



# Forest Leaves

*A quarterly newsletter about Pennsylvania's privately owned forestlands*

## **Exploring Your Woods: Thinning Stump Sprouts**

By Jim Finley, Pennsylvania Extension Forester

This question is from William Krellner, who wanted to know how to thin stump sprouts, especially black cherry and red maple. This is an important question, as many of our stands, young and old, have many trees that originated from stumps. Knowing when and how to thin these clumps is challenging, maybe even unnerving.

Every forester probably has rules of thumb for dealing with this situation. Some of what they profess comes from research and some from experience. Wanting to get the response right, I delved into the literature and was surprised by the paucity of documentation.

Most of the literature focuses on how sprouts form, how they contribute to stand structure, and how to work with them when they are still relatively small. The process by which they form is fascinating and merits a future article in *Forest Leaves*. Fortunately, many of our hardwood species (e.g., red and white oaks, red and sugar maple, yellow poplar, black cherry, basswood, ash) will sprout. Many foresters would prefer to have seed origin trees over sprouts, but understand sprouts do contribute significantly to regeneration.

Why thin stump sprouts? Why thin any trees? We thin to reallocate the growth on a given area of forest onto the best trees available. There is only so much growth on an acre. If there are too many trees competing for growing space, individual tree growth is slowed. Therefore, thinning early is advantageous; delays result in lost growth. Some studies have found there are advantages to thinning when the sprouts are 5 years old or less. However, economists caution investing too much time and money too early in the stand's development will not pay dividends; they suggest waiting long enough that the thinned sprouts provide a product. You have to make this decision for you and your woodlot.

When you are selecting trees to retain, favor those on opposite sides of the stump and having the lowest origin on the stump. As these trees continue to grow, they will form a "U-shaped" crotch. If you choose high origin sprouts, the trees will form a "V-shaped" crotch. If you wait too long and thin "V" crotch trees, the face between them, which is much more prone to rot, will become exposed, and decay may become an issue.

As you evaluate the sprout(s) to retain, consider their straightness, signs of decay, poorly pruned branch stubs, which often introduce rot and decay, evidence of epicormic branches (i.e., those feathery branches that emerge along the stem), and a lack of forks in the first 17 feet or so. Always consider the crown; look to open it so it can expand and become balanced and round. If the decision is to leave two stems, thin them as if they are one – they will compete at their interface but should have room to grow on their individual outer edges. Thinning will slow natural pruning of any stem. While not generally done in commercial operations, consider pruning side branches to a height of 17 feet.

In the process of researching this response, Susan Stout, US Forest Service, Irvine, PA, shared a paper by Jim Redding, retired

from the Northern Area Lab, entitled *Trees of Stump Sprout Origin*. This short paper contains a wealth of information and if you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Stewardship Office at Penn State. We will either email or mail it to you.

Among other things, Jim Redding's paper specifically addressed maple and black cherry and used science-based research by Alex Shigo, another US Forest Service researcher, to explain how decay affects trees and stump sprouts. Shigo's work determined trees compartmentalize injuries by building barriers to contain decay and rot. Redding concluded, "In other words, trees do not repair tissue injured by wounds: they wall off invaded tissues, rather than repair and replace them." The other linkage Redding made from Shigo was that the dark central core found in some northern hardwoods is not true heartwood, but is wound-initiated discoloration, which does not spread unless the tree is further injured. Further, species with ring-porous structure, such as oaks, hickory, and ash differ in their susceptibility to decay from diffuse-porous species such as maple and black cherry.

Redding, based on his readings, concluded, "... defects in red maple clumps originate from poorly-healed branch stubs 4 to 12 feet above the sprout base. These defects did not pass through the base from one sprout to another, but ended abruptly as they entered the root collar zone." He continues, "... poorer sprouts in red maple clumps can be cut without resulting damage to the remaining sprouts. Even in oak sprout clumps, the potential for spread of decayed wood from sprout to sprout is generally less than was commonly believed."

In his conclusions, Redding suggests: 1) there is support in the literature to thin clumps to one or two better stems; 2) Shigo's work sheds new light on decay and rot associated with clump thinning; 3) when thinning clumps take care to avoid splitting when felling trees in clumps (use an undercut); and 4) when initially harvesting, make sure stumps are cut low to ensure low origin sprouts.

Stump sprouts are an important component of a hardwood forest's natural regeneration. As with all forest management, allocating resources (particularly light) speeds up or slows down the natural process of stand development. Thinning stump sprouts concentrates growth on better stems – improving form, enhancing mast production, and retaining species in the mix. Whenever you are removing any trees in your woodlot, always consider species diversity and your objectives for those trees left behind, be they wildlife, timber, aesthetics. The goal, as with all forest management practices, is to move the forest to a more sustainable place.

*As you explore your woods, what questions do you encounter? Send them to the Allyson Muth, Forest Leaves editor; [abm173@psu.edu](mailto:abm173@psu.edu). Others may share your curiosity and we can learn something together.*

# Rethinking Autumn Bonfires

By Laurie Schoonhoven and Jim Finley, Penn State School of Forest Resources

Autumn is a time when many of us clear debris and leaves from the yard. Then this debris ends up in bonfires, often without considering the risks. It is easy to forget how volatile dry forests and landscapes are under the right conditions. It only takes a careless moment, a poor decision, or a wind gust to turn a bonfire to a wildfire.

Most people don't understand the risk of wildfire in Pennsylvania. Western fires fill the newspapers and evening news, but we rarely hear about the wildfires in our community or state. Compared to western forests and landscapes, Pennsylvania's forests seem impervious to fire – most of the time they are hard to burn. However, in the spring and fall, for a few short weeks, Pennsylvania's woodlands are at risk from fire. It is during these times, when the leaves are off trees that the sun warms the fallen leaves, humidity is low, winds further dry leaves, twigs, branches, and grasses, and woods are their greatest risk for fire.

Over the past few decades, more homes are built in woodland areas, and wildfires are increasingly threatening homes and people in Pennsylvania. This spring a 2,200 acre fire in Luzerne County threatened homes in a small community. While no homes were lost in this instance, it does and could happen any time. If you own a home in a forested area learn how to protect it.

We encourage you and your community to become Firewise. If your home is in the forest, thin trees around the house so they are scattered and ensure their branches do not

touch your home. Keep your chimney clean and cover it with a screen to contain sparks. Mow your lawn to create a 100 foot wide buffer of green grass. Remove leaves and pine needles from gutters as well as from under decks and porches. Keep 100 feet of hose ready to wet shrubs and dry grasses near your home if fire should occur. Pile wood and keep gasoline and other flammable materials thirty feet or more from the house. Make sure your storage shed is away from the house, especially if it contains flammable materials and equipment. To help fire trucks reach your home, keep your driveway open and remove overhead branches that might impede access. Most of all, avoid open outdoor burning, recycle mulch, and compost when possible.

It is important for everyone to assume responsibility for protecting our forests and homes from wildland fire. When you know forest leaves and branches are dry and conditions are right for fire, exercise extra care. If you are uncertain about fire conditions, contact your local fire company or Bureau of Forestry district office. Before starting a fire, wet down the area around the burn barrel to prevent sparks from igniting grass, and douse areas if the fire spreads. Burn debris in a container with a screen to contain sparks.

For more information about the Firewise program in Pennsylvania and additional resources for protecting your forest and home visit the Pennsylvania Firewise Community Program website at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/firewise.aspx>.

## Pennsylvania Forestry Association Update

By Linda Finley, PFA President

A key component of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association's mission has always been to gather and distribute pertinent information to promote the wise stewardship of our forests and the natural resources they provide. Around 1877, Dr. Joseph Rothrock, medical doctor and botany professor, presented a series of talks – *The Michaux Lectures* – promoting the importance, use, and understanding of the science-based management of forests called silviculture.

At the time, Pennsylvania's lush green rolling hills were being cut and burned at an alarming rate. Rothrock traveled the Commonwealth by horse and buggy. He totted lantern slides (pictures he took himself) showing the flames and smoke and "the cut and get out practices" being used. With great conviction and enthusiasm, he shared this information and the need to make changes. The lectures were quite successful and resulted in a dedicated following of concerned citizens who saw and understood the need to stop the devastation.

As a result of these lectures, in 1886 PFA was founded and Dr. Rothrock was elected its first president. In part, the association's mission at the time read "*Labors to disseminate information . . .*" Today our communication

methods are more diverse but the need to share information is every bit as important. In the 1800s, Commonwealth citizens had reason for concern about their forest. Today, 200 plus years later, our concerns may embrace some of the same issues as well as new challenges (e.g., invasive plants, insects and diseases, poor cutting practices, regeneration); nonetheless, the need to be aware has not decreased.

Today we are fortunate to have educators, forestry professionals, natural resource agencies, and forest landowners who work together with common goals that embrace science-based forest management to ensure the sustainability of our forest resources. PFA is very proud of the role it has played in forest conservation, and will continue to welcome the opportunity to partner with individuals and groups with shared interest.

You might enjoy learning more about some of Pennsylvania's forestry and conservation leaders. Check out our website (<http://pfa.cas.psu.edu>) or call the PFA office (717-766-5371) for a list of publications about Dr. Rothrock, Andre Michaux, our State Forest System, forester and philanthropist Joseph Ibberson, Big Trees of PA, and the PA

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## PFA Update Continued...

Elk. Don't forget, the holidays are just around the corner; books are wonderful gifts! Also a PFA membership fits everyone and comes with the quarterly magazine *Pennsylvania Forests*.

This fall I pass the PFA President's gavel to Marc Lewis. It has been my honor to share with you PFA programs, projects, events, goals, and, hopefully, helpful information in our common quest toward sustainability.

*Healthy working forests for today and tomorrow – that's what it's all about!*

For more information on the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, contact the main office at 800-835-8065 or 717-766-5371, email [thepfa@verizon.net](mailto:thepfa@verizon.net) or visit the website <http://pfa.cas.psu.edu>.

## The Red Oaks

By William C. Paxton, Landscape Architect and Consulting Forester

Red oak is “the gentleman of the Pennsylvania forests” according to Norton Cope, my dendrology mentor. It is clean, straight, and tall and provides a large crop of acorns on a regular basis. I live near several and all that he said is true. The caps of the true nuts have scales and the leaves have bristles at the lobe tips. The bud scales have hairs on them. Scarlet oak has hairs on all parts of the bud scales while red oak has hairs as a fringe only on the edges of the bud scales!

You can learn to identify red oak from its bark. As young trees, the bark is smooth and gray. Even in older red oaks, you can see this bark pattern on the upper branches and sometimes on up to half the length of the main stem. This also happens with scarlet oak, but unlike our “gentleman,” scarlet oak holds its dead branches while red oak discards them. Scarlet oak has an acorn cap that creeps down over the sides of the nut kernel while red oak caps sit directly on the top. Once I found several that were 4 cm. (1½”) in diameter. Black oak with large, angled, gray furry buds, keeps its rugged bark to the very tip-top, but its acorn caps are dull rather than glossy and the scales flake away loosely on the margin rather than staying tight and appressed. By the way ... if you get a black oak with a leaf with a very broad top AND the buds are furry and angled... if the fur (hairs) is warm chestnut orange brown (rather than gray), it is blackjack oak that DOES occur in Pennsylvania woodlands, despite what the range maps say.

Pin oak is the popular street, shade, park and residential tree. Its lower branches droop to the ground. Its middle branches grow horizontally and its upper branches reach up – when it is open-grown. In the forest (usually near water), it

can appear as scrappy as any poorly-formed tree fighting for light.

Northern pin oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) is not a Pennsylvania tree ... that is, until you see a “different” looking sharp lobed oak planted on some college campus.



## Pennsylvania Competes at National 4-H Forestry Invitational

Pennsylvania placed seventh among fourteen state teams participating in the 30<sup>th</sup> annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30. The team from Alabama placed first. Teams from Illinois and Louisiana placed second and third, respectively. The invitational was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The Farm Credit System and Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the event.

At the Invitational, 4-H members compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events

included a written forestry exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, the forestry bowl, and forest evaluation. Pennsylvania was represented by Sara Beatty of Home, Jacob Beisel of Clymer, and Caleb McGaughran of Blairsville (Indiana County). The team was coached by Deborah Beisel and Ashlee Early.

The Joe Yeager leadership award was given to Wilson Pierce of Georgia. This award is presented to the individual

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# Farm Tractors and the Woods

By Dennis Murphy, Lee Stover, and Bill Harshman, The Pennsylvania State University

Adapted from the September/October 2009 *Agricultural Safety and Health Newsletter*

Harvesting timber, clearing land and fence rows, and cutting and transporting firewood are common tasks on farms and rural property. When attempted by untrained, inexperienced farmers or rural property owners who use machines designed for farming or property maintenance, these tasks can present real dangers.

Recent Pennsylvania *Farm Fatality Reports* have identified numerous fatalities involving tractors that are being used for pulling down trees and limbs, pulling tree stumps, dragging logs, clearing saplings and brush from fence rows, or for collecting and hauling firewood. For example, one farmer was killed when the log he was dragging from the woodlot caught the edge of a field's dead furrow and pulled the tractor backward and over on to him.

A little more than 50% of these incidents involved tractor upsets while dragging trees, logs, tree tops or brush. Nearly 40% of the incidents involved falling trees due to lodged trees, wind gusts, or falling limbs (widow makers) from overhead. The remaining incidents involved chainsaw kick-back situations. Follow safety guidelines when using farm tractors to clear land and transport farm wood products.

Most farm tractors are not appropriately equipped for how they are used in woodlots. For example, farm tractors used for woodlot tasks often must fit through narrow spaces between trees and stumps. This often means that the selected tractor is too small to do the job safely.

Many tractors taken into the woods lack a rollover protective structure (ROPS), especially older models. ROPS sunshade canopies and enclosed ROPS cabs by themselves do not protect against heavy falling objects, such as major tree limbs. To ensure an operator's safety against heavy falling objects, the tractor needs an enclosed cab ROPS with a Falling Object Protective Structure (FOPS) for its roof. A 2-post or 4-post ROPS with a FOPS canopy, while good because it provides overhead protection, still leaves the operator exposed to being struck by limbs and trees that break apart upon impact with the FOPS.

While FOPS are critical to safely using farm tractors in the woods, they aren't readily available in the agricultural tractor market. Consult with your tractor dealer or manufacturer's representative to see what options are available for you.

## How to safely drag and pull stumps, logs, and limbs

In addition to safely equipping the tractor, there are skid cones, log arches, three-point mounted grapples and three-point winch-equipped skidding implements you can purchase. Any device that prevents the log from twisting or rolling while being skidded will increase safety. Here are some safe log-dragging practices:

- Only use tractors with ROPS/FOPS protection. If the tractor has a ROPS cab, a protective grill should cover the rear window. If the tractor uses a 2-post or 4-post type of ROPS/FOPS, the rear opening should be covered with a grill.
- Use chain or cable chokers to attach to the log, and place them within one foot of the end of the log.
- If only chains are used for skidding logs, the chain should be attached only to the drawbar.
- Chains used for skidding should not be so long that they will catch on the rear tire when the tractor is turned.
- Use of arches, grapples, and winches are much preferred for any dragging operation.
- If you use log arches, grapples, or winches, their size needs to match the tractor's size and power. Check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- With PTO-driven winches, keep PTO guards in place.
- Operate winches only from the tractor seat to prevent winch cables and chokers from striking the operator.
- Lower all three-point mounted equipment and lock brakes before dismounting the tractor.
- Always wear a cutter's helmet with hearing and eye protection. If you don't have a cutter's helmet, wear a hard hat with separate hearing and eye protection. Always wear steel-toed work boots. During cutting operations, wear chainsaw safety chaps.

For more information, review Fact Sheet E34, *Tractor Overturn Hazards*, for a full explanation of the principles regarding tractor overturn hazards. A new fact sheet on tractors and woodlots is in the works and will be available soon. Go to <http://www.agsafety.psu.edu> and click on "Safety Fact Sheets."

## 4-H Forestry Invitational Continued...

who demonstrated excellent communication, management, decision-making and interpersonal skills at the Invitational.

4-H is a youth education program operated by Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state land grant universities. More than five-and-a-half million young people participate in 4-H, and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry Program.

For more information on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, go to: <http://www.aces.edu/n4hfi>.

Left to right: Debbie Beisel, Ashlee Early, Sara Beatty, Caleb McGaughran, Jacob Beisel, Ray Beisel



# ***Pennsylvania Tree Farming Notes***

By Dennis and Jackie Waldorf, Co-Chairs, Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee

## **2009 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year**

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, at the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) Annual Dinner Meeting in Essington, PA the Tree Farm Committee honored Harry and Helen Spellman as the state's Outstanding Tree Farmers of 2009. In 1994, the Spellmans, of Wexford, PA, acquired a 331-acre woodlot in Venango County. Working with foresters identified through the PA Bureau of Forestry they embarked on removing grapevine and other invasive plants.

In 1997, they approached Consulting Forester John Daugherty to manage a potential timber sale. At that time, John advised them on problems with their previously unmanaged forest, things that would be aggravated unless they did work in advance of the sale. John prepared a management plan incorporating their objectives to enhance timber value and wildlife habitat. With this information and direction, Harry and his son, Harry, Jr., spent several years preparing for their first timber sale. The sale occurred in 2006, primarily for the purpose of enhancing the property. A timber stand improvement sale also took place in 2008.

It was such a pleasure to meet this active senior couple when we visited their forest this summer. The amount of work dedicated to the principles of the Tree Farm Program convinced the Committee that the Spellmans' selection as Outstanding Tree Farmers is well-deserved.

## **2009 Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year**

Donald E. Kline, Bureau of Forestry Service Forester for Perry and Juniata Counties, is the 2009 Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector. He has served the Bureau in various capacities for the past 32 years. In 2002, Don became a Tree Farm Inspector and has been dedicated to advancing the Tree Farm Program by completing five or six re-certifications each year and signing up one or two new members annually. Don encourages landowners to get involved with both the Tree Farm and Forest Stewardship Programs to take advantage of all the benefits. He is known for carrying a truck full of handouts with practical advice and useful information to address landowners' issues.

Don and his wife, Donna, reside outside Liverpool, PA. They have a daughter, a son and a 2-1/2-year-old grandson. Don enjoys hunting, camping and fishing, especially on the Susquehanna River. He also has a "hobby" farm with 30 acres of crops.

## **Attention Inspecting Foresters! (from Dave Jackson, Inspector Training Chair)**

Following approval of the revised AFF Standards, all inspecting foresters must undergo an updated inspector training, which will be available on-line. To better coordinate inspector training expiration dates with the 5-year cycle for revised Standards, all inspectors whose training expires before the new Standards are released have received extensions. Once the new Standards are released, all inspectors will receive an expiration date coinciding with the Standards revision process and will, henceforth, remain on the same inspection update cycle. Please direct any questions about this to Dave at [drj11@psu.edu](mailto:drj11@psu.edu).

## **2009 Member Support Campaign**

In late October the American Forest Foundation (AFF) launched its annual Member Support Campaign to solicit tax-deductible contributions from Tree Farmers. This demonstration of financial support solidifies AFF's tax-exempt status and is a vote of confidence in the Program from those who benefit. After covering its solicitation costs AFF returns 50% of the proceeds from each state back to that state's Tree Farm Committee. Presently the PA State Tree Farm Committee has no other fundraising activities and relies solely on funding from AFF. Participation in the Tree Farm program is growing more valuable each year. As State Co-Chairs, Dennis and I strongly encourage you to support this effort.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Once again we are asking for your participation in staffing the Tree Farm Display at the 2010 Pennsylvania Farm Show, January 9 through 16, 2010. Our display is next to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association display and we cooperate with their volunteers to educate adults and school children about forest stewardship and management. In the four years Dennis and I have been doing this, we have always come away with new knowledge of our own.

If you can help us, particularly if you are in the Central Pennsylvania area, please contact our Outreach Chair, John Buzzell at [foreststew@aol.com](mailto:foreststew@aol.com).

For more information about the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program, contact Dennis and Jackie Waldorf, State Committee Co-Chairs, at 814-379-3375 or [Mysti5605@aol.com](mailto:Mysti5605@aol.com), or visit the website: <http://patreefarm.cas.psu.edu/>.

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## ***Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative Office Has Moved***

The PA SFI Office has moved. While their toll free number, 1-888-734-9366, remains the same, everything else has changed.

PA SFI  
PO Box 276  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: 814-355-3970  
Fax: 814-355-3071  
Email: [pasfi@verizon.net](mailto:pasfi@verizon.net)



# Forest Leaves Calendar



Wednesday, October 14. Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners Association: Saw Mill Tour, 9:30 a.m., RGM Forest Products, Daleville. Call Craig Olver for reservations and directions, 570-729-7683.

Wednesdays, October 14, 21, and 28. Mercer County Cooperative Extension: Forest Estate Planning Three-Part Workshop Series, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person for all three nights or \$40 per family. <http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/2009ForestEstatePlanningFinal.pdf> Contact Mercer County Extension, 724-662-3141, for more information.

Friday, October 16. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Timber Taxation Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Cumberland County Extension Office, Carlisle. **1**

Saturday, October 17. Woodland Owners of the Clarion Allegheny Valley: Propagation Methods for Wildlife and Aesthetics, 9 a.m., John and Beverly Campbell property, Tionesta. Contact George Schmader for more information, hillwood@venustel.com.

Saturday, October 17. Tioga County Woodland Owners Association: Tree Identification, 10 a.m., Keller Woodlands, Wellsboro. Preceded by a 9 a.m. business meeting. Contact Tom Socha, 814-258-7386, for more information.

Monday, October 19. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Forest Finance and State of the Forest Industry Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Perkins Restaurant, Tunkhannock. **1**

Wednesday, October 21. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Forest Finance and State of the Forest Industry Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Structural Modulars, Inc., Strattanville. **1**

Saturday, October 24. Delaware Highlands Conservancy: Fuel Wood Harvesting and Chainsaw Safety, Milford Experimental Forest, Milford. Contact Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 570-226-3164, for more information.

Tuesday, October 27. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Timber Taxation Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Westmoreland County Extension Office, Greensburg. Cost is \$95. **1**

Wednesday, November 4. Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association: Managing Your Forests: Where to Begin, 7 p.m., First Floor Meeting Room, Courthouse Square Building, 100 W. Beau Street, Washington. **2**

Thursday, November 5. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Timber Taxation Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Clinton County Research and Education Center, Mill Hall. **1**

Friday, November 6. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Forest Finance and State of the Forest Industry Workshop, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Clinton County Research and Education Center, Mill Hall. **1**

Friday, November 6. Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture: Woodlot Management: Maintaining Health, Productive Forests, 10 a.m. – 3

p.m., Blue Rooster Farm, East Waterford (Juniata). \$15 for PASA members, \$25 for all others. Lunch is provided. To register, visit: [www.pasafarming.org/educational-outreach](http://www.pasafarming.org/educational-outreach).

Saturday, November 7. Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association: Visit to a Recently Treated Forest, Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg. **2**

Sunday, November 15. Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association: Energy from Your Woodlot, 1 p.m., Bloomsburg Bureau of Forestry Office (Columbia County). Contact Barbara Williams, 570-458-0157, CSWOA1@gmail.com, for more information.

Tuesday, November 17. Lycoming Woodland Owners Association: Using a Hand-held GPS Unit in Your Woodlot, 2 – 4 p.m., Lysockview, Montoursville. Contact Chalmer VanHorn at 570-546-5548.

**1** Cost is \$95. Registration is due two weeks prior to session. <http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/TaxFinance2009.pdf> Contact Mike Powell, 814-863-1113, [mjp175@psu.edu](mailto:mjp175@psu.edu).

**2** Contact Bob Daley, [daley@cs.pitt.edu](mailto:daley@cs.pitt.edu), for more information.

PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER (<http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb/>)

To participate in one of these online seminars, you must be registered and have a “Friend of Penn State” user ID and password. Visit the website to register, see the list of upcoming seminars with descriptions, and to view recordings of previously held seminars. Seminars are held the second Tuesday of every month at noon and 7 p.m. Participants need to have a high speed internet connection and speakers to attend.

Second Tuesday of the Month Series

Tuesday, October 13. Protecting Water Resources on Your Property. Presentation by Bryan Swistock, Water Resources Extension Specialist, Penn State School of Forest Resources, Noon and 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10. Forest Management and Regeneration. Presentation by Susan Stout, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Noon and 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8. Managing Community Natural Resources: Suggestions for Commission Members and Other Citizen Advocates. Presentation by Bill Elmendorf, Associate Professor, Penn State School of Forest Resources, Noon and 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 12. Maple Syrup. Presentation by Bob Hansen, Forest Resources/ Maple Products Extension Educator and the Tioga County Extension Director, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Noon and 7 p.m.

**Next deadline: November 25 for events between January 15 and April 15.**

## Conservation Stewardship Program Continued...

**FRD01** - On farm research and demonstrations

**FRD02** - On farm pilot projects

To apply for CSP, potential participants will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. It will be available on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) websites and at NRCS field offices. After self-screening, the landowner’s current and proposed conservation practices are entered in the conservation measurement tool (CMT), which estimates the

level of environmental performance to be achieved by a landowner implementing and maintaining conservation activities. The conservation performance estimated by the CMT is used to rank applications.

NRCS field staff will also conduct on-site field verifications of applicants’ information obtained from the CMT. Once the potential participant property has been field verified and approved for funding, the owner must develop an NRCS conservation stewardship plan.

Contact your local NRCS office for more information.

# The Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a new federal payment program available to forest landowners as well as agricultural producers. The CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages landowners to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by: improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities; and undertaking additional conservation activities. In short, forest landowners are rewarded for maintaining sustainable practices and installing one additional activity during a five-year contract. Landowners accepted into the CSP might receive between \$6 and \$12 per acre annually to maintain existing forestland conservation practices.

Signups for the new CSP began in August 2009. The signup with periodic cutoffs to evaluate and rank applications is continuous throughout this Farm Bill. The next ranking cutoff period is targeted to end January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Forest landowners will answer questions that measure the amount of stewardship their current conservation activities are providing. Someone who has two of the following conditions should consider applying as they already provide high levels of environmental benefits:

- 1) Woodlot "green certified" by one of the following recognized programs: American Tree Farm System, Green Tag, SmartWood, FSC, or SFI.
- 2) One or more improvements have been made to the forest in the past ten years in accordance with a written forest management or Bureau of Forestry Forest Stewardship Plan.
- 3) There is no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, roads, skid trails, and landings.
- 4) Native trees are adequately stocked on the property (except temporarily for areas being reforested), and wildfire risk (in wildfire-prone areas) is minimized by strategically placed narrow firebreaks and wider fuel breaks (which may include roads, streams, riparian areas, and other areas managed to slow fire spread).

In addition to already having a minimum stewardship level on their forest land, applicants must also adopt additional conservation activities during five-year contract. Some of the conservation activities available for forest landowners to adopt include:

- PLT07** - Hardwood tree release (thinning young precommercial stands less than 8" dbh)
- ANM15** - Forest stand improvement for habitat and soil quality (more snags, dens, cavities, etc.)
- ANM12** - Shallow water habitat (vernal pools)
- PLT05** - Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest plants (e.g., mushrooms, ferns, ginseng, goldenseal, maple syrup)
- ENR05** - Locally grown and marketed forest products (purchase within 100 miles, sell within 400)
- ANM14** - Riparian forest buffer maintenance (invasive species control, more snags, etc.)
- ANM19** - Wildlife corridors (non riparian)
- PLT04** - Forest stand improvement, prescribed burning (restore oaks, etc.)
- PLT03** - Forest stand improvement, pretreatment for prescribed burning (reducing fuel load, etc.)
- WQL13** - High level integrated pest management to reduce pesticide environmental risk (more than just gypsy moth spraying)

There are many conservation activities for agricultural producers as well. Agroforestry producers or landowners interested in associating trees with crop and livestock production may also be interested in adopting some of these activities:

- WQL12** - Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses
- ANM18** - Retrofit watering facility for wildlife
- ENR02** - Solar powered electric fence
- PLT01** - Establish pollinator habitat
- ANM20** - Silvopasture for wildlife habitat
- SOE02** - Protect cultural resources sites with conservation cover

## FOREST LEAVES—Autumn 2009

Editor: Allyson Brownlee Muth

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Calendar contributions and news items are welcome. Submissions for the next issue of Forest Leaves are due:

**November 25, 2009**

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- **The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program.** Administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of the PA Bureau of Forestry in conjunction with the Forest Stewardship Steering Committee and the Penn State Forest Resources Extension.
- **The Pennsylvania Tree Farm® Program** (<http://patreefarm.cas.psu.edu/>) Administered nationally by the American Tree Farm System® under the guidance of the American Forest Foundation.
- **The Pennsylvania Forestry Association** (<http://pfa.cas.psu.edu/>).

Publication is directed by representatives from the forest products industry, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Forest Resources Extension, and private forest landowners.

This Publication is available in alternate format upon request.

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November 25, 2009



**Autumn 2009**

## **Building Your Library...**

By Allyson Muth, Forest Stewardship Program Associate, Penn State School of Forest Resources

**Shop Local, Save Land: Working Together to Sustain Our Forests** by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.  
[ShopLocalSaveLand.com](http://ShopLocalSaveLand.com), 20 pp.

Many of you have seen or been influenced to change your food-buying habits by Eat Local campaigns. By encouraging consumers to purchase foods from local farmers, a shift in spending occurs and money stays within the local community longer – not to mention the advantages of knowing where your food is coming from and cutting transportation distances significantly. With depressed forest products markets, and those industries driving and driven by it, one region is looking to implement an “Eat Local” campaign for the local forest industry.

*Shop Local, Save Land: Working Together to Sustain Our Forests* is a guide to wood products, professionals, and resources in northeastern Pennsylvania and adjoining New York counties. This guide, conceptualized and created by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy out of Hawley, was designed to foster the sustainability of healthy and economically productive forestlands by establishing a network of local wood products providers, forest landowners, forestry professionals, and the general public. The guide provides resources for private forest landowners to help them sustainably manage their forestland. It helps them find foresters and loggers who can help them attain their objectives. It identifies primary and

secondary forest processing and manufacturing facilities in the local region. It also includes end user outlets for other products – building supplies, farm supplies, furnishings, gardening and landscape, lumber, and wood energy.

By carrying the basic resource through to value added endpoints, the goal is to build capacity, enhance sustainable management of the forest resources, and ensure dollars stay within the community. Local economies that support forest stewardship encourage working forests to stay working forests, and by encouraging those manufacturers and markets that add value to the basic resource, the monetary value of the product increases.

*Shop Local, Save Land* is an excellent resource for landowners and wood products consumers living in northeastern Pennsylvania and adjacent New York. It is also an excellent model for other regions to follow and support forest products industry from the ground up.

Copies of the guide are available by visiting [ShopLocalSaveLand.com](http://ShopLocalSaveLand.com), or, if you’re in the area, stop by a local business and pick one up. Contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at 570-226-3164 for more information or to be listed in the next version of the guide.

