
All in a Nutshell

Volume 16, Issue 1

Winter 2011



Even though overpopulations of wintering deer can sometimes be destructive to a woodlot, these are certainly one of nature's most beautiful creatures. As the heavy winter snows set in, they are reduced to limited travel and subsistence browsing.

President's Message

WHAT'S MY WOODS WORTH?

I'm sure that most of us have struggled with this question at some time or another. How have others dealt with this question?

What is the real question? Are we talking dollars and cents, or what? Here is how I have evaluated my own woods. Let me just describe my woods value in winter.

This winter has been almost ideal to spend time in the woods. I especially enjoy XC skiing. This is a good physical workout, and I get to see lots of animal tracks. I have followed tracks and discovered dens of a fisher, a porcupine, and a fox, all within 100 yards of each other. Coyotes and fox are actively "marking" their territory. Any rock, stump, or chunk of snow is dotted with a touch of yellow as they try to attract a mate. Deer are now able to move around on top of the thick snow crust. They had been nearly stranded by a thinner crust, which was softer, and allowed their narrow hoofs to fall through. Last weekend I saw several bloody footprints.

Snowmobiling has also been fun. Mostly I use my sled to keep my ski trails packed and usable, but the long distance trails are well-packed and snowmachines can easily travel from one end of the county to another. I also use my sled as a "woods truck", hauling my chainsaw to and from the woods, to provide deer browse and to cut my firewood for next year.

The deer have the fresh cut tree tops well browsed from one week to the next. Splitting firewood is also a good workout.

Sledding has been great for the grandkids. My snowmobile packs the trails, and the sleds stay on the packed trail, through the woods or through the Christmas trees. A good crust this year makes the sled run long and fast.

I still don't know what my woods is worth, but the benefits of wildlife, physical workout, skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, and firewood preparation are some of my values just in a good winter like this. What is your woods worth? - *Jim Kessler*

Annual Members' Meeting

The 2010 Annual Membership Meeting of the Susquehanna County Forest Landowners Association was held at the Harford Fire Company Hall in Harford starting at about 7 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2010, after an excellent dinner (those pies made by the ladies of the North Jackson United Methodist Church were SPECIAL) and a power point presentation on raptors, with emphasis on hawks and owls by Professor Jerry Skinner of Keystone College.

1. **Quorum** - President Kessler noted that the bylaws call for 15 members to be present for a quorum. Since he had spoken to more than 15 members this evening already, he declared the meeting officially open.
2. **Minutes** - By acclamation, the minutes of the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting were dispensed with.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Helga Walz, the outgoing Treasurer, noted that she collected funds from attendees at this dinner and that there were outstanding bills resulting from the dinner. Thus, all she could report was that as of that morning, the Association had \$4925 in its bank account.

continued, next page

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 April 4. Your presence and ideas are always welcomed!

Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

4. **President's Report** - President Kessler reported briefly on the past year's activities, especially the woods' walk, the picnic, the booth at the Harford Fair and the bus trip. He noted that it was particularly difficult to schedule any special activities since three different service foresters were assigned to us in the course of the year. The first one accepted an assignment in Harrisburg; the second (*John Maza*) was assigned to us and shortly thereafter was re-assigned to the Wayne Lackawanna office; and the third (*Jake Scheib*) recently accepted a post in Western Pennsylvania. Thus, now, we have no service forester serving our county and we have no idea when one will be assigned here.

Jim also noted that the emerald ash borer has recently been found in neighboring Bradford County and that ash is now quarantined as far east as the Mifflin County border. In New York, it has also been found as near as Albany.

5. **Program Ideas** - The members were asked for suggestions for locations for the woods walk and the bus tour, as well as for any new or special programs. None were immediately forthcoming, so President Kessler asked members to be in touch with him or any of the Directors when program ideas occurred to them.

6. **Nominating Committee Report** - Sherman Wooden, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the Officers and Directors for the year 2011.

OFFICERS (One-Year Term)

President: *James Kessler* Vice President: *Curt Hepler*

Treasurer: *Stuart Slocum* Secretary: *Carol Hartley*

DIRECTORS (Three-Year Term)

Class of 2013: *Doug Gunn* of Hallstead

Rob Alford of Dalton

James James of Hop Bottom

Before the nominations were closed, President Kessler asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and the above nominees were elected by acclamation.

After the election, *Helga Walz*, *Ralph Walz*, *Jim Bralla* and *Frank Dressler* were given certificates of appreciation for their years of service as officers and directors.

7. **Dues** - The Board recommended that dues remain the same for 2011, that is, annual dues of \$20 for members (those with five or more acres of woodland) and \$16 for Associate Members (no woodlands required). This recommendation was passed unanimously. At this point the NEW directors were asked to stand to be recognized.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Dressler

Secretary pro tem

Welcome to Our New Forester



Dave Cole
New Service Forester
for
Susquehanna &
Wyoming Counties

My name is Dave Cole, and I am very pleased to be the new Service Forester for Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. I am a forest landowner myself, so I understand many of the benefits and challenges of owning woodland. I look forward to meeting and working with the folks in SCFLOA.

I come to the Bureau of Forestry after making a mid-life career change. I was formerly in the grocery business, and was the produce manager of a store in Berwick for 19 years. About 16 years into that career I felt I needed a change, so I went to Penn College in Williamsport for Forestry. That was a very challenging, but extremely rewarding, experience. I started with the Bureau as a seasonal Forest Technician in March of 2007 in Emporium, with the goal of becoming a Service Forester. In the spring of 2008 I transferred down to Clarion because it offered a completely different set of experiences. I thought this extra experience would be beneficial to me in my quest to become a Service Forester, and it was. During the winter months when I was laid off from the Bureau, I had the privilege of working as a Technician at the USFS Northern Research Station near Warren. Although we did travel all over the state gathering data for various research projects, most of our work was up on the Allegheny Plateau. I love winter and snow, and enjoyed the lake effect snow immensely!

My family is pretty well grown up. My wife and I will be married 28 years this spring, and our boys are 17, 19, and 25. We own 23 acres of woodland in northern Columbia County, near Rickett's Glen, that has been in my family for over 90 years. We have a Stewardship Plan, are in the American Tree Farm System, and are working on getting into the Forestry for the Bay program.

I hope to see my various experiences as a woodlot owner and my time with the Bureau bear fruit as I work with folks that want to utilize, protect, and enhance their forest. There are many challenges out there, but we can enjoy working together to meet those challenges.

My office phone number is 570-945-7193, and my email is davcole@state.pa.us. If you have a question or a problem, give me a shout and I will try my best to help you in whatever way I can...*Dave*

Spring Woods Walk

WHEN: March 12, 9:30 AM

WHERE: Harold Hartley Tree Farm, near Glenwood, PA

LUNCH: Lenoxville United Methodist Church. \$6.00
While not mandatory, advance reservation very helpful!
Carol Hartley 222-3636 hartmait.carol@gmail.com

PARKING: At dirt pull-off at intersection of SR 374 and 407 (see map, page 4). Watch for signs.

Since 1969, Harold and Carolyn Hartley have managed 125 acres of mixed hardwood trees in Lenox Township, Susquehanna, Co. One of the larger timber properties (~55 acres) is on the side of Hartley Hill near Glenwood, PA. This property is mostly forested, except for a stone quarry. There is also a stream and a small wetland. Harold has done a lot of backpack spraying of invasives, used other treatments on undesirable flora, experimented with a deer exclosure fence, maintained logging roads, and participated in several programs including a Forest Stewardship Plan, American Tree Farm, Forestry for the Bay, FLEP, CSP, and wildlife management. There have been timber harvests on this property in 2002 and 2009. The recent harvest was to release the ash trees before they could succumb to the emerald ash borer. All this was done while living 6 hours away.

Jim Kessler, our retired service forester (and SCFLOA president) will be leading the walk. Jim has worked with the Hartley family on improving this property since 1986. Our new service forester, Dave Cole, will also be on hand to provide current information as well as some other professionals. Bob Hobbes, consulting forester, and logger Trevor Walczak will discuss aspects of stewardship and logging, including the ash market, tree release, damage to remaining trees, skid roads, and water diversion ditches.

2011 SCFLOA Board of Directors



Photo by: Stuart Slocum

Left to right: Bob Wagner, Franz Fearnley, Dave Cole, James James, Doug Gunn, Carol Hartley, Rob Alfred, Curt Hepler, Jim Kessler

Biological Control of Emerald Ash Borer



Two species of wasps—*Oobius agrili* and *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, both native to China, are being bred by the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and a Forest Service lab in southeastern Michigan for the biological control of the invasive Emerald Ash Beetle (EAB). The EAB are the primary food of these very tiny (<1 mm), stingless insects.

EAB Continued →

Biological Control of Woolly Adelgid



Tooth-necked fungus beetle

There may be hope for control of the hemlock woolly adelgid

The hemlock woolly adelgid, native to Asia, has been damaging and destroying evergreens in at least 16 US states since it was first discovered 60 years ago in Virginia. The adelgids feed on the hemlock sap, weakening and eventually killing the tree over a period of several years. Their eggs appear as white, woolly masses on the underside of the branch tips.

In 2007, the tiny “tooth-necked fungus” beetle, *Laricobinus nigrinus*, indigenous to Idaho, was introduced into the forests of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and New York. Able to withstand cold weather, this beetle feeds nearly exclusively on the woolly adelgids. In the Finger Lakes region of NY, this beetle has increased in numbers and is responding well to the environment, while eating the adelgids. PA released 300 LN beetles at a site in Huntingdon County in December 2003, as part of a cooperative study with Virginia Polytechnic Institute. More releases are planned in the eastern US over the next three years. For more info regarding the IPM of forest pests check out the following website:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/woollyadelgid/pestmanagement.aspx>

← *Biological Control of EAB continued*

The *Oobius agrili* favor emerald ash borer eggs, while *Tetrastichus planipennisi* prefer the ash borer larvae. The female wasps, able to sense the ash borer larvae through the bark, lay their eggs where they know food will be available to their offspring.

There is always concern that the release of non indigenous species may become the next ecological problem! Extensive testing of these parasites against closely related and unrelated beetle species has been conducted. The resulting data indicates that these wasps are specific to the emerald ash borer, which is essentially their total diet. The EAB-munching wasps have been released successfully in lower Michigan and Minnesota. There, they have established populations at a number of sites, and optimistically will help control the beetle populations without any deleterious side effects.

Risk factor assessment studies conclude that the use of these wasps could reduce the density of emerald ash borer populations, thus slowing the rate of ash tree mortality and saving our ash trees, a very valuable NEPA resource. For more details see the website:

http://www.mtu.edu/umc/services/pr-news/magazine/pdf/MTM_Winter_1011.pdf

2011 SCFLOA Calendar of Events

March 12, 9:30 am: Spring Woods Walk at Harold Hartley's

June 26: Annual SCFLOA picnic at Salt Springs State Park,
Rebecca Lesko from Endless Mountain Nature Center
talk on the Native American history of the region

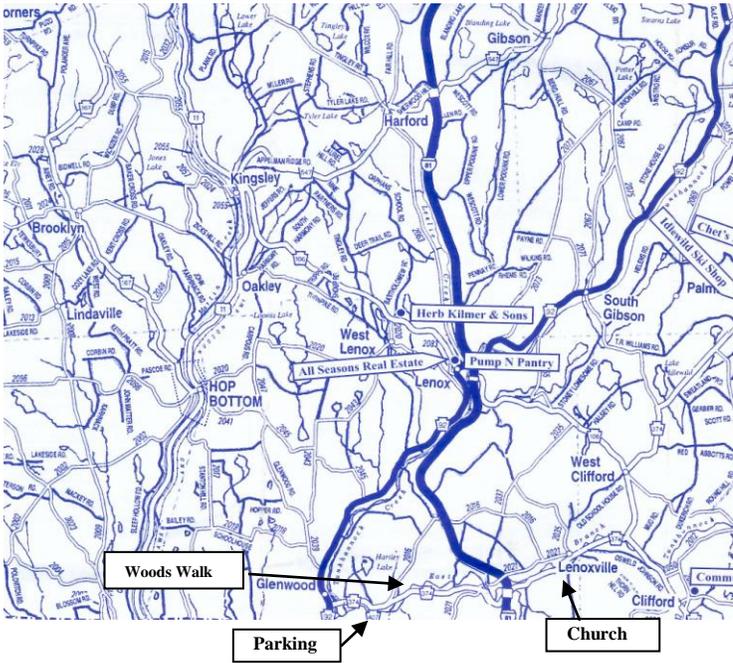
August 22-27: Harford Fair display and contests

October: Columbus holiday fall foliage tour, details to be
determined

November 18: Annual membership business meeting and dinner

For written directions to Hartley Hill:

<http://tinyurl.com/SCFLOAWoodsWalk>



1371 Slocum Rd, Thompson PA 18465

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

If you have not already paid your 2011 SCFLOA dues, please do so soon. Those who have already paid for 2011 will have the date "2011" marked on their mailing label. The absence of that date indicates that their dues are unpaid!

I wish to pay my 2011 SCFLOA dues.

(select one) (please make checks out to SCFLOA)

__ \$20 5 acres or more __ \$16 0-5 acres

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please return in enclosed envelope, with remittance to:
Stuart W. Slocum, SCFLOA treasurer.

Return all forms as well as any address or email updates to **Stuart W. Slocum**

slocumsw95@yahoo.com

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Thompson, PA 18465