
All in a Nutshell

Volume 17, Issue 1

Spring 2012



Overlooking wildlife habitat improvement areas along a watercourse on the Matt and Denise Sellers property, site of the SCFLOA Spring Woods Walk to be held on March 17, 2012.

-Photo by Matt Sellers

President's Message

Today when I went out, the sun was shining, a cardinal was calling, bluebirds were on the wing, and crows were cawing. I recalled that last weekend on the way home from the breakfast at Springville, we saw blue buckets on the maple trees along the way. The days are getting noticeably longer and spring is definitely on the way.

In some respects we've not really had a winter. There are those that are still waiting: snowmobilers, skiers, and those who derive a part of their yearly budget from snowplowing and other winter services. Some hope they will have to wait until next year.

As some eagerly anticipate spring, I wonder about the long term effects of this non-winter; will the maple syrup harvest be good? Will the lack of snowmelt lead to dry conditions in the summer? What about the insect pests that didn't perish in a severe cold? What will be the long term effects on wildlife of a light winter kill? Questions all- most without near term answers.

The forest and the land are awaking, and we are excited and feel the renewal. It's time to be thinking of the new season and tasks await. There are many exciting things to look at. Now is the time to prune and thin those apple trees that have become brushy and overgrown, sign up for a pruning class with Jim Kessler via the Montrose Adult school, think about those trees that need replenishing and order those seedlings through the Susquehanna Conservation District, get an early start on the garden via a greenhouse or even just a sunny window sill. The list goes on limited only by your imagination and ambition.

But ...All those involve work so take some moments for yourself and your family to enjoy and appreciate how wonderful the world really is. Take walks in the woods and watch nature come awake or look for record setting big trees, go on the SCFLOA woods walk on 17 March to find some new ideas that might be interesting or helpful in your forest. Sign up to attend some of Nancy Wottrich's woods walks or bird watching expeditions again through the adult school. Even something as simple as picking up trash along a favorite and scenic section of road is refreshing. Use your imagination, opportunities abound!

Above all, show a youngster how wonderful and exciting the outdoors with its many plant and animal inhabitants really is. And above all enjoy.

-Jim James

Spring Woods Walk

Improvements for Wildlife Habitat

The Susquehanna County Forest Land Owners Association's (SCFLOA) Spring Woods Walk will be conducted on Saturday, March 17th at 9:00 am. We will be touring the actively managed property of Matt & Denise Sellers, located southeast of South Montrose. The Sellers have been working on woodland and wildlife improvements of their land since 2002. Matt will be telling you how he has accomplished this work.

The Sellers 41+ acres are a mix of deciduous forest, pasture, and wildlife habitat and food plot plantings. Several areas are planted with over 30 kinds of deciduous and evergreen trees. The Sellers were looking to provide new habitat for grassland, woodland and woodland edge birds by implementing habitat improvement work such as: woodland cut back borders along two field edges, tree and brush cutting around mast producing trees, tree and shrub plantings in three different areas, elimination of invasive species and woodland habitat improvement with hinge cuttings and properly built brush piles.

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Spring Woods Walk Facts

WHEN: March 17, 2012

TIME: 9:00 AM

WHERE: Matt and Denise Sellers property

LOCATION: SE of South Montrose (see map, pg 4)

TOPIC: Woodland and acreage improvement for wildlife habitat

LEADERS: Matt Sellers, Ryan Brown, Bob Wagner, Jim Kessler

LUNCH: Soups and sandwiches available at Dimock Community Church

COST: \$6.50 donation, reservations appreciated

Improvements for Wildlife Habitat (continued)

Another unique component was the planting of wetland compatible tree and shrub species around an existing pond. Having a pond, or other water source, is very important for attracting and keeping wildlife on your property.

The 2+ hour walk will highlight 5 acres of tree and shrub planting, 0.3 acres of cut back borders, 0.6 acres of early successional habitat management, 13 acres of Forest Stand Improvement – mast/crop tree release, 15+ acres of upland wildlife habitat management and 0.9 acres of wetland wildlife habitat management.

In the future, the Sellers also plan to create an even more diverse tree cover (thermal cover) by planting several ¼ acre areas to evergreens. They also plan to plant several other ¼ acre areas to fruit trees for pollinators and other wildlife.

The Board of Directors of SCFLOA invites the public to join them, along with our new Service Forester, Ryan Brown. Bob Wagner of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will talk about the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Other Forestry and Wildlife habitat specialists will be present to add further insights relevant to woodland and wildlife habitat management.

After the tour, take the family out to lunch. For a donation of \$6.50, a hot homemade lunch of soups, sandwiches, and beverages will be available to us at the nearby Dimock Community Church. While not imperative, an advance reservation for the lunch would be appreciated to make sure all appetites are accommodated! Please email such notice to slocumsw95@yahoo.com or call Stu Slocum at (570)756-2497.

Make it a fun family outing day! All those interested in the great outdoors are encouraged to come out for this informative and enjoyable day.

–Bob Wagner

2012 SCFLOA Board of Directors



Left to right: Doug Gunn, Jim Kessler, Rob Alfred, Ryan Brown, Franz Fearnley, Jim James, Bob Wagner
Seated: Carol Hartley, Stuart Slocum
Absent: Curt Hepler

2012 SCFLOA Board of Director meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the NRCS conference room, located along rt 706, Montrose, PA. The building is just past the Kubota dealership toward the golf course. **Meetings dates are as follows:** April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 6

Greetings from Our New Forester



Ryan Brown
Service forester
for
Susquehanna &
Wyoming Counties

Greetings! My name is Ryan Brown and I am the new Service Forester for Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. I began my duties in the Lackawanna Forest District at the end of December and I am enthused by the beautiful landscape I have been able to view and appreciate in my short time covering the area.

My interest in the outdoors started at an early age, growing up near the city of Lebanon in South East Pennsylvania. During these early years much of my time was spent with my father taking my brother and me out exploring nature. We did this in many different facets, such as hiking, camping, bike riding, canoeing, fishing and hunting. Although at the time I did not realize it, these adventures really molded me into the person I am today. These excursions taught me a sense of appreciation and how to partake in the outdoor environment. As I aged and came to the end of my high school career, I knew that I wanted to be involved in the outdoors for a career. That is when I decided to study Forestry and selected this topic as my major field of study while attending Penn State. I graduated in May of 2003 and had several jobs before the opportunity to work in DCNR presented itself.

I started working for the Bureau of Forestry in March of 2004, out of State College. My first position with the Bureau was a seasonal Forest Technician in the Forest Inventory and Analysis Section. This was an interesting endeavor in the fact that you had the responsibility of visiting the different state forests and analyzing different forest types and comparing them on a state wide basis. I worked for 2 (*two*) seasons in this capacity and then accepted a Forester position in The Michaux State Forest as a Service Forester for York and Adams Counties in late 2005. I covered this area for 6 months and then was hired for another Forester position in the Delaware State Forest. While in the Delaware I covered Pike County for 1 (*one*) year and then switched gears slightly from the Service Forester profession and transferred to Forest Operations. My responsibilities switched from dealing with landowners and the local communities and focused on State Leased Campsites, Road Use Agreements, Antenna Agreements and contract issues with forested Right-of-Ways. Although rewarding, I realized that I missed Service Forestry

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Greetings (continued)

work and when I had the opportunity, I was fortunate enough to be hired as a Service Forester again. After almost 6 (six) years in the Delaware, I moved to my current position here in the Lackawanna State Forest.

I'm excited for the opportunity in my new position! The Susquehanna and Wyoming landscape offers aesthetical value in a broad diversity. It's great to observe people with such an active interest in community and sustainable land management. I look forward to my new placement and to working with all the involved people and organizations.

-Ryan Brown

Big Tree Contest continues

SCFLOA is taking part in a statewide search for the biggest trees in Pennsylvania. We are conducting a search throughout Susquehanna County for 24 different native/naturalized trees during the next 6 months. This search is in cooperation with The Pennsylvania Forestry Association - Champion Trees of PA. The "PA Big Trees" website lists the biggest trees in the state as well as the biggest trees in different counties. The listings are dependent upon the past records of champion tree measurements and the most current updates. It should be noted that not all species of trees have been measured in each county.

Tree species being measured in Susquehanna County are:

Apple, Arborvitae, Ash, Aspen, Birches, Black Cherry, Black Gum, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Downy Serviceberry, Elm, Hemlock, Hickories, Hornbeam, Maple(s), Norway Spruce, Oak(s), Sassafras, Tulip Poplar, White Pine, Willow(s).

During the current measuring period, one tree has qualified as a State Record – an *Arborvitae* on the Flaherty farm in Choconut twp. The Big Tree measuring committee has measured 30 trees with at least 30 more on the list to be measured. We will continue our efforts through 2012.

If you have a Big tree that you would like measured please call:

Jim James –289-4935; Bob Wagner –278-9363; Stu Slocum –756-2497.



Red Oak



White Ash

Some large Susquehanna Co. trees measured by SCFLOA

Ask the Forester



Dear Mr. Forester

I have recently had some mature ash trees harvested and we noticed some apparent insect passageways through the heartwood. (Please refer to the attached photos). The yellow shotshell shown for reference is about 5/8 inch in diameter, so the holes are on the order of 3/8 inch in diameter. We did not find any obvious signs of habitation in the wood - no cavities or nests or branching, although they very certainly might have been there further up or down. These trees were in a relatively moist location and had not shown any obvious signs of stress in the past.

My question is what kind of insect might have caused this and what should one do to protect other trees in the area.

Thank You,

A concerned forest landowner

Since these "tunnels" are in the heartwood I believe it would be **carpenter ants**, especially since no boring insect that I can think of go into the heart wood, they stay outside of that, in the sapwood.



IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING YOUR TREES OR FOREST LAND, PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO THE "ALL IN A NUTSHELL" EDITOR. I WILL PASS IT ALONG TO OUR FORESTER FOR AN ANSWER AND PUBLISH IT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SO THAT EVERYONE CAN SHARE IN THE INFORMATION.

slocumsw95@yahoo.com (editor)



For more photos, announcements and other information:

Visit our Facebook page

Search for SCFLOA on Facebook site

2012 SCFLOA Calendar of Events

March 17, 9:00 am: Spring Woods Walk at Sellers property

June 24: Annual SCFLOA picnic at Salt Springs State Park

August 20-25: Harford Fair display and contests

October: Columbus holiday fall foliage bus tour

November: Annual membership business meeting and dinner



TREE TRIVIA: All correct answers submitted will be placed in a drawing for a prize to be awarded at the SCFLOA annual dinner meeting. All other entries will also be placed in a separate drawing to receive a consolation prize. Submit your answers to Stuart W. Slocum either by email or US mail.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

What large northeastern tree species has the nickname of "Bee-tree" because when it is flowering, large numbers of bees are attracted to it? Its flowers, preferred by the bees over that of other species, produce a strongly flavored honey.



Damage done beneath the bark of an ash tree by an infestation of emerald ash borers

FOREST PEST UPDATE

-Last year, the *Emerald Ash Borer* was newly discovered in Huntingdon and Wyoming counties, bringing it up to 21 PA counties that are now dealing with the invasive ash tree-killing pest.

-Weather conditions over the past year seem to indicate that *Forest tent* and *Eastern tent caterpillars* are not going to be a major threat this year

2012 SCFLOA dues

Are now receivable

Membership types

Individual/family (10+acres) \$20

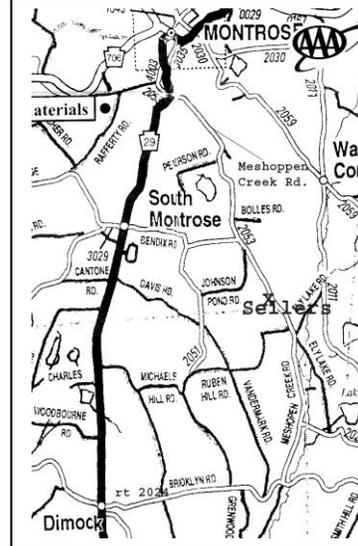
Associate (no acreage needed)..... \$16

Make checks payable to SCFLOA

Send to: *Stuart W. Slocum, treasurer*
1371 Slocum Rd

Thompson, PA 18465

Contact: slocumsw95@yahoo.com



From Montrose: rt. 29 south 0.8 of a mile, left on Meshoppen Creek rd-rt 2053 (look for a D. HART sign) go 3.1 miles to driveway on right
From Dimock: turn right off rt 29 at blinking light onto rt 2024, go 2.6 miles , left on to rt 2053, go 2.4 miles

Mailbox #5059
GPS -41degrees 46 minutes 58.64826;
75 degrees 51 minutes 12.64082.

Visit our SFLOA website:

<http://susquehannaforests.org>

1371 Slocum Rd, Thompson PA 18465

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED