



Forestry News You Can Use April 2016

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2016 Conservation Dinner

A big thanks to all who supported the Association's 2016 Conservation Dinner last month at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport, especially to the dinner committee under the direction of Mark Ott and Linda Finley. There were just under 200 silent auction items, 39 live auction items, a fifty-fifty drawing, a mystery prize, the drawing for the chain saw, and other chance drawings. The premier event of the evening, of course, was the draw down for the \$10,000 top prize which was won this year by the Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association. Congratulations to all winners! More information will be noted in the Spring issue of Pennsylvania Forests. Mark your calendar for next year's dinner on Saturday, March 4th.

State Forest Management Plan Update

At the DCNR Advisory Council meeting on March 23, 2016, the Council was informed that the Bureau of Forestry is continuing its review of public comments it received on the draft SFRM Plan. The Bureau is preparing a comment/response document and incorporating recommended changes in the draft plan. Current projections indicate that the final document should be available in June of this year.

PFA Action Taken on State Budget

At its board of directors meeting in early March, PFA adopted two resolutions calling for immediate action by the Governor and legislative leaders to resolve the Commonwealth's current budget dilemma. The board specifically noted the lack of state support for the line item in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture budget for Hardwood Research and Promotion and the work of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension Service and Research. PFA directed letters to the Governor and all legislative leaders of both parties asking for early action to finalize a budget for these two important activities that directly impact agriculture and forestry programs in Pennsylvania. PFA also issued press releases on the subject. We joined with other agricultural organizations in these efforts and the legislature passed a supplemental budget addressing these two important programs among other programs. Governor Wolf allowed the bill to become [law](#) without his signature on March 27, 2016.

DEP Secretary Quigley Meets with DCNR Advisory Council

On March 23, 2016 DEP Secretary, John Quigley, met with the Advisory Council of DCNR to address the subject of the Chesapeake Bay reboot to bring the Commonwealth into compliance with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency goals for addressing pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. The Secretary identified several shortcomings in the Pennsylvania program which require immediate attention: 1) while \$4 billion has been spent in the last several decades on the problem, an estimated additional \$4 billion is needed to complete the work by 2025; 2) the data management effort has some fundamental flaws and requires improvement; 3) the scale of the problem is large, since more than 32,000 Pennsylvania farms are in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area; 4) most of the dollars spent to date on the problem have gone to education and that will shift to enforcement going forward; and, 5) some changes in regulations will be needed to address specific problems that have occurred. The Secretary had previously endorsed the use of Riparian Forest Buffers as a solution to many of the erosion and sediment control problems that exist.

DCNR Launches Endangered Species Permit Review Tool

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn recently announced the department and its partners are launching [PA Conservation Explorer](#) to assist businesses, local governments and citizens with conservation planning and to improve the process for environmental review for threatened and endangered species that are required during permitting for construction and other activities. PA Conservation Explorer replaced the PA Natural Diversity Inventory Environmental Review Tool (PNDI).

Final Budget Rolls Back Environmental Funding For 13th Year In A Row

In an analysis of the final 2015-16 budget, Crisci Associates, publisher of PA Environmental Digest, states that "the budget for the current fiscal year rolls back environmental funding for the 13th year in a row. Funding and staff for environmental programs has been cut, diverted or simply held in place, which really amounts to yet another cut." Crisci Associates also points out that more than 40 percent has been cut from General Fund support for DEP and as a result the department has lost 22 percent of its staff. As DEP Secretary Quigley told the Scranton Times recently, "DEP isn't lean –it's emaciated."

PA Parks and Forests Foundation Launches New Website

The new website, [PA Parks & Forests](#), populated with beautiful photos from Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, has been designed to provide a user-friendly experience. The site allow users to learn more about how to become engaged in state parks and forests – from attending events, joining a friends group, or becoming a Steward of Penn's Woods. For more information visit the PA Parks and Forests Foundation website.

Log A Load for Kids

PFA members joined with members of the PA Forest Products Association and other forestry supporters on March 12 for the Annual [Log a Load for Kids](#) event which raised \$8,000 this year! This entire amount will be contributed to PA Children's Hospitals to help injured and critically ill children. Thanks to all for a job well done for a great cause!

PFA's Vice President Richard Lewis (left) and PFFA Executive Director Paul Lyskava (right) posed for a photo from their successful hunt.



DCNR: Raises Shooting Range Permit Fees

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced that it is revising its [price schedule](#) for State Park activities, uses, and privileges to add a 30-consecutive day shooting range permit fee range for shooting range operation. The Individual 30-Consecutive Day Shooting Range Permit will cost \$15.00 to \$25.00 for Pennsylvania residents and \$30.00 to \$35.00 for nonresidents. The Family 30-Day Consecutive Shooting Range Permit will cost \$20.00 to \$30.00 for Pennsylvania residents and \$35.00 to \$45.00 for nonresidents. The effective date of the new range permit price schedule is Friday, April 15, 2016. Questions may be directed to Ryan Dysinger, Assistant Director, Bureau of State Parks, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, (717) 787-6640, rdysinger@pa.gov. Persons with a disability may use the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service by calling (800) 654-5984 (TDD users). Check [here](#) for information on making a reservation.

Notes from PA Game Commission

The Pennsylvania Game Commission proposes changes to [Hunting and Trapping regulations](#) for big game and changes to [Wildlife Management Unit 5D](#) in the northeast corner to provide a more logical boundary. Click on one of the links for further information on the proposed changes.

Mark Your Calendars:

Environmental Forum on Sustainable Manufacturing in Forest Products Industry

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee will hold an environmental issues forum highlighting environmental practices in the forest products industry and how state and federal regulation can impact the industry's sustainability. This event begins at noon on **April 11** in Harrisburg in Room 8E-A of the Capitol's East Wing.

Legislative Forestry Task Force to Meet

The Legislative Forestry Task Force, an initiative of the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, will meet in State College on **April 14** to hear presentations on invasive species and their impact on forest health. The meeting will be held in Room 217 of the Forest Resources Building on the Penn State University campus in State College starting at 10AM.

National Firewood Workshop

The National Firewood Workshop will be held **April 21, 2016** at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD (near Hagerstown) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop is a one day educational and networking event to provide the firewood processing industry the latest knowledge on processing, kiln drying and marketing of firewood. The intent is to help firewood producers, firewood buyers, firewood equipment makers, foresters and arborists, landowners, loggers, extension agents, and woodstove manufacturers, make money in the firewood business. The program is sponsored by the Wood Education and Resource Center, University of Maryland Extension, Sawmill & Woodlot Management magazine, and North Carolina State University.

The program will include outdoor demonstration of firewood processing equipment as well as classroom discussions by leading firewood industry professionals. The range of classroom topics will include: selling and marketing; finding buyers; purchasing requirements by wholesale brokers and chain store buyers; managing a firewood processing business; sourcing affordable logs; equipment for sawing and splitting; heating options for kilns; firewood quarantines; dry kiln equipment and methods; and firewood associations.

Information and registration for the program can be done online with a credit card by going to: <http://firewoodworkshop.eventbrite.com>

For questions or more information about registration, please contact: Pam Thomas, University of Maryland Extension (pthomas@umd.edu) 301-432-2767 x315.

A brochure, agenda, and directions to the facility is available. The registration can be mailed in with a check by completing the registration form on the program brochure. The registration fee is \$30 before April 11, 2016 and \$40 afterwards. The registration deadline is April 17, 2016. Continuing education credits have been approved by the Society of American Foresters, MD Master Logger program, and the Mid-Atlantic International Society of Arboriculture.

15th Annual Golf Outing

The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association and the PFA will hold its 15th Annual Golf Outing on **June 24** at the Rich Valley Golf Course in Mechanicsburg, PA. See the attached flyer for details!

Legislative Information

Senate Resolution 55 which was introduced last year by Senate Scott Hutchinson and passed in the Senate also passed recently in the House of Representatives. SR 55 reinstates the legislative Forestry Task Force which is made up of two members each from the Senate and House and has oversight from the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. The task force will conduct a comprehensive study and will investigate: 1) the implications of DCNR's revised State Forest Resource Management Plan; 2) the impact of pests and invasive species on PA's forest industry as well as the impact of overall forest health; 3) the regulatory relationship between the State's forest industry, local

governments and county conservation districts; and, 4) the decline in qualified timber harvesters and other related occupations. PA's SR 55 also establishes an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the DCNR, the PA Department of Agriculture, the PA Game Commission, Penn State, the US Forest Service, and one representative from each of five business organizations representing the forest products industry and up to three other organizations that the forestry task force deems appropriate. This committee will make recommendations regarding the renewal and management of forests. The Forestry Task Force will prepare and deliver a report to the General Assembly containing its findings and recommendations including any necessary legislation "as soon as possible".

Legislation introduced in March 2015 by Representative Martin Causer, **House Bill 806**, which would amend the PA Farmland & Forest Land Assessment Act has passed the House of Representatives and is now scheduled to begin moving through the Senate. The bill amends the Clean and Green law to prohibit the application of use values that result in a higher than fair market value.

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 04-05-2016 [**Game Commission moves to ban drones on 1.5 million acres of game lands**](#)
Prompted by harassment of migratory snow geese at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in March, the Pennsylvania Game Commission acted Tuesday to ban drones from all 1.5 million acres of state game lands in the state. If finalized on a second vote in July, it will be illegal to fly any... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 04-01-2016 [**Beetle wreaking havoc on Hanover ash trees**](#)
By the time you catch it, it might be too late. The emerald ash borer doesn't waste any time destroying its namesake, burrowing serpentine tunnels into the ash tree's cellular tissue. "It basically clogs the tree's entire vascular system, analogous to getting... - [Hanover Evening Sun](#)
- 03-31-2016 [**DEP News for March 31, 2016**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-31-2016 [**Experts warn: Ash-killing emerald ash borer is at our doorstep**](#)
Time, arborists say, is running out: The deadly emerald ash borer is coming to a tree near you. Since first spotted in Detroit in 2002, the voracious insect native to East Asia has wiped out ash trees across the northern United States and is now at our doorstep. The species has been spotted in Warrington and Horsham in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 03-31-2016 [**Pa. elk hunting tag fetches \\$85,000 at auction**](#)
Pennsylvania's reputation as a prime elk-hunting destination continues to get stronger. The state's Special Elk Conservation Tag — a license created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and auctioned off by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to benefit wildlife — fetched a stunning... - [Pocono Record](#)

- 03-31-2016 [**Too big to fight: In Pa. pipeline wars, landowners lose before judge rules on eminent domain**](#)
The woods that gave Pennsylvania its name have become battlegrounds in pipeline wars raging across the state. These are passionately fought legal cases that pit rural landowners against huge corporations tasked with revolutionizing America's energy future and... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 03-29-2016 [**PA DCNR Holds First Meeting of Forest Buffer Advisory Committee**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-29-2016 [**PA Fish & Boat Commission celebrates century and a half of conservation**](#)
As one of the oldest state fish and wildlife agencies in the nation, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has a rich history of protecting and enhancing the state's rivers, lakes, streams and aquatic resources. Established in response to concerns over water pollution caused by logging,... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 03-29-2016 [**DCNR appoints local man to head of forest district**](#)
FREEBURG — Snyder County native and veteran forester Matthew R. Beaver has been appointed to head the Bald Eagle State Forest District by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "I grew up here near Kratzerville along Penns Creek and hunted and fished... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 03-29-2016 [**Trees deal with climate change better than expected**](#)
The bend-don't-break adaptability of trees extends to handling climate change, according to a new study. Forests might tolerate higher temperatures and contribute less carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than had been thought. In addition to taking in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, plants also... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 03-28-2016 [**PGC: Commissioners to Finalize 2016-17 Hunting, Trapping Seasons**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-24-2016 [**CABS: Secretary Quigley's Reboot Plan Doesn't Add Up**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-24-2016 [**Sunoco to Proceed with Pipeline Tree Cutting on Huntingdon County Homestead...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-23-2016 [**DCNR Announces Funding to Help Volunteer Fire Companies Battle Wildfires**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-23-2016 [**Possessing illegal eagle costs wildlife rescuer her state permits**](#)
Citing evidence she illegally possessed a bald eagle, two hedgehogs and a monk parakeet, a state appeals court panel has upheld the revocation of four special permits vital to a Pennsylvania woman's operation of a wildlife rehabilitation center. The Commonwealth Court ruling issued this week backs a decision by the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 03-21-2016 [**Keep PA Beautiful Testifies About Rampant Illegal Dumping of Electronics Waste**](#)
(Press Release)

- 03-21-2016 [**DEP: Fourteen Environmental Stewardship Projects Earn Governor's Award for...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-20-2016 [**Birding legend coming to Presque Isle festival**](#)
As if the opportunity to see warblers and timberdoodles wasn't enough to attract an audience, organizers of the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle are bringing in one of the big names in birding. David Allen Sibley will deliver the keynote address during the May 6-8... - [*Erie Times-News*](#)
- 03-18-2016 [**DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn Urges Caution to Prevent Wildfires**](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-17-2016 [**Seduced by Junk Food, Storks Are Opting Not to Migrate**](#)
In Portugal, storks, the birds known in folklore for dutifully delivering babies, have become homebodies. The reason, according to a study published Tuesday in the journal Movement Ecology, is the tasty local landfills in the south-central part of the country. Thousands of birds have chosen to forgo their typical winter... - [*New York Times*](#)
- 03-17-2016 [**Eastern US forests more susceptible to drought**](#)
Penn State professor of forest ecology and physiology, Marc Abrams , and Gregory Nowacki of the Eastern Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service wrote a paper explaining how eastern U.S. forests are more sensitive to drought than before the 1800s. In the paper published in the journal Tree Physiology , Abrams and Nowacki... - [*Penn State Daily Collegian*](#)
- 03-16-2016 [**County, DCNR detail plans for gypsy moth spraying**](#)
Gypsy moth eggs are all over the forests of Luzerne County, a state forester said Tuesday. "Unless something happens that naturally limits them, there are loads of egg masses all over the county. They're not in every spot but they are in a lot of areas. There's going to be a lot of gypsy moth... - [*Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice*](#)

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.