

AGENDA  
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
February 10, 2016  
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board will approve prior minutes from December Meeting

Board will approve minutes from January Meeting

3. NEW BUSINESS

Discuss finding of additional Board Members

4. SUB DIVISION REVIEW

5. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss KEGB Day - April 2nd - (Discuss possible Rain date)

2. Spring Planting - Finalize Date and Rain Date - and Discussion of obtaining supplies

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

7. VARIANCES

8. BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

9. LIAISON REPORTS

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Forest Leaves Newsletter

11. DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Feb 08, 2016	Municipal Authority	7:00 pm
Feb 08, 2016	Futurist Committee	7:00 pm
Feb 10, 2016	Conservancy Board	7:00 pm
Feb 11, 2016	Historical Commission	7:00 pm
Feb 16, 2016	Board of Supervisors	7:00 pm
Mar 01, 2016	Board of Supervisors	7:00 pm
Mar 02, 2016	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
Mar 03, 2016	Park & Rec Commission	7:00 pm
Mar 09, 2016	Conservancy Board	7:00 pm

\*Newsletter Deadlines for Summer of 2016: May 2, 2016

12. Public Comment

13. Adjournment

draft  
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
December 9, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Walter Wujcik, Erich Meyer, Sandra Snyder, Patti Brown and John Scheidt. Others present were: Janet Emanuel, Township Supervisor, Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer, Mr. Gary Moore, and Matt Bush.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our troops and first responders.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Walter noted that the minutes of the November 11, 2015 meeting were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. PA Environmental Council Donation – Erich made a motion to continue to make a \$50.00 donation. Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. E Waste Recycling Event Results – The Board reviewed Jon Altshul's report of the November 21, 2015 E-Waste Recycling Event held at the Township Park which was better attended than the first event in July. A total of over 21 tons of ewaste was collected or, about 8,600 pounds more than in July.
3. Natural Resources & Protected Open Space - A letter was received from Brian O'Leary Executive Director of the Chester Co. Planning Commission about three new online resources dealing with natural resources and protected open space in Chester County, as follows:
  - a. The Chester Co. Natural Heritage Inventory of 2015 – This presents extensive mapping and descriptions of locations of rare plants & animals.
  - b. Natural Resource Protection Model Standards – These standards were based on effective zoning ordinance regulations. They present a template for addressing the minimum protection needed for natural resources under ideal conditions.
  - c. Protected Open Space Tracking (POST) system – This system contains information on protected open space in Chester County.
4. Tree City USA – The Board discussed the Tree City ideas and will look at ways that the Township can qualify. Walter suggested looking at the budget to see where the funds were spent in an attempt to meet the Tree City USA standards.

**SUB-DIVISION REVIEW**

1. 930 N. Chester Rd – Mr. Moore was present. Mark Gordon explained that the owner is requesting a waiver from the Township ordinance requirement to provide a landscape development plan since they are not building on the property. John made a motion to approve the plan per the stipulations in the staff memo regarding the relief they are seeking. Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Conservancy Board made the following recommendation to the Planning Commission - The Applicant shall list the proposed varieties and number of plants proposed for landscaping on the final plan and a Landscaping plan shall be provided to the Township along with the building permit application. The Township staff will confirm that the proposed plantings are not invasive species, the trees proposed are listed on the Township Recommended Tree Species List and that the landscaping is installed prior to issuance of a Use and Occupancy Certificate.

- 1
- 2 2. 942 Cornwallis Drive – Matthew Bush from JMR Engineering LLC was present. The applicant is
- 3 requesting waivers from the drip line tree protection zone, landscape plan and street tree
- 4 requirement. John made a motion to approve the plan per the stipulations in the staff memo
- 5 regarding the relief they are seeking. Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6 The Conservancy Board made the following recommendation to the Planning Commission – The
- 7 applicant shall list the proposed varieties and number of plants proposed for landscaping on the final
- 8 plan and a landscaping plan shall be provided to the Township along with the building permit
- 9 application. The Township staff will confirm that the proposed plantings are not invasive species,
- 10 trees proposed are listed on the Township Recommended Tree Species List and that the landscaping
- 11 is installed prior to issuance of a use and occupancy certificate.
- 12
- 13

14 **OLD BUSINESS**

- 15 1. 2016 Goals – The accomplishments for 2015 and goals for 2016 were reviewed for Walter to present
- 16 at the Annual ABC Meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2016.
- 17 2. 2016 Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day (April 2, 2016) – A notice of this event will be in the Winter
- 18 and Spring Newsletter. The Girl Scout troop that has been so active in this event will be added to the
- 19 plaque.
- 20 3. Spring Planting – Walter asked the Board members to think of an area for the Spring Planting. It
- 21 was also suggested that the Supervisors and members of other ABCs be asked if they have a
- 22 suggestion. Sandy suggested performing a soil analysis test on any new areas suggested for planting
- 23 moving forward.
- 24

25 **LIAISON REPORTS**

26 **BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS**

- 27
- 28 1. Signs - The Board will ask Mark Miller to start taking the broken signs down. Janet mentioned that
- 29 new signs will be installed for the Paoli Pike Trail and they will all be the same format.
- 30 2. The Conservancy Board has a vacancy. Walter asked for ideas to advertise for this. Hershey's Mill
- 31 newsletter and TV channel was suggested.
- 32

33 **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erich

34 seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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37 Respectfully submitted,

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41 Sandy Snyder, Conservancy Board Member

draft  
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
January 13, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Walter Wujcik, Erich Meyer, Sandra Snyder, and Patti Brown. Others present were: Janet Emanuel, Township Supervisor.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our troops and first responders.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Walter noted that the minutes of the December 2015 meeting will be reviewed at the February meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Election of Officers for 2016 – Walter nominated Sandy Snyder for Chairman. Patti seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous. Sandy nominated Erich for Vice Chairman. Patti seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2016 Goals – Walter reviewed the 2015 Accomplishments and 2016 Goals he presented at the Annual ABC meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2016.
2. 2016 Spring Planting – The Board wants to have a spring planting around the time of Earth Day (April 15-20) at the Reservoir Road site. They will do a site walk in February or March.
3. 2016 Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day (April 2, 2016 rain date April 9) – More volunteers are needed. Janet suggested contacting Al Zuccarello for assistance with the businesses in East Goshen. Walter will make a flyer and contact Brian McCool to put something on the website.
4. Newsletter – The Article is due January 31. Sandy will look for the recruitment article Scott did.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

1. Board of Supervisors – Janet reported that Senya is the Chairman for 2016. They will be interviewing a potential candidate for the Conservancy Board next Tuesday. They are waiting for the engineers report for the Reservoir Dam. Two grants have been submitted for the Paoli Trail. Work on the Line Road Trail has started.


**BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS**

1. Patti will not be here for the February and March meetings. Walter reminded everyone that they must let the Chairman know when they can't come to a meeting.

1    **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Patti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erich  
2    seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.  
3

4  
5    Respectfully submitted,  
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8  
9    Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary



# Forest Leaves

Volume 25, Number 3 • Winter 2016

extension.psu.edu

## Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2015 Tax Year

By Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, U.S. Forest Service

Federal income tax laws can influence woodland owner financial decisions about land management. To help woodland owners in filing their 2015 tax returns, this publication explains the federal income tax laws on timber. The information is not legal or accounting advice. It is current as of September 30, 2015.

### Timber Property Classifications

For tax purposes, a woodland property may be classified as an investment, business, or personal-use property. Tax deductions and losses allowed for investment or business properties may be limited or denied for personal-use property. So the classification is important in that the tax treatment on each type of property differs widely. If your primary purpose for owning land is for personal enjoyment, your property may be taxed as personal-use property. In contrast, if your primary ownership purpose is to make a profit from growing timber, your timber may be taxed as an investment property or a business when profit from timber activities are more regular, active, and continuous. Which status applies depends on the specifics of each case. The IRS presumes a profit motive if profit is realized in at least 3 of the past 5 years. Such profit, however, includes expectation of future profit from the appreciation of asset.

### Basis and Depletion Deduction

**Timber basis.** Basis is the cost of the timber to the owner. You may deduct it from timber sales, which reduces the tax on sales. The timber basis varies by how the property was acquired. For purchased property, the timber basis is the amount you paid for it. For inherited property, the timber basis is its fair market value (FMV) on the decedent's date of death. If you receive the timber as a gift, the timber basis is the lower of its FMV or the donor's basis.

**Depletion.** Depletion is a deduction against timber sale.

### Timber Sales

**Sale of standing timber.** Sales of standing timber held as an investment for more than 1 year qualify for long-term capital gain, which is taxed at lower tax rates than ordinary income. Sale of inherited timber is considered long-term. Report the sale of standing timber held as an investment on Form 8949 and Schedule D.

Both outright sales and pay-as-cut sales of standing timber by a business qualify for long-term capital gain (Sec. 1231 gain) after the timber has been held for more than 1 year. Report the sale of standing timber held for business use on Form 4797 and Schedule D. If you sell timber outright in a business, you also are required to file Form T unless you only have an occasional timber sale (see "Filing Form T" below).

**Sale of products cut from timber held for use in a business.** If you cut your own timber or have it cut by a contractor working at your direction, either for sale or for use in your business, the gains are ordinary income unless you elect to use sec. 631(a) on Form T, Part II.

### Net Investment Income Tax

For taxpayers meeting income threshold, investment timber sales and passive business timber sales are subject to a 3.8 percent net investment income tax, effective January 1, 2013. This 3.8 percent tax, enacted as part of the 2010 healthcare reform law, applies only to single taxpayers with adjusted gross income ("AGI") over \$200,000 or couples with over \$250,000 AGI. "Material participants" in timber business are not subject to this tax.

### Installment Sales

An installment sale involves receiving one or more payments after the year of sale, allowing you to defer tax by spreading your gain over 2 or more years. Inter-

*Continued Page 2*

## Timber Tax Tips Continued...

est is charged on deferred payments.

### Timber Management Expenses

Timber management expenses may include fees to a consulting forester; cost for competition control; the expense for insects, disease, and fire control; pre-commercial thinning or firebreak maintenance. Investment timber owners may deduct expenses on Schedule A, but they are subject to a 2 percent of adjusted gross income reduction. Business timber owners who are "materially participants" deduct them in full on Schedule C. Property taxes are deductible.

### Reforestation Costs

Taxpayers (except trusts) may deduct up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 for married couples filing separately) per year of reforestation costs per qualified timber property (QTP). Any amount over \$10,000 per year per QTP may be deducted over 84 months (amortized). Trusts are eligible for amortization deduction. Qualifying costs include the direct costs to plant or replant a stand including natural regeneration.

### Depreciation and Sec. 179 Expensing

Depreciation is a tax deduction that is based on the cost (basis) of assets used, such as those for machinery, computers, cars, vans, logging equipment, bridges, culverts, fences, temporary roads or the surfaces of permanent roads. For example, light duty trucks and logging equipment are depreciated over 5 years.

Also, business taxpayers may deduct up to \$25,000 in the first year in qualifying property in 2015, subject to a \$200,000 phase-out and business taxable income limitation (sec. 179 expensing). Land is not depreciable.

### Cost-share Payments

If you receive a cost-share payment from a qualified government program, you may exclude part or all of the payment from your income if the cost share is used in capital expenditure. Otherwise, it is ordinary income. Qualified federal programs include the Forest Health Protection Program (for southern pine beetle and mountain pine beetle), Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program (discontinued Feb. 7, 2014). Several state programs also qualify for exclu-

sion. The excludable amount is the present value of the greater of \$2.50 per acre or 10 percent of the average annual income from the affected acres over the last 3 years. Attach a statement to your tax return describing the program and your calculations.

### Timber Casualty and Theft Losses

Loss of timber from a casualty—a sudden, unexpected and unusual event such as a fire or severe storm—may be deductible from your taxes. The deduction is the lesser of the decrease in FMV caused by the casualty or your basis in the timber block (the area you use to keep track of your basis). Similarly, a theft loss deduction is limited to the lesser of the decrease in FMV or your basis in the stolen timber. A competent appraisal usually is required.

### Filing Form T (Timber)

You must file Form T (Timber), Forest Activities Schedule, if you claim a timber depletion deduction, sell cut products in a business (under sec. 631(a)), or sell outright timber held for business use. However, there is an exception for owners who only have an occasional timber sale, defined as one or two sales every 3 or 4 years.

### Conservation Easement

You may take a deduction on qualified donation of conservation easement in 2015. Absent of new legislation extending the enhanced incentives, the deduction is up to 30 percent (vs. 50 percent or 100 percent if qualified by the enhanced provision from 2006 to 2014) of the taxpayer's AGI in a year. Any excess donation over the 30 percent limit may be carried forward to the next 5 years.

The full document, including examples, is located here: <http://www.timbertax.org/publications/fs/tax-tips/TaxTips2015.pdf>



# **Pennsylvania Tree Farming Notes**

By Rich Bugher, State Administrator, Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee

It is a busy time for the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee as we head into the start of 2016.

With the committee deciding to move forward as a "certification" program, there are many steps to be fulfilled, some by year-end, while other prerequisites will be met in the New Year: creating a leadership manual, communication plan, and memorandum of understanding with the national program, just to name a few. This will be a busy time for state leadership.

As we move forward with the "certification" process we are also updating the Tree Farm Program's Five-Year Strategic Plan. Discussions continue with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association to find efficiencies in our operations, and we continue to make a concert-

ed effort to offer more member benefits.

In case the state leadership wasn't busy enough, Pennsylvania was selected by National to assess its State Tree Farm Program in 2016. The last Pennsylvania detailed assessment was in 2012. We are early in the planning stage for this in-depth review.

As always, if you have any questions with the program, please contact a state committee member. Or, you can email your questions to [patreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:patreefarm@gmail.com).

For more information about the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program, contact Rich Bugher, State Administrator, at 724-977-0867 or [patreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:patreefarm@gmail.com), or visit the website: <http://www.patreefarm.org>.

## **Harold and Gay Thistle: 2015 Pennsylvania Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year**

The 2015 Pennsylvania Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year are Harold and Gay Thistle from Waynesburg, Greene County, in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Thistles purchased their 98-acre Tree Farm in June of 1999. There were about 30 wooded acres; the rest was pastureland used for hay. The Thistles have planted over 3400 seedlings including black walnut, white ash, northern red oak, American chestnut, Chinese chestnut, white spruce, Douglas fir, and butternut. All seedlings were planted with deer protection (deer populations have ranged from manageable to very high). Some of the deer protection was successful, some not.

The Thistles are founding members of the SW PA Woodland Owners Association (SWPWO), which began in 2000. Harold served two terms as President and Gay also served two terms as President, two terms as Secretary, and ten years as the newsletter editor. At this time, Harold and Gay serve on the Board as a Past President. They became a Stewardship Farm in 2001 and joined the American Tree Farm System in 2012. In 2011 they were recognized by the Greene County Conservation District and with the Outstanding Forest Conservationists award. The Thistles also belong to the American Chestnut Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Forestry Association, National Woodland Owners Association, and American Forest Foundation.

The management work on the property mostly happens on weekends and evenings since both still work. Accessible hardwood plantations are mowed annually. They prune trees to promote clear butt logs and cull out diseased trees. To protect their trees, they invest time straightening stakes and tubes, and replacing damaged and outgrown protectors. Controlling invasive plants, which they control by mowing, is their most time consuming work. Mile-a-minute vine is treated biologically with weevils as part of a research project with West Virginia University and the U.S. Forest Service. To document their success, they have three tree planting plots comprised of black walnut, white oak, and red oak they measure periodically. This year they enrolled in an NRCS program to remove invasive plants and plant more trees. In addition to the management work, the Thistles have done a tremendous amount of outreach in a short period of time, having organized and hosted numerous educational tours of their property.

The PA Tree Farm Committee congratulates the Thistles on their excellent work and looks forward to their field day on May 14, 2016.





# PA Tree Farmers Are 2015 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

Excerpted from the DNCR Resource e-newsletter and Trib Total Media staff reporter Eric Slagle

Change is constant on Becket Run Woodlands, 110 acres that roll across a section of Allegheny County. There is now one new addition that's likely to be standing for a long, long time. It is a new sign that tells passersby a tale of success: first, "Pennsylvania Tree Farm of the Year 2014." Then, "Northeast Region Tree Farmer of the Year 2015." And now? "National Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year 2015."

In late October at ceremonies in Washington, D.C., the American Tree Farm System awarded the last honor to Raul Chiesa and Janet Sredy of Elizabeth. Chiesa and Sredy, managers of Becket Run Woodlands, have demonstrated exceptional forest stewardship in improving wildlife habitat on their property and more broadly in the community.

The two were honored by U.S. Sen. Robert Casey, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, and Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation (AFF).

"I want to extend my congratulations to Janet Sredy and Raul Chiesa for being chosen as the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year," Sen. Casey said. "Janet and Raul's work in transforming Becket Run Woodlands shows that we all must take a part in conserving and protecting our forests. Forestry is close to the heart of many people across our region, serving as a major part of our heritage and our economy."

"Family forest owners like Raul and Janet are some of the unsung heroes of our forests," said Under Secretary Bonnie. "What most don't realize is that family forest owners are the largest ownership group of our forests in the U.S., not the federal government. What's more, the work they do on their land, is felt far beyond their properties – for wildlife habitat, clean water, recreation and more."

Chiesa and Sredy have owned their Becket Run Woodlands since 2007. At that time, the property was in poor shape as a result of poor agriculture practices, air pollution, vandalism, and fractured ownership. Wildlife in the area struggled to move through the underbrush of invasive species which provided little food.

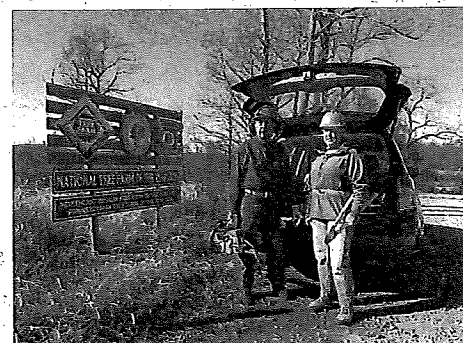
Chiesa and Sredy immediately created a management plan to restore the native ecosystem, improve

forest health, eradicate invasive species, and plant for wildlife. Soon, they were certified in the American Tree Farm System and enrolled in the U.S. Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program with DCNR's Bureau of Forestry support.

In a state known for deer hunting, Chiesa and Sredy saw an opportunity to provide for wildlife, while providing for the community. They established a wildlife management partnership with neighboring landowners and the Pa. Game Commission, and provide hunting opportunities for 100 hunters. They formed an educational partnership with neighbors, a local university, and DCNR to protect and study rare plant species.

"Janet and Raul took over what was essentially a piece of junk land and are trying to make it a well-manicured, well-cared-for piece of land. It impacts wildlife populations, the watershed and the general appearance of the land," Dave Magiske, Forward Township supervisor, said. "No one paid much attention to it when they started a few years ago," said Magiske, noting the property was badly eroded and considered unusable by locals. Now, "People have come up to me and say, 'Can you put me in touch with them?' It's a thing of growing interest."

ATFS, which celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, began the time-honored tradition of recognizing a National Outstanding Tree Farmer from the more than 82,000 Tree Farmers in the 1990s. Individuals considered for the award must demonstrate exceptional efforts to preserve and enhance their woodlands, which conserves and enhances clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and the wood for homes and paper products that come from their land, all of which are exemplified on the ATFS sign.



# Ash-Leaved Maple or Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)

By William C. Paxton, Landscape Architect and Consulting Forester

Of all the trees, the one few landscapers ever use is ash-leaved maple. With close observation, these trees often have poor shape and often have multiple-trunks resulting from breakage. After storms there are often broken branches. They never heal gracefully, and rot in the trunk is a surefire result. This species has male and female trees with seeds persisting through winter until the spring – disseminating seed almost all year long.

Once, I had an encounter with this, normally shrubby, “grow anywhere,” tree in Ohiopyle State Park. I walked up to it in great wonder and asked myself, “What on earth kind of ash is this?” It was a beautiful, large, open-grown tree, that really, with its pinnately compound leaves, looked exactly like the white ash trees growing close by. Another time, I found one in a small town backyard with a small trickling stream and a nice owner to care for the trees; there was a great beauty of twenty-four-inch diameter *Acer negundo*.

To tell boxelder and ash apart, both are oppositely branched, new twigs on the maple are quite green all year long. The leaf scars touch from either side of the stem to form a neat and clean looking “epaulets” shape on the twig.

To sing the tree’s praises, I wandered far afield. The name seems to come from the resemblance of the leaf to the elderberry leaf. And the “box” part is either because the wood is very white as is boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) or because they made boxes from the boxelder wood.

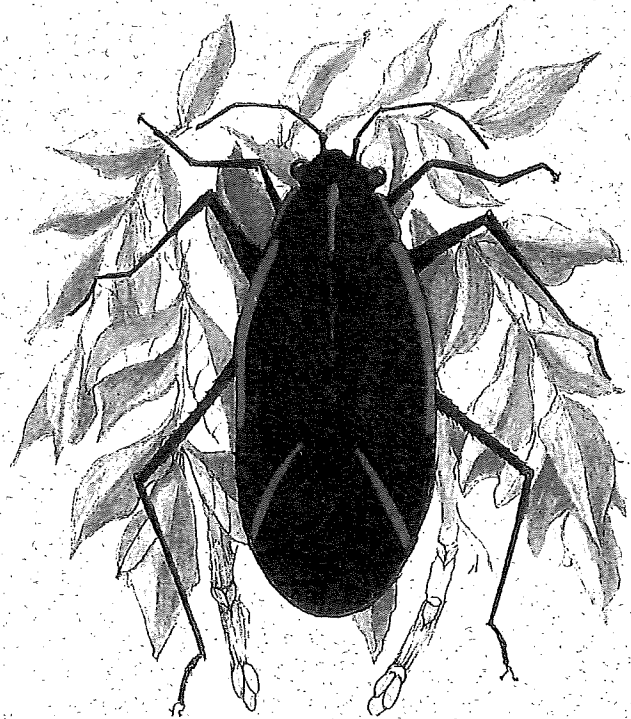
This is an extremely hardy native North American species that grows in any soil. It is fast growing (with one inch of diameter growth in one year), is resilient in sprouting if either broken or cut, is very drought-tolerant, and can withstand industrial fumes. It is found everywhere and anywhere. It is not a wetland plant, but thrives in small creek bottomlands.

It is a terrible street tree and, in some “Street Tree Ordinances,” is banned from city use. On the other hand, I have seen beautiful cultivar specimens that have silver/white variegations, golden-edged foliage, and even a weeping form which has been grafted and sold in garden shops. It even has a nice fall color. If maintained in a shrubby form, the green twigs in the winter can be attractive. One popular type has pink leaf margins. With *Acer negundo*, very acid soils are no problem!

Boxelder is in the *Sapindaceae* family and shares susceptibility to all of the same insect pests and diseases. One pest is aptly named, the boxelder bug. It is a good food tree for insects and evening grosbeaks seem to especially like its seeds. Boxelder is bee-friendly when in bloom, but I have never seen ash-leaved maple honey advertised.

The wood is soft and fine-grained (it is a maple, remember?) and it has been used to make bowls and other turnings, a sweet maple syrup/sugar, and, when burned, the smoke has a pleasant smell. Boxelder has been used in “sun dance” ceremonies and the boiled bark has been mixed with animal fat as a condiment by Native Americans.

However, I find this archeological fact most interesting – the wood of ash-leaved maple was the wood of choice for flutes aged 620-670 CE, which pre-dates the earliest found in North America by 1200 years.



Boxelder Bug  
(*Boisea trivittata*)  
Wm. Paxton 2015



## Forest Leaves Calendar



Thursday, January 14. Cumberland Woodland Owners Association: Dirt and Gravel Roads in Your Woodlands. 7 p.m., Cumberland County Extension Office. Contact Mike Waldron, 717-677-7317.

Saturday, January 23. Woodland Owners of the Clarion-Allegheny Valley: Pennsylvania Black Bears: History, Biology, and Encounters with Humans. 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Rimersburg Rod and Gun Club, Rimersburg. The program is free. Lunch will be for sale by the Club. To register, please call the Bureau of Forestry office, 814-226-1901.

Monday, February 8. Cumberland Woodland Owners Association: Maple Syrup. 7 p.m. Franklin County Extension Office. Contact Mike Waldron, 717-677-7317.

Thursday, March 17. Cumberland Woodland Owners Association: An Evening with Jim Finley. 7 p.m. West Pennsboro Township Building, 2150 Newville Road, Carlisle. Contact Mike Waldron, 717-677-7317.

Thursday, April 14. Cumberland Woodland Owners Association: Mushroom Cultivation. 7 p.m. Cumberland County Extension Office. Contact Mike Waldron, 717-677-7317.

### UPCOMING FOREST LANDOWNERS CONFERENCES

Saturday, January 30. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwestern PA Forest Landowner's Conference. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Edinboro-McKean VFW Post 740, 10613 Route 98, Edinboro, PA. Pre-registration is required. Fee is \$20/person. Please register by Friday, January 22. Contact Erie County Conservation District, 814-825-6403 or [kcurrier@erieconservation.com](mailto:kcurrier@erieconservation.com). [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20031492.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20031492.pdf)

Saturday, February 20. Clarion Forest Landowners Conference. 8 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Grunenwald Science and Technology Center, Clarion University, 80 Greenville Avenue, Clarion, PA. Cost is \$30 (\$25 if paid by February 6). Students \$10. <http://extension.psu.edu/forest-landowner-conferences>. Click on the Clarion conference.

Saturday, March 5. Dauphin Woodland Owners Conference. 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dauphin County Extension Office, Dauphin, PA. For more information contact Andy Brought, [abrought@pa.gov](mailto:abrought@pa.gov), 717-362-1152.

Saturday, March 12. 2016 Forestry and Wildlife Conference. Hosted by Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bedford Elks Country Club, Bedford, PA. <http://www.thewosa.org/>

PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER (<http://extension.psu.edu/private-forests/tools-resources/webinars>)

Anyone can participate in these webinars. Visit the website to register to receive reminders, 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. ET. Participants need to have a high speed internet connection and speakers to attend.

### Second Tuesday of the Month Forest Stewardship Series

January 12

Why Are Invasives Successful? Presented by Norris Muth, Associate Professor of Biology, Juniata College.

February 9, 2016

Native plants and providing habitat for wildlife. Presented by Mario Giazzon, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission.

March 8, 2016

Forest Farming--Goods from Your Woods. Presented by Leslie Horner, Forest Stewardship Program Associate, Center for Private Forests at Penn State.

April 12, 2016

Successful Timber Harvests. Presented by Joe Harding, Director of Forestlands, Penn State Dept. of Ecosystem Science and Management.

**Next deadline: March 1 for events between April 15 and July 15.**

# Pennsylvania Forestry Association News

By Gene Odató, PFA President

## FOREST LEAVES—Winter 2016

Editor: Allyson Brownlee Muth

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

March 1, 2016

**Forest Leaves Publication Partners include:**

- **The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program.** Administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry in conjunction with the Center for Private Forests and Penn State Natural Resources Extension.

- **PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry**  
(<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/>)

- **The Pennsylvania Tree Farm® Program**  
(<http://www.patreefarm.org/>)

- **The Pennsylvania Forestry Association**  
(<http://www.paforestry.org/>)

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**The Center for Private Forests at Penn State**  
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One of my favorite part-time activities is birding. Most of my springtime turkey hunting excursions turn into bird watching trips. My turkey hunting buddies used to laugh when I got out my field guide; but now that I have the coolest cell phone app ever, iBird, they enjoy listening to the bird calls with me. Birding is just one more activity that I enjoy while in the forest. Hunting this year, I was able to pass the time by enjoying ravens, brown creepers, northern harriers, bald and golden eagles and others. Thanks to Penn State Professor Dr. Margaret Brittingham, our winter issue of the Pennsylvania Forest Association's quarterly magazine, *Pennsylvania Forests*, focuses on birds and their important relationship with forests. I have said it many times "Keeping forests as forests" is vital to so many.

I must take a moment to thank my long-time friend and compatriot Robb Piper for the wonderful job he did as PFA president. Under his direction he kept us on track and on-time at meetings, directed the conversation with the Tree Farm Program, took us in a new direction with Versant Strategies and adhered to our new strategic plan. Robb has been involved in many aspects of Pennsylvania's forest resources for most of his career. Rest assured he will continue to be involved in the conversation for years to come. Thank you for a job well done.

As your new president, I find there are a number of focal points needing our attention in 2016. First and foremost, we all need to make some hard decisions on the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program. PFA has an opportunity to put a fresh

face on this important land management program. To date we have made good progress and will need to finalize plans in order to move forward.

Vice-President Richard Lewis has put together a PowerPoint presentation about the PFA. This presentation will be available for programs about the PFA and the work it does. Stay tuned for the initial roll out.

I urge you to take a look at the Bureau of Forestry's draft State Forest Resource Management Plan. Public participation is crucial as the Bureau wants stakeholders to understand its work and it has a commitment to seek public input on state forest management. The Bureau is accepting comments on the plan until January 31, 2016. For a full copy of the plan, go to the Department's website at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforestmanagement/sfrmp/2015sfrmp/index.htm>.

Our Annual PFA Conservation Dinner is on March 5, 2016 in Williamsport, so mark your calendars. Tickets will soon be available. There are always a number of wonderful live and silent auction items available and, of course, the grand prize of \$10,000. If you wish to donate an item for the live or silent auctions, please contact the PFA office (1-800-835-8065) to make arrangements. Thank you for your support; I look forward to greeting you in person at the Williamsport Genetti on March 5.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Forestry Association or about becoming a member, visit the website <http://www.paforestry.org/> or call 800-835-8065.

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## Winter 2016



## Center for Private Forests Promoting Forest Regeneration through Conservation Innovation Grant

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State recently applied for and was awarded a highly competitive national Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to address one of Pennsylvania's top forest health concerns—the lack of adequate forest regeneration as forests mature.

Pennsylvania's forests are aging. At the same time, tree seedlings and saplings which should become the next forest are absent in many forest stands. Without active management to improve regeneration, the effect on the species composition and diversity of Pennsylvania's forests will be far-reaching and long-lasting. For the next generation of forests to become established, actions that include assessment and management of competing vegetation, deer, and light levels are essential.

This three-year initiative acknowledges that because most of our woodlands are privately owned,

working with landowners—especially those new to owning or managing land—is essential to the future health of our forests.

The Center for Private Forests will train landowners (or managers) across the state to 1) assess whether or not tree seedlings are successfully growing in their own woodlands, 2) identify actions to take to give those seedlings the best chance for survival, and 3) to share what they learn with other landowners through personal interactions and demonstrations of the regeneration assessment. In addition, the project will connect landowners to existing resources for further education and assistance—namely, regional Woodland Owner Associations (WOAs) and NRCS Forestry EQIP programs.

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