

## NCFLA Calendar:

### Saturday, Oct. 24

Election ballots  
must be returned to:  
NCFLA  
P.O. Box 141  
Port Allegany, PA  
16743

### Sunday, Nov. 1 Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet

12:30 to 4:00 PM,  
at the Red Fern Inn,  
421 Old Kersey Rd.  
St. Marys, PA. 15846  
Topic: "Below the  
Trees: Taking a Closer  
Look at Mosses and  
Liverworts", by Susan  
Munch

Thursday, Dec. 15  
Board of Directors  
Meeting, 9:00 AM,  
McKean Co.  
Extension Office  
Smethport, PA

## Comstock's Woodswalk

by Walt Petrick

Despite the prediction of rain, 38 people arrived at the Ken Comstock farm for the woodswalk. Although there was a drizzle shortly after the starting time of 1:00 PM, the rest of the woodswalk was cool and overcast, but rain free. The first part of the event was an introduction to the day's activities by Tim Pierson on the porch of the Comstock house and a quick tour of Ken and Janice Comstock's new house. It utilizes many of the hardwoods on the farm (black cherry, hickory, butternut, oak and ash). They are planning to move into the new house on October 22.

The 38 attendees were transported to the first stop by one truck, one SUV and about a half dozen UTVs and ATVs. The first stop, *site 1*, (see next page) was a 2003 blow-down site from which Ken salvaged the timber. The purpose was to study the resultant regeneration at the site. The remaining dominant trees, crown configuration, sunlight, number of seedlings, seedling species, growth habits and the future of this site were discussed.



We then traveled to the hot dog roast site. Since the SUV could not make it to the hot dog roast site, the UTVs made several shuttle trips to transport the SUV passengers. We then unloaded the hotdog roast supplies from the UTVs and headed to *site 2*, that was only accessible by walking, the UTVs and the ATVs. At this site we examined the indigenous oaks and black cherry trees. Black cherry and oak tree regeneration was also discussed after which we went down to the hot dog roast site and enjoyed an open fire hotdog roast. There was lots of visiting, discussion of the woods walk and general socializing.



Using a Google map, the location of the Comstock woodswalk is shown above. The Comstock farm is on Sartwell Creek Road, off Route 6, four miles east of Port Allegany, PA. The distance and the incline of the hills made it more comfortable to ride in trucks and other off road vehicles to the sites that were discussed. From the hot dog roast site, looking south, there was a beautiful view of the valley and the Comstock home. See photo at left.

# NCFLA Annual Dinner

This year, the annual dinner will be held in Saint Marys, PA, at the Red Fern Restaurant. There will be a short business meeting at 12:30 before the dinner. The newly elected officers will be announced at this time.

After dinner, we will hear our guest speaker. We are pleased that Susan Munch, Ph.D. will speak on the topic "Below the Trees: Taking a Closer Look at Mosses and Liverworts". Susan Munch has taught botany for many years at colleges in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. She leads nature walks and holds workshops on ferns, mosses, and liverworts in Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and has a Ph.D. in botany from the University of Washington.

Susan Munch has written the first color field guide for mosses in the Mid-Atlantic region - its detailed color photographs allow easy identification of many of the commonest and most striking mosses and liverworts, without using a microscope, Included in the guide are about fifty kinds of mosses and liverworts that are very common, very distinctive, or very large.



As with past years there are many donated door prizes. One of the many NCFLA donations this year is a fabulous chain saw carving of a wolf (see photo at right). The photo at the left shows Rick, the chainsaw carver. This wolf stands three and a half feet tall.

We appreciate the many donations of gifts from members for the door prizes. They represent interesting surprises and an appealing variety of items. We look forward to learning about other things in our forests at our annual meeting and an opportunity to get reacquainted with many good friends and fellow members of the North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc.



Officers:		Board Members:		Service Foresters:	
President:	Larry Schultz	McKean County:	Rick Smith	McKean, Potter:	Stan Hess
Vice President:	John Snyder	Cameron County:	Dave Lombardo	Elk, Cameron:	Toby Herzing
Secretary:	Verda Weder Knowlton	Potter County:	Ken Comstock	Editor and Web Service:	Walt Petrick
Treasurer:	Marie Petrick	Elk County:	Linda Pontzer	Newsletter layout:	Marie Petrick
Advisor:	Tim Pierson, PhD				