



Forestry News You Can Use August 2016

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SIGN UP NOW FOR PFA ANNUAL MEETING

The PFA's 130th Annual Meeting slated for September 23 & 24 at The Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre is just around the corner and it's time to register for the meeting and make your hotel reservations. This year's theme, "The Changing Forestry Landscape", will highlight conservation efforts in the newly renamed Pinchot Forest District and will feature a viewing of the new documentary about Gifford Pinchot as well a tour of an anthracite coal mine and other area highlights. There are also plenty of other attractions to enjoy so make plans now to attend.

PFA AND PA TREE FARM REPRESENTATIVES MEET

Representatives of the PFA Board of Directors met recently with representatives of the PA Tree Farm Program to discuss ways the two organizations can work together to meet the future challenges of maintaining the Tree Farm Program in Pennsylvania. Acknowledging the changes in the program resulting from recent program changes coming from the American Forest Foundation, the group agreed to solicit support from both the Tree Farm Committee and the PFA Board of Directors to work toward bringing the Tree Farm Program under the PFA wing. PFA is the original sponsor of the Tree Farm Program and continues to play a key role in the operation of the program.

\$500K IN GRANTS AVAILABLE TO PLANT TREES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

The Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection recently announced funding is being made available under a new DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program to assist landowners with planting trees along streams in Pennsylvania to improve water quality. The forest buffer program solicitation will be part of DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program grant round led by the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and will open on August 1 and close September 15 for this year. Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of streamside buffers by 2025. For more information, visit DCNR's [Community Conservation Partnership Program](#). (Source: PA Environment Digest)

TREE VITALIZE TREE PLANTING GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

TreeVitalize – a public-private partnership to help restore tree cover in Pennsylvania’s metropolitan areas – is accepting applications for grants for 2017. Both municipalities and non-profit organizations are eligible. Applications are due by September 20, 2016 with awards announced by November 1, 2016. For more information, visit www.TreeVitalize.net.

CHANGES TO CLEAN AND GREEN LAW

Before the Legislature adjourned for summer recess, one of the bills that was signed into law by Governor Wolf made changes to the Clean and Green Law, which provides preferential tax assessment to owners of farms and forest lands to protect them from development. Because some counties who had not conducted reassessments recently were taxing Clean and Green properties at rates higher than normal assessment, Rep. Martin Causer (R- Turtlepoint) sponsored the [legislation](#) that now prohibits counties from taxing those properties at a rate greater than fair market value. Prior to passage of his bill, Rep. Causer noted that it was especially problematical for counties with high quality timber because it drove up the use value of the land and led to higher, not lower, tax bills for the property owner. Act 89 takes effect immediately.

INCREASE OF LYME DISEASE CASES CAN BE LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease from 2012-2014 according to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DCNR states, in its most recent Newsletter, that it is not surprising given that Pennsylvania is a large state both in population and land that is 58% covered in forests which provide an ideal habitat for blacklegged ticks (deer ticks), the carriers of Lyme disease in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and north-central United States. Deer ticks have been found in each of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties.

STATE PARKS AND FORESTS THRU THE SEASONS PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES DUE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The PA Parks and Forests Foundation is accepting entries to its State Parks and Forests through the Seasons Photo Contest until September 13th. The contest allows professional and amateurs alike to vie for supremacy in a variety of categories, capturing all that is special and the memories that are made in our state parks and forests. For more information visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation [website](#).

Tree Splitting Incident

John Laskowski passed along this link to a video of a lumberjack’s unfortunate tree splitting [incident](#) as a precautionary note for all. Andy Duncan provided the following advice:

We were taught to beware of the Barber Chair in Harvesting class when I took the class somewhere around 1996 or 97. I believe the term existed long before then. I’ve seen this video several times now and it certainly is riveting. I’ve cut a few that

did indeed barber chair on me, and it gets your attention. Usually it can be avoided with proper cutting techniques using the bore cut method, rather than the standard notch and back cut that so many people seem to use. Heavy leaning trees have a high chance of barber chair, unless the notch is cut fairly deep. I don't mess around with the regular back cut on most trees, especially leaners. If you're not careful, and you notch a leaning tree, then come through behind with a dull or slower saw, upon hitting a point in the back cut, the tree will split up the center, with the back piece you just cut violently splitting off and jumping up. If you're in the way, you'll be airborne with a broken jaw at the least.

If you bore cut, you cut that high tension wood out of the middle at first, then take the back off without it popping up and slapping you. Still need to be careful and not hang too close to the tree when severing the backstrap. They fall very quickly when you cut the backstrap, so as soon as it starts to go, shut the saw off, pull the bar, and get out of there!

Upcoming Events

The Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association is sponsoring a free [presentation](#), "Mountains of the Heart: Revisiting the Appalachians", by Scott Weidensaul on **October 13 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Dauphin County Ag Extension Office, 1451 Peters Mountain Road in Dauphin. See the attached document for more information on this event and plan to attend!

Grant Opportunities

Wells Fargo Environmental Grant Program (Environmental Solutions for Communities)

For: 501-c-3 organizations, tribal and governmental entities, public school systems

Grants to build partnerships with local environmental nonprofits focusing on sustainable agriculture and forestry, water quality, land conservation and support for building healthy urban ecosystems. Grants can also fund resources to universities, colleges, labs, and entrepreneur accelerator programs to work on commercializing new clean technologies and innovations.

Priority areas: Philadelphia City and Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.

Amounts: \$25,000 - \$100,000

Deadlines: Not currently published, will be sometime in December

For More

Information: <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/csr/ea/environmental-giving>. Grant is in partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Arboriculture Education Grant Program

For: 501-c-3 organizations.

Grant will fund the development of hands-on education projects to serve youth ages 5-18. Priority is given to new programs, however proposals supporting either a significant expansion in the number of students/schools served by successful programs or the addition of

components/educational modules to expand successful program content will also be considered.

Amounts: \$1,000 - \$5,000 and may vary from the amount requested.

Deadlines: Letter of Intent – March 1, 2017; Application – April 1, 2017

For More Information: <http://www.treefund.org/grants/education-program-grants/arboriculture>

The Harry Chapin Foundation

For: 501-c-3 organizations. The Foundation funds grants in three major areas: 1) Community Education programs, 2) Arts-in-Education programs, and 3) Agriculture and Environmental programs.

Amounts: Up to \$10,000.

Deadlines: The Foundation Board meets three times per year. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

For More Information: <http://www.harrychapinfoundation.org/index.php>

Articles of Interest

Following are articles specific to your interests:

- 08-01-2016 [**Why 1 Lehigh Valley community plans to ban some bamboos**](#)
Forks Township is weighing a new law banning some forms of bamboo. The plant grows quickly and spreads quickly. The best way to keep it from crossing boundary lines is to enact a ban on the most invasive types, according to Forks Township Supervisor Erik Chuss.... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 08-01-2016 [**Forests bouncing back after two spring fires**](#)
It's been three months since a pair of Monroe and Pike county brush fires destroyed a combined 8,666 acres of land. As a forest fire supervisor for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's Forestry division, Shawn Turner oversaw the initial response team sent to... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 08-01-2016 [**Educator's Workshop will focus on bringing environment into classroom**](#)
August 1, 2016 How to bring the environment into classrooms and students into the environment will be the focus of a professional development Educator's Workshop on Project Learning Tree provided by Jen Moore,... more »» - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 08-01-2016 [**Proposed Allegheny National Forest project involves timber harvest**](#)
MARIENVILLE - The Allegheny National Forest's Marienville Ranger District released a draft decision notice for the Salmon East Project, a 13,038-acre project located in Jenks and Howe Townships, Forest County. "This project will create early structural habitat which has been declining... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 08-01-2016 [**Pa. firefighters battling forest fire in Wyoming**](#)
Two firefighting crews from Pennsylvania are spending two weeks helping to extinguish forest fires. Two 20-person crews left Friday from Harrisburg, and are assigned to the new Sawmill Mountain fire near Douglas, Wyoming, said Terry Brady, spokesman for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 07-28-2016 [**USDA Begins Second Year of National Project to Quantify Effects of...**](#)
(Press Release)

- 07-27-2016 [**PGC: Big-Buck Trail Cam Contest**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-26-2016 [**Habitat, not predators, seen as key to wildlife populations**](#)
Predators take a lot of heat for pursuing prey species that sometimes also are pursued by sportsmen. Their impact is more imagined than real, though. That's the word from Pennsylvania Game Commission, anyway. At its recent meeting, the agency devoted a lot of time to debunking the idea predators... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 07-25-2016 [**Outdoors notebook: More bad news for ruffed grouse, bird hunters**](#)
The numbers are not encouraging. Worse yet, another downturn may be on the way. Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist Lisa Williams asked hunters who harvested a grouse last fall to send her a blood samples from it for examination. The idea was to see how many birds had been exposed to West... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 07-25-2016 [**Scranton: 150 trees to mark sesquicentennial**](#)
A project to plant 150 trees in Scranton for the city's sesquicentennial has taken root, but still needs more donors. A Scranton Tomorrow project led by former Mayor David Wenzel, the tree-planting initiative called "Scranton: 150 trees, 150 years" began last year as part of the city's sesquicentennial celebrations.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 07-22-2016 [**Jefferson firefighters receive DCNR grant to battle brush fires**](#)
JEFFERSON – A few thousand dollars can go a long way to helping volunteer fire departments in rural areas fight brush fires. Jefferson Volunteer Fire Co. is matching a \$1,536 volunteer fire assistance grant it just received from the state Department of Conservation and... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 07-21-2016 [**Christmas in July: Growers gather at champion Pa. tree farm**](#)
The folks at Crystal Spring Tree Farm in Carbon County, Pa., are used to attention. The farm has won the privilege of supplying trees to the White House four times for the Christmas season. This weekend the farm off Route 902 in Mahoning Township will host the 2016... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 07-21-2016 [**Game Commission swaps gas line rights for 237 acres of forest**](#)
Forests covering 237 acres in Lackawanna and Monroe counties will become state game land through a swap that gives a company permission to install a gas pipeline that crosses game land and burrows beneath the Appalachian Trail in Lebanon County. In Lackawanna County, 120 acres of watershed for the Lackawanna River in... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 07-20-2016 [**Keep PA Beautiful Urges Adoption Of Local Roads, Parks, Other Areas To Fight...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-19-2016 [**Too Many Deer on the Road? Let Cougars Return, Study Says**](#)
What large mammal regularly kills humans in the Eastern United States? And what other large mammal might significantly reduce those deaths? The answer to the first question is the white-tailed deer. Deer do not set out to murder people, as far as anyone knows, but they do jump out in front... - [New York Times](#)

- 07-18-2016 [**Students take "hands-on" learning approach at Penn State Mont Alto's STEM Camp**](#)
Mont Alto, Pa. High schools students with an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) have spent the past week learning about careers and exploring those areas of study at Penn State Mont Alto's inaugural STEM Camp this week. Incoming ninth-and-tenth-graders from several school districts across... - [*Waynesboro Record Herald*](#)
- 07-17-2016 [**Survey asks who is using public properties**](#)
When mountain bikers slow down to watch wildlife in the distance, who paid for the management actions that put those animals there? When a couple walking their dog on state game lands spook a deer just as an archer draws his bow, who is in the wrong? How are public lands funded, who is using them for outdoor recreation and... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 07-14-2016 [**Jt. Legislative Conservation Commission Environmental Synopsis for July 2016**](#)
(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.