

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
July 12, 2008—12:15 p.m.

The general membership meeting, held at the Annual Picnic at Ken and Jane Cogan's Tree Farm, Crosby, PA., with 32 attendees, was called to order by the President, Larry Schultz, at 12:15 p.m. There were 32 in attendance, including the following officers/advisors:

NCFLA Officers:

Larry Schultz, President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda Knowlton, Secretary

Advisors:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Extension Office
Stan Hess, DCNR Service Forester, Potter-McKean Co.

Guest:

Jack Fleckenstein, Potter Co. Conservation District

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick thanked Jean Culver for her hard work as Treasurer and reported that the Beginning Balance in the checkbook as of April 1, 1008 was \$1,452.22. There were expenses in the amount of \$828.46 for postage, mailings, envelopes, insurance; receipts from membership dues in the amount of \$2,030.00 for a current balance of \$2,653.76. (copy attached). Of the 209 members, 72% have sent in their dues this year.

Membership Meeting Minutes:

Verda Knowlton read the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on February 21, 2008 at the Courtyard Restaurant, Smethport, Pa. Motion made by Don Crew, seconded by Donald Comes to approve the minutes as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

Incorporation:

Verda Knowlton reported that the NCFLA Articles of Incorporation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization were filed with an effective date of March 19, 2008. IRS Form 1023 to obtain tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code still needs to be completed and filed.

Tax Committee:

Larry Schultz reported that on June 6, 2008 the Tax Committee met with Senator Scarnatti but Larry was unable to attend due to his broken leg. Jim Herzog, who was at that meeting, reported that the purpose was to inform Senator Scarnatti about the tax situation on forest properties. Each of our four counties uses a different rate—McKean Co.--\$6.30 per acre; Potter--\$5.00 per acre; Elk--\$2.00 per acre and Cameron uses \$4.30 per acre.

The issue of mineral rights which are separated from the surface land are not being taxed in Pennsylvania was raised. Jim responded that the results of a court case three years ago, said that because the oil and gas can move out from under the land, they can't be taxed and there is no law allowing these rights to be taxed in Pa.

Woodswalk at Larry Schultz's:

Larry thanked the people who turned out for his woodswalk on May 18th and said that Tim Pierson did an excellent job of explaining crop tree management in the pole building while it was raining. The rain held off while they were in the woods for the crop tree field work but did return with a vengeance when they were down at one of his ponds. He said that if there is anyone who is interested in returning for the rest of the pond tour, just let him know.

Ginseng Workshops:

Tim Pierson reported that 20 people attended the June 21st workshop held at Potato City Country Inn. When they were halfway through the tour on the trail behind the Lumber Museum, it began to thunder and just as they got to the parking lot, it started raining heavily. They were able to finish the other half of the walk. The Ginseng Planting Workshop is scheduled for September 6th in Eldred at the World War II Museum and participants will get seeds to take home to plant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Woodswalk at Sizerville State Park—Aug 9:

This turned out to be a bad date so the meeting has been cancelled.

Woodswalk at the Petrick's:

The Woodswalk at Walt and Marie Petrick's is scheduled for 1:00 to 4:00 pm, on Sunday, September 21, 2008. An announcement will be sent out with directions to the property.

Annual Banquet:

Larry said that the Annual Banquet will be held in Potter Co. this year at the American Legion, Route 872, Coudersport.

Forest Tent Caterpillar:

Stan Hess distributed a handout on the Forest Tent Caterpillar, a native insect, which has been a defoliator of hardwood trees in Pennsylvania this year. Stan explained that it doesn't make the tents you see in crotches of many cherry trees—that is the Eastern Tent Caterpillar. The larvae have blue stripes with variable white footprint shaped markings; the eastern tent caterpillar can be identified by the presence of a white stripe in place of the footprint markings; while gypsy moths can be recognized by the paired red and blue spots. Acreages have not been determined by DCNR's overflights as of yet, but it is extensive--defoliation ranges from light to complete. Call your Service Forester if you have a concern.

Pa. Forestry Annual Meeting—September 12-13, 2008:

Tim Pierson reported that he and Larry Schultz are Co-Chairing the PFA Annual Meeting that is to be held in St. Marys. After the business meeting on Saturday, the buses leave for a tour of Domtar Paper Mill, followed by lunch at Bendigo State Park where Larry will make a brief presentation on the NCFLA, and then on to Kane

Hardwoods and ending with a tour of the Elk Regional Medical Center to see the woody biomass facility that is using wood chips to heat the Center. Then they return to the Red Fern Conference Center for the Banquet. PFA membership is only \$25.00. All NCFLA members are invited to participate.

Carbon Sequestration and Woody Biomass for Energy:

With global warming and the need to reduce carbon going into the atmosphere, Tim reported that FIA and Collins Pine are already meeting with aggregators (people who pool landowners for carbon credits) which are then marketed in Chicago where carbon credits are trading on the Chicago Exchange. In June, Tim spent 10 days in Austria as part of a Pennsylvania team which looked at how woody biomass is being used to heat 1,560 towns and produce electricity. They visited one town with a combined heat and power unit to heat hot water, not steam, which was piped to each house had a small heat exchanger. Using wood chips with complete combustion, there was no smoke from the stacks, no creosote or particulates and no smell. In Austria, they have 85-90% efficiency in producing heat and wood is carbon neutral.

While we are 30 years behind, there will soon be that type of generation of power and heating in our area. The Kane School District will have a woody biomass boiler in place in six months, using “fuels for schools” money. The source of the wood chips could come from timber stand improvement and the best way would be for the chipping to be done onsite in the woods. Our Association could provide leadership to put together cooperatives to guarantee a certain amount of fuel available for a specific number of users. They can use 5 or 6-inch low quality trees, which include pine trees.

Larry Schultz announced that Jack Fleckenstine will be here at 2:00 p.m. to lead a discussion on streams and ponds.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. was made by Don Crew, seconded by Don Comes; motion carried.

Submitted by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary