
All in a Nutshell

Volume 16, Issue 3

Fall 2011



Splendid view of one of several scenic waterfalls amid the large old growth hemlocks as viewed by many attendees at the SCFLOA picnic held in June at Salt Springs State Park

President's Message

Firewood is all stacked neatly on the porch. Apples are picked and stored in the coolest place available, in the garage. Walnuts have been picked and spread out on the driveway, and now the nuts have been picked up and stored in the old wire egg basket to season and dry. The garden has been put to bed and the deer got to anything that was left.

Our Columbus Day, fall foliage bus trip has been very successful. We had an informative visit to the Penn Tech college and forestry school. Doc Ringling showed us through the schools' sawmill and recreation trails. The Tabor museum described life in the early Williamsport area starting with the Indian life before European contact. But the highlight was Clyde Peelings' "Reptileland". The kids especially enjoyed the butterfly greenhouse and the snake house.

The fresh layer of leaves on the dirt road early in the morning shows that nobody has passed this way yet today. Each tree has its own color of halo under it, red maple is red, birch is yellow, and ash is brown. Can you identify trees by the color of the halo under them?

Now we can focus on the upcoming deer seasons. This year I became eligible for my lifetime senior hunting license. That means that I am also eligible for the three day senior early doe season. Boy, it's great to be old enough to take advantage of these great programs.

This is what makes it great to be a forest landowner in Susquehanna County. Each of us can go outside anytime and enjoy all our opportunities to rake leaves, mow grass, walk the woods trails, and shoot a couple squirrels. The smell of the falling leaves and the sounds of the creek, which is

running quite full this year, are great experiences that our friends in town, just don't understand.

Don't miss our next big event, our annual dinner meeting at the Harford fire hall. They do a great job with roast beef, mashed potatoes, and all the trimmings. But the big hit is the pies, made by the ladies of the North Jackson church.

After a short business meeting, we can share a PowerPoint program of my Alaska adventure, which included hunting caribou and moose. What all can go wrong? My advice, "If anybody offers you a chance to go moose hunting in Alaska,----DON'T!!!"

I hope to see everyone in Harford the evening of November 18.

-Jim Kessler

Annual Summer Picnic

The Susquehanna County Forest Landowner's Association held its summer picnic in the pavilion at Salt Springs State Park on June 26, 2011. An enthusiastic group of members from both the Susquehanna County Forest Landowners and the Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners enjoyed a delicious lunch of burgers, sausages, and rolls provided by SCFLOA and expertly grilled by its members. This was complimented by the numerous salads, vegetables and desserts provided by all attendees.

Following the picnic lunch, Rebecca Lesko, Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Nature Center, entertained both adults and children with stories, demonstrations and crafts of the Native American Indians of northeast Pennsylvania. Following the informative presentation, President Jim Kessler lead a nature walk to view and admire the magnificent old growth hemlocks as well as the splendid views, and natural ambience of the park. The more adventuresome even descended the steep gully to walk along the stream and admire the waterfalls up close!

Annual Dinner Meeting

WHEN: Friday November 18, 2011

TIME: Doors open at 6:00 for Social Hour
Dinner at 7:00 PM

WHERE: Harford Fire Company Building

GUEST SPEAKER: Jim Kessler

TOPIC: An Alaskan Adventure

DESSERT: Homemade pie

COST: \$18 per person

See article on page 2 & form on page 4

An Alaska Adventure



The Susquehanna County Forest Landowners Association annual dinner will feature local retired DCNR Service Forester Jim Kessler. Mr. Kessler will talk about and show pictures of his 2010 adventure with Alaskan wildlife, forestland, natural/cultural history, and his chance to live with the "locals."

The PowerPoint show will have something of interest for hunters, non-hunters, outdoorsmen and adventurers of all ages.

This annual dinner meeting will be held on Friday evening, November 18th, at the Harford Volunteer Fire Co. Bldg., Fairground Hill, Harford, Pa.. The doors will open at 6pm for a social hour, followed by dinner at 7pm.

The dinner, supplied by the Harford Fire Company auxiliary, will feature roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and rolls. (Fantastic homemade pie desserts will be supplied by the ladies of the North Jackson United Methodist church). Reservations for the event are required, and the cost is \$18 per person. Reservations must be made by November 15th.

After the featured presentation, a short, but very important business meeting will be conducted for all SCFLOA members.

Please send your reservations by November 15th to: Stuart W. Slocum, SCFLOA treasurer. *The reservation form is on the back page of this newsletter.*

Fabulous Fall Bus Trip



President Jim Kessler and Dr. Ringling explain the operations and forestry technology program at the sawmill located on the Penn College Earth Science campus.

SCFLOA bus tourists gaze upward at the huge *Tyranosaurus rex* at Reptiland. While many observed numerous live snakes and turtles, the butterfly house provided entertainment for those with "reptile phobia".



A gorgeous October day further enhanced a very enjoyable and educational SCFLOA bus trip!



Dave Cole
Former service forester
for
Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties

It is hard to believe the summer is almost over! Soon the landscape will be wearing a beautiful white coat that will sure beat the heat, humidity, bugs, and snakes. At least for some of us!

With all the news from the past few weeks, I think an update on the emerald ash borer is in order. The bugs have now been confirmed in southern Wyoming County, and just inside Sullivan County along Rt 87. This is not really a surprise, and we know they will continue to spread. As I have said before, I would encourage folks with ash in their forest to stay calm and not panic. The bugs will come, and the ash will die, but not this year. Probably not in the next five years. Once they arrive in your trees it takes them about three years to kill the trees. The first signs you probably will see are the top branches of the trees dying, coupled with heavy woodpecker activity on the top part of the ash tree. If you have any dying ash trees over the next few years, give us a call and we can try to help you determine if the EAB is actually there.

If and when you decide to harvest your ash trees, we strongly encourage you to employ the services of a consulting forester. The services and protections they give you are well worth the fee they charge. Certainly there are many woodlots in Susquehanna County that are going to be heavily impacted by the EAB, while others have little or no ash in them. There isn't a "one size fits all" solution. Each individual landowner will have to decide what is best for them.

It is with very mixed feelings that I announce that I am leaving Forest District 11 to return to western Pennsylvania. It is a very long story, but basically we could not afford to buy a property up in this area, and we did find a very nice one just west of Clarion. I grew up on a farm, and am now finally returning to a farm. I hope to establish a pick-your-own blueberry field, grow garlic to sell, and have a very large garden. My wife already got chickens and goats, and plans for bees in the spring. I am going to be a Timber Management Forester with the Bureau out in Forest District 9 (basically Clearfield County and parts of surrounding counties).

I will be responsible for nearly 40,000 acres of the 190,000 acre Moshannon State Forest. With all of these things, both at home and at "work", there should be enough to do to keep me out of trouble,

Forester Farewell (continued)

and I am looking forward to it. On the other hand, I thoroughly enjoyed my short time here in the northeast. The people are very nice, the country is beautiful, and Jim Kessler established a culture of Stewardship that still endures. That made my job very easy to start, and hard to leave. I will miss working with you all.

Please continue to care for your forests! As one of my co-workers says, a person's woodlot is a "tree garden". As a lifelong gardener I understand and appreciate the "work" that we must do to our gardens to grow desirable things for the harvest. A well managed woodlot also requires "work" to get a desirable harvest. The harvest from the forest is for future generations, but I believe it is well worth the effort. Enjoy, Enjoy!

Have a GREAT day!

Dave

Keep alert for these forest villains



Adult Emerald Ash Borer



EAB exit hole

Our Website is now up and running!
Visit <http://susquehannaforests.org>



For current pictures, discussions and other information

Visit our new Facebook page

(search for SCFLOA on Facebook site)

Feel free to post your forest pictures, add comments and ask questions

Board of Directors Meetings are open to all members. They are held the first Monday of every other month at the NRCS conference room, Montrose PA. They begin at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting is **December 8**, moved to a Thursday because of hunting season. Your presence and ideas are always welcomed!

Woodland Shrubs



Deciduous hollies

Take a walk into your woodlands during these transitional fall days and you may notice the abundance of very bright red berries on numerous shrubs, especially in the wet areas. What are these natural beauties?

In the northeast there are several hollies which are deciduous, losing their leaves in the fall. Frequently occurring in wet sites, these hollies can spread to form a dense thicket, while in dry soil they will remain a tight shrub. Their alternate glossy green leaves are pointed, with serrated margins and wedged-shaped bases. The flowers are small, with five to eight white petals. Clusters of spherical red berries occur along the twigs, with each berry containing a single "pit". They often persist on the branches long into the winter, giving the plant its English name, "winterberry". Like most hollies, it is dioecious, with separate male and female plants. In order to be pollinated and bear fruit, the female shrub must have at least one male plant in the proximity.

The common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is the most northerly distributed species of deciduous holly native to eastern North America. Its abundant red fruit persists into early spring and is relished by birds and squirrels. Appearing as a large shrub, it grows six to ten feet in height and is very tolerant of wet soils. Another species occurring over the same range is the large leaf or mountain holly (*Ilex Montana*), which has larger, longer and more pointed leaves.

The berries were used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes, hence the origin of the name "feverbush". Other names that have been used include Black Alder Winterberry, Brook Alder, Canada holly, Coralberry, Deciduous Holly, Deciduous Winterberry, False alder, Fever bush, Inkberry, Michigan Holly, Possumhaw, Swamp Holly, Virginian Winterberry, or Winterberry Holly.

Because the berries are available in the coldest months, they are a valuable food for wildlife. Holly berries are consumed by many bird species, including Wild Turkey, Bluebirds, Catbirds, Mockingbirds, Robins, Thrushes, Blue Jays, Cedar Waxwings, and Thrashers. White-tailed Deer eat the foliage and twigs.

2011 SCFLOA Calendar of Events

November 18: Annual membership business meeting and dinner
Speaker: Jim Kessler-Alaskan Adventures

December 8: Board of Directors Meeting, planning and reorganization for 2012

**THANK YOU FOR PAYING
YOUR 2011 SCFLOA dues**



**Do you have a Susquehanna County
"BIG TREE"?**

*Wish to have it measured for our County
contest?*

Contact Bob Wagner eaglexc@epix.net

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL DINNER

I wish to make reservations for
_____ **people** at the Annual SCFLOA
Dinner meeting, Nov 18, 2011

*I am enclosing \$ _____ which
covers the \$18 per person cost.*
(return to Stuart W. Slocum) make checks payable to SCFLOA

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Please respond by November 15

*Please send any suggestions, comments or other
ideas regarding this newsletter to:*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED