



Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program

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Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference

On September 22, the 3rd Annual Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference was held in the auditorium of the Forest Resources Building at University Park. Over thirty representatives from twelve woodland owners associations (WOAs) from across the state came together to learn more about building and maintaining a strong organization.

Catherine Mater of Mater Engineering gave a presentation on the results of the USDA Forest Service's offspring study in Wisconsin and requested participants for interviews with the offspring of landowners in Pennsylvania.

Bill Shuffstall, Penn State Extension Educator, shared tools for taking advantage of the Internet and helping WOAs gain a Net presence. Neal Fogle, Montour County Cooperative Extension Educator, shared resources for organization strategic planning. Janet Allis, Snyder County Cooperative Extension Educator, gave a presentation and resources on building stronger boards.

The PowerPoint presentations have been uploaded to our website. If you have an interest in viewing them go to: <http://www.paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu/Associations.html>.

2007 PA Forest Stewards Basic Training Underway

On the weekend of September 7-9, twenty new PA Forest Stewards began their basic training. We met at the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in Schuylkill Haven and shared with them all we know about tree ID, forest ecology, silviculture, forest

measurements, taxation, forest finance, and legal issues for private forest landowners.

This year's class draws heavily from the southeastern portions of Pennsylvania – an area where we have had few volunteers in the past.

Welcome to our new PA Forest Stewards!

Basic Training: Come Meet the New Volunteers

The second weekend of the 2007 Basic Training will happen on October 19-21 at the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in Schuylkill Haven. Plan to come join us for dinner on October 20, to participate in the evening program and meet the new volunteers. If you are interesting in attending the evening program, starting at 6:30 p.m. with dinner, please let Allyson know by Friday, October 12. We need an accurate count for the meal.

New Display for Outreach



This summer we commissioned a graphic artist to design a new display to use in conjunction with tabletop displays such as our woodland owners association, forest stewardship, and PA Forest Stewards displays. Together we designed the "Our Woods" tree that you can use in any number of ways. The message is relatively generic but

conveys that caring for and using our woods in a sustainable way is important for diverse reasons. If you'd like to borrow this or other displays for your upcoming events, contact our office.

Working with Local Government In-Service Training – November 10

Hopefully you received in the mail the invitation and announcement to the November 10 In-Service Training on Working with Local Government. Bill Elmendorf and his colleagues will present on and lead discussions around municipal government structure and function found in Pennsylvania, an overview of comprehensive planning, zoning and regulatory tools, how to work with municipal officials, and how to get involved in county comprehensive planning.

Please register for the training by October 12. We will send you "homework" to be read before you attend the training.

If you have questions or would like to register, please contact our office.

Next PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee Meeting – November 8

The next meeting of the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee is on Thursday, November 8 at Foxdale Village. This group meets to help determine the future and direction of the volunteer organization.

If you have ideas, comments, or concerns about how this volunteer program is working, please contact your regional representatives.

PA Forest Stewards Endowment Slowly Growing

In our last newsletter, and in mailings that went out to all of the PA Forest Stewards, we announced the creation of the PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund through Penn State. The endowment's purpose is to enrich stewardship, outreach, and education for private forest landowner by providing monies for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Program.

We are in the fortunate position of being financially healthy due to the support of the USDA Forest Service, the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and the Ruffed Grouse Society. However, observing the current political climate, understanding how the federal forest stewardship monies are often spent fighting fire, and learning of the future competitive state funding for stewardship dollars, this may not always be the case. Funding cannot be viewed as a constant, and we worry about the future continuity of our volunteer program.

The PA Forest Stewards Endowment Fund is, in essence, a rainy day fund. We do not anticipate needing to use this fund for day-to-day operations of the volunteer organization in the next several years. However, it does provide us a buffer and the opportunity to continue to provide such a high level of service to volunteers and all of the Commonwealth's private forest

landowners should such a downturn occur.

Apart from several donations from active PA Forest Stewards, we have also received gifts from the Ruffed Grouse Society and, the Richard King Mellon Foundation. We are fortunate to have such allies and testament of the good work you are doing. While the endowment is slowly growing, we do have big goals in mind – enough to fund the program at its current levels off the return on investment (about \$2 million).

If you'd like to know more about the newly established Endowment Fund or have suggestions for helping to grow the endowment, please contact PA Forest Stewards Ruth and Bill Park, 814-238-2666, or Dennis and Jackie Waldorf, 814-379-3375.

The Adventures of Tasteless Finley Froggy

If you'll remember, at this year's Annual Meeting, a new tradition was begun as part of the Silent Auction – Tasteless Finley Froggy – who got to go home with Jim Hissom. We received this report.

As per Mr. Hissom's request here is a photo of a new sub-species of tree frog. To date, only one specimen is known to exist. We assume it is a new mutation of the Eastern Gray Treefrog and have tentatively named it: Hyla versicolor forest steward afinessae - due to its unusual coloration and affinity for forest

stewards. In fact, it appears to have a distinct aversion to its nearest known relatives (or vice-versa due to its extreme ugliness). Regardless, as you can see from the attached photo, it has some unique adaptations which should make this new sub-species a valuable future acquisition for any PA Forest Steward wishing to make a statement (i.e.. contribution) and take advantage of nature's response to global warming.

This frog appears to be mute except for an occasional vocalization...Fin-ley...Fin-ley...Fin-ley



See what he does next...

Contact Forestry Extension

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Your ideas and contributions are encouraged. Send submissions to:
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