



Forestry News You Can Use May 2016

produced for the PFA by Versant Strategies
Please follow us on Facebook at [The Pennsylvania Forestry Association \(PFA\)](#)
Please visit us on our Web site at <http://www.paforestry.org/>

Green Ribbon Task Force Update

The Green Ribbon Task Force was authorized by Governor Wolf in 2015 to develop new initiatives for increasing the economic impact of the forest industry in Pennsylvania. The group met on May 3rd and discussed dozens of ideas to improve resource management and industrial production. A couple of big items that have floated to the top are invasives, clean water, workforce development, property taxes, forest regeneration and education. PFA is now represented on the Green Ribbon Task Force by Mrs. Gay Thistle, a Tree Farmer from Greene County. (Gay and Harold Thistle are PFA's "Tree Farmer of the Year")

PFA Representation on Forestry Task Force

The PFA now has an official seat on the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee's Forestry Task Force. Marc Lewis has been participating on the Task Force as a member of the forest industry and has kept the PFA in the loop for many years. PFA now has an official seat on the committee so between Marc and PFA president Gene Odatto the two of them will maintain a presence and hopefully play a part in the decision making process at the state level.

The Task Force recently met to discuss the invasive plant and insect problem that Pennsylvania is now facing. As we all know, dealing with invasive species is a monumental task. The current major problem, the Emerald Ash Borer, is causing the demise of all species of ash trees. South Central Pennsylvania is experiencing a complete loss of ash trees which is causing many homeowners to take down hazardous trees that are endangering people and structures.

The leading edge of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid population is in Northwest PA. A Hemlock Conservation Plan has been developed and is being applied across the state with particular interest in the Cook Forest State Park region where tourism is a big economic driver. People are doing their best to protect the old growth forest in the park where the state record hemlock lives.

Gypsy Moth is again on the march in Central and eastern PA. GM egg hatch occurred on April 20th in Perry and Juniata County. The State suppression program stretches from Huntingdon County to Pike County and involves 136,141 Acres. We are not sure how many acres of private forest land is being treated but you can rest assured that is substantial.

Be on the watch for a Devil's Walkingstick look-a-like, Angelica Tree. Angelica Tree has been found in southern PA and could be spreading.

Controlling invasive plants, insects and diseases is difficult and costly. This is a very large problem that has affected everyone so the task force is educating itself and will have further discussions about the issue.

PFA Outreach Committee Meets

The PFA Outreach Committee (Rich Lewis – Chair, Nancy Baker, Dave Twining, Linda Finley, Matt Sampson, Julianne Schieffer, Roy Siefert, and Ken Manno) met on Tuesday, May 2 and moved forward on many fronts. Work was started on drafting a Committee mission and goals. The Committee will recommend (to the PFA Board at its June Meeting) the development of a two-year PFA Youth Forestry Education Initiative in partnership with Project Learning Tree as well as recommend a partnership with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to schedule and staff showings of PA Parks and Forests Foundation/WITF's conservation heritage documentaries. The Committee also reaffirmed continuing efforts to explore opportunities for closer working relationships with the PA Association of Consulting Foresters and Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association.

Pocono Fire Contained

In the last week of April a large forest fire in Monroe and Pike Counties challenged state, federal, and local fire personnel. The fire impacted more than 8,000 acres and was referred to as the Sixteen Mile Fire. After several days, the [fire](#) was totally contained with clean up and hot spots still requiring attention. During the peak of the fire, DCNR had about 100 personnel fighting the fire which burned two leased cabins on the Delaware State Forest, 3 seasonal homes and six outbuildings, and required the evacuation of a cabin colony in the state forest. Fire investigators have determined that arson was involved and are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

Gypsy Moth Spraying to Begin

The DCNR Bureau of Forestry staff are preparing for an aerial spraying effort to combat [gypsy moth](#) populations poised for spring outbreaks in the eastern and central portions of Pennsylvania.

Envirothon to draw hundreds of high school students in late May

More than 300 students and teacher-coaches from Pennsylvania's 67 counties will be converging on Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Snyder County, and Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, Union County, on May 24-25. The students will be utilizing their year-long Envirothon experience to vie for the championship title at the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

During the two-day competition, teams accept the natural challenge and participate in a series of field-oriented tests that focus on soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. Teams also prepare and deliver oral presentations to panels of judges who evaluate each team on its problem-solving capabilities and presentation skills to help solve the specific environmental challenge posed during the competition. Students compete for a share of more than \$10,000 in educational scholarships and the honor to represent Pennsylvania at the NCF-Envirothon, North America's largest high school natural resource education competition. Source – DCNR Newsletter.

Pennsylvania Forests Advertising Initiative Underway

PFA VP Rich Lewis coordinated a meeting on April 12th between PFA's new *Pennsylvania Forests* Magazine Advertising Coordinator Caleb Wright and the staff of our magazine publisher/printer, Advanced Communications Systems. The development of an "advertising kit" and the implementation of a plan to increase the number of *Pennsylvania Forests* advertisements is now underway.

Info from Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program

The following message was received after the April electronic newsletter was sent but is still relevant information for PFA members.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA TREE FARM PROGRAM April 2016



On Tuesday, April 5, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the governing body for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building standard, has announced it will begin accepting wood from family forests certified by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

This is a breakthrough on a key issue for family forest owners, advocated for by the American Forest Foundation (AFF), its partners and many Tree Farmers for years.

The announcement significantly expands the markets for family forests owners and support their efforts to protect and enhance the clean water, wildlife habitat and sustainable wood supplies that come from family-owned forests.

IT IS GOOD FOR FAMILY FORESTS AND FOR ALL OF US

Wood from ATFS certified family forests now have selective access to green building markets. Previously, only wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was accepted in the LEED standard. Now wood from all third party forest certification systems in the U.S. including ATFS, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC), are accepted.

More certified American wood enters the building market. Previously, wood from only 33 million acres FSC certified were accepted in the LEED standard. Now, wood from 80 million acres certified by ATFS and SFI in the U.S. is additionally accepted. This means more certified American-grown wood products can be used in green building.

Markets for wood help keep forests as forests. Most of America's forests are owned by private and family landowners. Markets for wood products provide income for landowners to pay taxes, conduct management and keep their land as forests.

Markets for wood support the nation's 22 million family woodland owners. Families are the largest ownership group of forests in the U.S., owning more land than the federal government or corporations. USGBC's announcement to accept wood from ATFS, the nation's largest certification program for family woodland owners, can help stimulate markets for their sustainable wood products.

For more information visit: www.forestfoundation.org/usgbc-announcement-big-win-for-atfs?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=wood

Sad News

Long time member and supporter of PFA, William C. Paxton II, 81 of Latrobe, PA passed away on April 22.

Mark Your Calendars:

Tree Farm of the Year Field Day May 14, 2016

Gay and Harold Thistle, the 2015 Tree Farmers of the Year, invite Tree Farmers, PFA members and friends to join them for an informative fun day on **Saturday, May 14!** The day will highlight a variety of activities to showcase management strategies on the property. The program will start at 10AM, with lunch provided. Their Tree Farm is in Greene County, PA, west of Waynesburg. The address is 3033 W. Roy Furman Hwy, Waynesburg, PA 15370. If you plan to attend PLEASE email gaythistle@gmail.com or phone 724-499-5190 to give your RSVP!

Foundation for Sustainable Forests Event on May 14 –A premier in-the-field forestry event



This event is open to anyone concerned about forest conservation as well as woodland owners and professional foresters and land managers. It promises to be fun and enjoyable and includes a picnic lunch. Children's programming will be provided throughout the day. Sign-in opens at 7:45 a.m. with introductions and orientation commencing at 8:45 a.m.

Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) credits are available for forestry professionals. Children under the age of 14 are free and there is a nominal \$10 registration fee for all others. Registration is complementary for members.

Registration is available using PayPal at the [event web page](#) where you can also obtain more detailed information on the sessions being presented.

Location: Woodlot northwest of Corry, PA next to 13333 Carter Hill Rd. [Click here for detailed directions to the event](#)

PFA Education and Communications Committee to Meet

The PFA Education and Communications Committee (Nancy Baker and Linda Finley - Co Chairs, Renee Carey, Ed Dix, Andy Duncan, Craig Houghton, John Laskowski, Marc Lewis, Richard Lewis, and Sandy Smith) will meet on **Thursday, May 19th** at DCNR's Penn Nursery, 137 Penn Nursery Road, Spring Mills, PA 16875. There will be a pre-meeting luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda topics (in progress) include Future Directions, issue topics and guidelines, creating a new liaison with DCNR for Emerald Jewell articles, advertising liaison with Caleb Wright. Other interested PFA Members are encouraged to attend. Please let Linda Finley (814-234-9028 or llfinley@gmail.com) know of your attendance plans.

PFA Board to Meet

The PFA Board of Directors will conduct its regular board meeting on **Tuesday, June 7, 2016** at Letterman's Restaurant in State College, PA. While the final agenda is still under development, agenda items will include an update of plans for the Annual Meeting, reports from PFA representatives serving on state task forces/committees, an update on discussions with the Tree Farm Committee, and other important topics. Members desiring to attend should contact the PFA office for information.

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!

Hold the Date!

The 2016 PFA Annual Meeting is scheduled for **September 23 and 24** at the Woodlands Resort, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Program information and registration will be in the summer issue of the *Pennsylvania Forests* magazine and also on the PFA website.

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 05-03-2016 [State Environmental Officials Band, Inspect Harrisburg's Newest Young...](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-03-2016 [Residents vent anger over park closure; talks on Holtwood Park's future set](#)
Anger over a power company's closure of a longtime community park, 400 acres of woods and the trailhead to a popular pathway spilled into the Martic Township supervisors meeting Monday night. "They keep on taking everything away from us," said Jerry Hess, a township resident. "I grew up playing ball there. If they want to shut... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-03-2016 [Forestry student receives scholarship](#)
DuBOIS — Whether at work or play, Jake Kriner loves the outdoors. Fishing, hunting, hiking and camping are some of his hobbies. He's also studying for a career that will allow him to work outside in the fresh air. The 20-year-old, who graduated in 2014 from DuBois Area High School, is an... - [DuBois Courier-Express](#)
- 05-03-2016 [Tourism spending brings millions into McKean County, surrounding region](#)
The Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau is inviting local residents and visitors to celebrate National Tourism Week through Saturday in recognition of the local, state and federal jobs created by the tourism industry. In McKean County, 1,144 jobs, with a labor income of \$29.8 million, are... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 05-02-2016 [Letters: Help needed to keep forest trails open](#)
ISSUE | FOREST TRAILS Help on the way? The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (HB845) would address the growing backlog of maintenance needed in our national forests. If passed, this legislation would keep more trails open and accessible by expanding the use of volunteers and partner organizations - a wonderful... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-02-2016 [Former DCNR service forester honored on Arbor Day -](#)
Although the man who always wore green has retired, part of the legacy he's leaving will boost Pottsville's opportunities to stay green. Those gathered for an Arbor Day celebration Friday at Charles Baber Cemetery recognized the contributions of Frank P. Snyder, who retired April... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)

- 05-02-2016 [**Lancaster County Conservancy returns to its roots: saving wild land top priority**](#)
The Lancaster County Conservancy, the group that saved Chickies Rock, Tucquan Glen and other county landmarks, is going back to its roots: protecting as much precious land as it can. Philip R. Wenger, new leader of the nonprofit conservation group formed in 1969, says the conservancy still will continue its environmental education... - [*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*](#)
- 05-01-2016 [**Pennsylvania: Get ready for loud and large cicadas**](#)
The wooded hills of southwestern Pennsylvania, the eastern half of Ohio and northern and central West Virginia will soon come alive with the sounds of lustful, dissonant, music, the mating call of tens of millions of big, brawny, boy bugs. The unrelieved cacophony will begin later this month as air and soil... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 04-29-2016 [**Don't Be Stumped by Landscaping this Spring! Get Started with a Free Tree...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 04-29-2016 [**Monster Pa. forest fire to end up costing \\$4M**](#)
The 16-Mile Fire in Monroe County could be completely contained by the end of the week and predicted rains could "be the final touch," a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources spokesman said Thursday morning. The fire was about 80 percent contained -- aided by mid-week rain -- and an... - [*Easton Express-Times*](#)
- 04-28-2016 [**Jt. Legislative Conservation Commission Environmental Synopsis for Apr. 2016**](#)
(Press Release)
- 04-28-2016 [**DCNR to Begin Spraying Forests to Combat Gypsy Moth Damage**](#)
(Press Release)
- 04-25-2016 [**Not safe to burn**](#)
Spring is a great time to rid lawns of sticks, leaves and other debris. With the recent warm spell and slow new growth of grass and woods vegetation, the risk for brush fires is extremely high. - [*Somerset Daily*](#)
- 04-24-2016 [**Ruffed grouse in danger of changing weather, deforestation**](#)
The state bird, the ruffed grouse, is one of the many species in Pennsylvania that has suffered from habitat loss — due in part to changing climate. Ruffed grouse are one of 10 species of grouse native to North America. They are brownish colored, slightly larger than pigeons and live their entire... - [*State College Centre Daily Times*](#)
- 04-22-2016 [**Tree Plantings at the Root of CBF's Environmental Excellence Award**](#)
(Press Release)
- 04-20-2016 [**GIANT Food Stores' Bags To Benches Program Donates 25 Benches To Keep PA...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 04-20-2016 [**DCNR'S Bureau Of Forestry Discusses Severe Statewide Wildfire Danger**](#)
(Around the Capital)

04-18-2016 [**Amtrak and the National Park Service Partner to Offer Unique Summer Adventures**](#)
(Press Release)

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 input from PFA members and DCNR.