt@psu.edu)

### **Genetically Engineered American Chestnut**

Dr. Henry Gerhold recommended sharing the article written by Dr. William Powell, "New genetically engineered American chestnut will help restore the decimated, iconic tree", which was published in January in *The Conversation*. Dr. Powell gave PFA permission to include a link to this article in the monthly electronic newsletter. Clicking on the [article](#) may first bring up comments that were submitted by readers but if you wait a moment, the article itself will be available for reading.

### **Pennsylvania Hardwood Research and Promotion Program in Jeopardy** *Richard Lewis*

Funding for the Hardwood Research and Promotion line item in the Department of Agriculture for both the current fiscal year and the next year is in jeopardy. This \$350,000 line item is one of 12 Agriculture-related budget line items vetoed by Governor Wolf in December. The Governor's recently proposed budget for next year also failed to fund the Hardwoods Development Council (HDC).

The Hardwood Research and Promotion line item is the primary means of financial support for the Department's Hardwoods Development Council, whose activities remain critically needed today. The HDC has proven its past worth with an

exemplary track record of identifying and developing new domestic and international markets for Pennsylvania's hardwood products.

HDC has also increased Pennsylvania's international forest products competitiveness through targeted research and by providing targeted technical assistance. The efforts of the Council have established a brand, "Pennsylvania Hardwoods", recognized by hardwood buyers across the globe.

This line item also provides funding for three regional hardwood utilization groups which provide local technical assistance, workforce development, logger development and outreach efforts in a total of 33 counties in northern and central Pennsylvania. Without this funding from the HDC, one or more of these utilization groups will also fail to survive.

The \$350,000 line item for Hardwoods Research and Promotion amounts to only 0.23 percent of the total budget of the Department of Agriculture. PFA encourages you to express your feelings, one way or the other, to your own respective State Senator and State Representative about this budget cut and how it impacts you, your forest land, or your business. Feel free to use any part of this message to express your feelings.

**Program Schedule of Woodland Owners Association Activities in Mifflin, Juniata & Perry Counties** *Gerald Hoy*

See attached brochure.

***Articles of Interest***

*Following are articles specific to your interests:*

- 03-02-2016 [Dear governor: Agriculture too critical to ignore](#)  
Since 1855, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Penn State University have partnered to create one of the most notable agriculture institutions across the nation. The university, on behalf of the commonwealth, provides important research, teaching and extension support in the animal, plant, food, engineering,... - [New Castle News](#)
- 03-01-2016 [Center for Rural PA: Rural Perspectives for March/April 2016](#)  
(Press Release)
- 03-01-2016 [Weis Markets Renews Support Of Keep PA Beautiful's Great American Cleanup of PA](#)  
(Press Release)
- 03-01-2016 [Are oil and gas drillers shortchanging the state on royalty payments?](#)  
State agencies expected to receive lower royalty payments during the industry downturn, but there's now concern they're being

shortchanged by the oil and gas drillers leasing Pennsylvania forests and game lands. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources last year... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 03-01-2016 **[Invasive Species Aren't Always Unwanted](#)**  
Invasive species are bad news, or so goes the conventional wisdom, encouraged by persistent warnings from biologists about the dangers of foreign animals and plants moving into new territories. Conservation organizations bill alien species as the foremost threat to... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-29-2016 **[Outdoor notices: Feb. 29, 2016](#)**  
Hiking • Cook Forest State Park in Clarion County will host an "eagle watch" hike along the North Country Trail at 10 a.m. Friday. It's a challenging 3.2-mile walk with a 1,000-foot elevation gain, so bring binoculars, spotting scopes, a lunch and possibly snowshoes. This is an... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-29-2016 **[On the Horizon: Pennsylvania Outdoor Calendar, Feb. 28, 2016](#)**  
To list your outdoor event, send your information to [mschneck@pennlive.com](mailto:mschneck@pennlive.com). March 4 - Carlisle Fish and Game Association, Carlisle, Friday night fly tying class, Matt Knaub tying Queen Bee Streamer, 7-9 p.m.; John Conrad, 717-582-4094 or [john-conrad@comcast.net](mailto:john-conrad@comcast.net).... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-29-2016 **[Gas price drop affects environmental funds](#)**  
HARRISBURG — The drop in natural gas prices is undermining the revenue flow supporting three state environmental programs. The Oil and Gas Lease Fund, Environmental Stewardship Fund and Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund all depend to varying degrees on production-based fees... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-29-2016 **[Krug can see the forest for the trees](#)**  
Often in this column I have spoken of Joe Krug of Ebensburg as being one of the state's greatest sportsmen. A member the Allegheny Mountain chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation he has become one of the nation's experts on habitat needs for wild turkeys. He works tirelessly and mostly unnoticed in this pursuit and... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-26-2016 **[Game Commission Plants Seed for Environmental Learning](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-26-2016 **[Camp Wopsonock property transferred to DCNR management](#)**

HARRISBURG — The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources today extended an invitation to residents of Clearfield County and beyond to visit the almost 600-acre tract that became the latest addition to Moshannon State Forest following official county action late last year.... - [Clearfield Progress](#)

02-25-2016 [Homeless gnomes: Pennsylvania state park evicts tiny houses](#)  
NEWPORT, Pa. Nearly 40 gnome homes have been evicted from a Pennsylvania state park after a decision change sent them packing... - [AP](#)

02-25-2016 [The incredible things Google's new robot can do](#)  
A robot's nimble steps in a snowy forest have wowed the world's robotics industry. Boston Dynamics, the secretive, Google-owned company, released video of its latest human-like robot tromping through a field — slipping occasionally on uneven terrain — but always catching its... - [Washington Post](#)

02-25-2016 [USFS opens plan to battle hemlock bug](#)  
USFS opens plan for battling hemlock insect Killer adelgid found in nearby Cook Forest By Tom DiStefano CLARION NEWS  
Writer WARREN The hemlock woolly adelgid has been spotted in four locations in the Allegheny National Forest and the U.S. Forest Service plans to use... - [Clarion News](#)

02-24-2016 [Game Commission Delivers Annual Report to Legislature](#)  
(Press Release)

02-24-2016 [Game commission plan prescribed burns in NEPA state game lands for 2016](#)  
Thousands of acres of state game lands throughout the region are slated to feel the burn later this year. The Pennsylvania Game Commission announced plans to treat more than 8,500 acres in Northeast Pennsylvania with planned, prescribed fire to promote the growth of oak trees, which benefit wildlife because of the high... - [Scranton Times](#)

02-24-2016 [Fight to save maple trees from eminent domain unites drilling supporters and pipeline protesters in Pa. town](#)  
NEW MILFORD — The road to these maple trees is easy to miss. A wooden sign with painted black letters points to 3 Lakes Road, an old, gravel stretch that leads to the spot that's the focus of a fight between landowners and pipeline developers. A dense forest of spindly trees — some already cut down to make room... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 02-24-2016 **[Forestry forum slated for April 7 in Kane](#)**  
KANE — This year's Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum, set for April 7 at the Kane Country Club, will feature talks on black cherry trees in the region. Guest speakers will be Robert P. Long, supervisory research plant pathologist within the Northern Research Station of the U.S. Forest... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 02-22-2016 **[Thirteen bald eagles found dead on Maryland farm](#)**  
Thirteen bald eagles were found dead over the weekend near a farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Officials with the Maryland Natural Resources Police said they received a call about 2:30 p.m. Saturday from a man who said he was out looking for antlers that deer might have shed and came across what he initially thought... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-22-2016 **[Forestry Committee sponsor nature program at Penn State Schuylkill](#)**  
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — Lane McMullin could have been outside Saturday morning enjoying the warm weather, but he wanted to learn more about how to care for the environment. McMullin, 66, of Blythe Township, was one of about 80 people who attended a program titled "Woods in Your Backyard" at the Health and Wellness... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 02-21-2016 **[For Logging's Crimes, Tougher Punishments](#)**  
I HAVE loved wood and the smell of sawdust ever since I was a child and got to wander among the open sheds at the local lumberyard. But for years now I have had a sick feeling every time I shop for almost anything made of wood. The prices are often unbelievably good, but then I notice the words... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-18-2016 **[Can you track down Bigfoot? Weekend in Pennsylvania will give you a taste of the search](#)**  
Would-be Bigfoot hunters in Pennsylvania can get a taste of the search for the legendary creature in a Pennsylvania Bigfoot Camping Adventure May 6-8 at Benner's Meadow Run Campground at Farmington, Fayette County. The weekend, which will include instruction in how to hunt for the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-18-2016 **[Treat wildfires like other natural disasters](#)**  
More than 10 million acres of forest burned in 2015, the worst year for U.S. wildfires ever recorded. With incredibly dry conditions across the American West, fire lines were intensely hot and flames spread faster, producing some of the most dangerous conditions firefighters have ever... - [Los Angeles Times](#)

02-16-2016 [\*\*DCNR Invites Students to Apply for Summer Environmental Careers Camp\*\*](#)

(Press Release)

02-16-2016 [\*\*Dominion outlines new national forest route for pipeline\*\*](#)

RICHMOND, Va. — Energy companies behind the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have carved a new proposed route through parts of West Virginia and Virginia in response to federal concerns about the national gas pipeline's initial path through sensitive national forest areas... - [\*AP\*](#)

02-16-2016 [\*\*How the Coal Industry Flattened the Mountains of Appalachia\*\*](#)

As the destructive coal mining process known as mountaintop removal ebbs in Appalachia, it is leaving behind what amounts to its own grim field of tombstones: A grossly disfigured landscape pocked with decapitated mountains standing flat as mesas and inhospitable to forest restoration.... - [\*New York Times\*](#)

02-15-2016 [\*\*Frye: Sick bugs may trouble grouse\*\*](#)

As if mosquitoes weren't aggravating enough. Now it seems they might be playing a role — potentially a large one — in the decline of ruffed grouse across Pennsylvania. The birds are scarce, without a doubt. Population monitoring suggests their numbers hit a 50-year low in 2014, said Lisa Williams, grouse biologist for... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)

Questions? Contact the PA Forestry Association at [thepfa@paforestry.org](mailto:thepfa@paforestry.org) or 1-800-835-8065. The PA Forestry Association is located at 116 Pine Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The newsletter is produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies.