



News From

North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc.

Box 141, Port Allegany, PA 16743
McKean, Potter, Cameron and Elk Counties



We're holding tomorrow

February, 2011

www.orgsites.com/pa/ncfla



Terminal Buds

by Tim Pierson



Sharing with you about the leadership and dedicated volunteerism by members of your Association is how I choose to begin my Terminal Buds article. The success of our Association has been mostly a function of how our members have willingly given of themselves to help all forest landowners in our four county region and beyond, practice good forest and wildlife management. This past fall, Rick and Cindy Smith opened up their property and provided us with a memorable woods walk on a beautiful day. Marie and Walt Petrick and Verda Knowlton developed an excellent display that represented our Association's successful organizational strategies as an example/model for other associations in our state. Dave Lombardo represented all of us regarding Clean and Green tax issues in Harrisburg where he and others on our tax committee are trying to help others understand the cost realities of private forest land ownership in Pennsylvania. We appreciate the many other members who serve the Association by helping with public relations, registration and setup at meetings and educational programs. You are the terminal buds that send the message of good forest management to all within the forest community. Thank You for your leadership, service and sharing of time.

So, now let's get the third part of our development series of a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan that works for you and your family. Continue to collect information to revise/renew or develop a new management plan. We will be providing a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan Workshop on Saturday, June 18 where you can use the information attained in our three part series to revise or develop your own management plan. Additional information is readily available for you at various county offices. A soil survey that identifies the types and depths of soils on your property is critical information that can help you

make forest management decisions like forest road/trail placement, planting sites, wildlife food plot site selection, pond location, property mapping, etc. This soils information is available at your county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office as part of the county soil survey. Ask the NRCS director to borrow a soil survey or provide you with copies of information pertinent to your property. Topographic maps and aerial photographs for your property are excellent tools for developing a working property map and helping make forest and wildlife management decisions. You can attain the 7 and 1/2 minute topographic maps and aerial photographs for your property at your local Farm Service Agency office or you can attain them on line at websites like topozone or pasda. Your deed descriptions and any land surveys are essential for locating property boundary lines on your property map and on the ground. Knowledge of any exceptions in your deed are critical for making future management decisions. We are providing an "Understanding Your Deed Meeting" on Thursday evening, March 10 at the Coudersport Elementary School. Ken Comstock, Forester and Surveyor, will help private landowners understand the various components of a deed and what they mean to your survey. A copy of your deed is found at the Recorder of Deeds office at the county courthouse in the county where the property is located. There is usually someone there that can help you. A fairly accurate inventory of forest and wildlife resources on your property is essential and will be discussed in part four along with Emerald Ash Borer. Please share this info with a friend! Remember- Enjoy Your Woods!

NCFLA, Inc. Annual Banquet *by Walt Petrick*

There was a great turnout of NCFLA, Inc. members at the annual banquet held November 7th, 2010, at the Port Allegany American Legion. I thought this years banquet was more fun than those of the previous years, but of course, the current annual banquet always seems to be more fun than those of previous years. The delicious food and comfortable facilities of the Port Allegany American Legion added to our pleasure.

The guest speaker was Art Gover, Pennsylvania Wild Land Management, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University, whose topic was "Invasive Plant Species in the North Central Region". This subject is of special interest since invasive plants are so prevalent in this area and just about everyone has to deal with, or is dealing with them.

Hearty congratulations goes to Carol and Frances Crew and Matt Miller. These three NCFLA, Inc. members were recognized for their completion of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship course. This involved an intensive training involving landowner forestry information so that owners can execute good forest management practices on their property.

It is nice to meet new members and to get reacquainted with long term NCFLA, Inc. members with whom we haven't seen for awhile. Especially enjoyable were the lively discussions about the members past years activities in their respective woodlots. Some of the discussion topics were the

tent caterpillars, controlling multiflora roses, timber prices, what wildlife that was observed/photographed in the landowners respective woodlots, wild flowers and general forest health. Another enjoyable and practical aspect of the Annual Meeting is discussing past woodwalks and planning future woodwalks. With the contingent of members present at the banquet, conducting association business and tying up other loose ends is facilitated. It is always interesting

to find out what other members are doing in their woodlot, how they have accomplished their goals and what successes they have had. Sharing these experiences is inspiring since it motivates you to do similar activities in your woodlot. These discussions provide problem solving hints to deal with issues you are having in your woodlot and solutions to make caring for your woodlot easier. And of course, it

is fun to share with other woodland owners what you have done in your woodlot and the successes that you can take pride in.

At this years banquet there were more than the usual amount of door prizes, mostly donated by NCFLA, Inc. members, and we are grateful to these members for their part in making this day enjoyable for so many members and friends. Some of the more expensive prizes were purchased by the NCFLA, Inc.

and several were donated by AgChoice.

For those of you that attended the annual banquet, it was great seeing you again. For those of you who could not make it to this years annual banquet, we hope to see at the next NCFLA, Inc. event.



Claire Head was the lucky winner of one of the door prizes, a canary. With her are (left, Dr. Scheinkein, Lynda Pontzer and Claire's husband Mike on the right)



Importance of Stewardship for Landowners

statistics provided by Dr. Allyson Muth, Penn State

The primary objective of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PAFS) is to educate forest landowners in promoting sustainable forestry. Through providing outreach and information to landowners and interaction with other landowners interested in maintaining their forests, good forest management can be achieved and the landowner will benefit personally.

Pennsylvania's forests and woodlands are an amazing resource that provides untold economic, ecological, and social value to the state's citizens and beyond. While the average citizen believes the state owns most of the forest, in reality seven of ten acres is privately owned. The decisions these owners make today do and will greatly affect all the values we receive as benefits from our forests now and in the future.

Pennsylvania land cover is 92.9% rural with forests, fields and water. Only 7.1% include cities, towns and roads. There are 83,184 miles of river and streams and 30,000+ acres of true Old-Growth forest, and 42% (7.4 million forested acres) are considered interior forest habitat, 300 feet from a road or edge of the forest.

Some interesting PA forest statistics are: the highest percent forest cover 90% was in 1630, pre-settlement. The lowest forest cover was in 1907 with only 32% or 9.2 million acres. Forest cover has been relatively constant since 1965. The first sawmill was in 1662. Currently, forests cover 59% of Pennsylvania (16.58 million acres), with 29% public forests (federal, state

and local), and 71% privately owned, 12 million acres.

The most common tree species in Pennsylvania forests, in order by total numbers are: red maple, black birch, black cherry, beech, sugar maple, hemlock, white ash, red oak, chestnut oak, black gum.

Pennsylvania's total population is 12.5 million people with 4,770,000 households. It is estimated that there are more than 600,000 private forest owners (1 in 8 households). Average ownership size is estimated at 17 to 21 acres and the average age of the forest landowner is 57 years. Principle objectives of forest ownership are: solitude, came with the property, enjoyment of owning, enjoying wildlife, estate to pass on, hunting, land investment, recreation, personal use of wood (firewood) and timber.

Some of the challenges are: urban sprawl, forest and farm loss with current estimates at 300 acres daily; invasive plants, insects and disease; forest regeneration decline caused by competitive plants and white-tailed deer; energy development has taken a share of the forests, (gas and oil drilling, biomass, etc.); harvesting practices (select cutting, high-trading, diameter cutting); and parcelization through estate planning and subdividing forests. All have been a threat to Pennsylvania's forest lands.

There are many organizations, statewide and local who offer a range of beneficial information and technical assistance to woodland owners, including our local landowner association, DCNR offices and County Extension offices.

Ready for Spring Tree Planting?

The Bureau of Forestry is now taking orders for tree seedlings. Check out their website: <www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry>. Under the menu on the left, choose Forest Health, and at the bottom of that page is a title "Penn Nursery - Forest Tree Seedlings", where you will find an order form for the trees. Also, you can call Stan Hess (814-274-3616) or Toby Herzing (814-486-3353) at their local DCNR offices for more information.

Other tree and flower orders are available from the Forest County Extension Office & Forest County at 814-755-3544



Rick & Cyndee Smith of Port Allegany host NCFLA, Inc. Woodswalk



Cyndee Smith leads a tour of her backyard pond

The North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc. (NCFLA, Inc.), whose purpose is to provide information, exchange ideas, and educate its members and others about the methods and benefits of proper forest management, held a woodswalk at the Rick and Cyndee Smith tree-farm on Sunday, September 26, from 1 to 4 PM. Some of the subjects covered were: garden ponds, spring development, game cameras, wildlife, fruit tree growing and pruning and hardwood tree planting.

A brief introduction of Rick's background and how he obtained his forest land

started the meeting. Rick and Cyndee described how the spring that supplies both his house and his pond was developed. They explained how the pond was constructed, the water supply and recirculation, plumbing details, pond maintenance, and the fish in the pond. Cyndee talked about her many varieties of flowers and other plantings around the circumference of the pond.

Rick showed his collections of game cameras, explained their capabilities, which were his favorites and how he uses them. Useful information on reliability, cost and important features was discussed. The construction of Rick's clever, home made "tree stump" and how he uses it to conceal game cameras was shared. A fascinating video was shown that combined some of his favorite clips taken with his game cameras over the past 2-3 years. This video included bears, turkeys, deer, coyotes, porcupines and raccoons.

Rick explained hard won experiences with the planting and pruning of apple trees and use of an electrified fence to protect his orchard from wildlife. He showed the spraying equipment techniques that he uses to protect the trees from insects and diseases. The attendees were then transported by utility and all terrain vehicles, supplied by various members of the NCFLA, Inc. to Rick's hardwood tree planting. Here, tree health was discussed and different methods of protecting trees from wildlife were presented. Rick professed the belief that the size of the planting hole was the most important factor in growing healthy trees. To this end, he adroitly demonstrated the use of an auger to dig a hole to plant trees and explained the use of good soils to promote healthy tree growth.

Rick and Cyndee served a delicious meal of venison meatball sandwiches, vegetables, chips, drinks and lots of cookies at the end of the presentations and demonstrations for all attendees.

Officers:

President and Advisor: Tim Pierson, PhD
Vice President: Walt Petrick
Secretary: Verda Weder Knowlton
Treasurer: Marie Petrick

Board Members:

McKean County: Rick Smith
Cameron County: Dave Lombardo
Potter County: Ken Comstock
Elk County: Linda Pontzer

Service Foresters:

McKean, Potter: Stan Hess
Elk, Cameron: Toby Herzing
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