



# DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 344**  
**Bridgeville, Delaware 19933**  
www.delawareforest.com

Summer 2016

## A Message from the President ...

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Dr. Michael A. Valenti

#### Newsletter

Dot Abbott

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to make several announcements and updates regarding the Delaware Forestry Association. On behalf of the Board of Directors, and myself, I would like to thank everyone who attended our annual banquet. We would also like to give a special thanks to all of the members and associates who donated items for the silent auction. With those donations, we are able to do things such as award scholarships and sponsor learning events and demonstrations.

While on the topic of scholarships and learning events, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership that the Board of Directors were able to award a scholarship to Brandon Dawson of Middletown DE. Mr. Dawson was a member of the 2016 Middletown FFA team which was in attendance at the 2016 banquet. Mr. Dawson will be attending Duke University beginning in the Fall of 2016. The scholarship was formally awarded on July 28th at the Delaware State Fair.

I would also like to personally invite all DFA members to our annual fall forestry field day which will be held in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the Tree Farm Program. It will be held at the UD Virden Center located in Lewes DE on Saturday October 15th. Topics covered will center on forest insects and diseases and their impacts on the forests of Delaware. Lunch will be provided, but this event **REQUIRES PRE REGISTRATION**, so if you are planning on attending please pre-register space is limited.

The Board of Directors and I are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in October!

Alex Fignar  
President, Delaware Forestry Association



### **Delaware Forestry Association 2016 Tree Seedling GIVE-AWAY QDM Winners ...**

*The Delaware Forestry Association is a non-profit corporation of the State of Delaware (1982) and functions to support and protect private forest landowners and the forest industry's right to practice forestry through public policy and educational efforts.*

Here are the winners from our **FREE** Tree Seedling Give-Away Contest at the Delaware Forestry Association/Delaware Tree Farm Program exhibit during the 2016 Quality Deer Management Association's spring meeting. Each winner will be receiving 10 trees of either (2-3) Eastern Red Cedar, (2-3) Redbud, (2-3) Persimmon or (2-3) Gray Dogwood tree seedlings for the Spring 2017 planting season. Each of these trees are native to Delaware and not only provide shade, reduce surrounding air temperatures and seasonal foliage interest, they are also important for our native wildlife.

Michele Twilley (Hartly, Delaware)  
E.J. Chalabala (Lincoln, Delaware)  
Jay Birmingham (Middletown, Delaware)  
Linda Wilt (Seaford, Delaware)  
Mikaela Hermstedt (Lincoln, Delaware)

Nathan Jones (Frankford Delaware)  
Janet Mumford (Selbyville, Delaware)  
Walter Feindt (Milford, Delaware)  
Christina Stevenson (Bear, Delaware)  
Amanda Sponaugle (Milton, Delaware)

## Delaware Forest Service (DFS) NEWS

We welcomed Dionne Duphily as our new Forester (Urban) in June. Prior to joining the staff full time, Dionne worked as a casual seasonal employee for about two years with our Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) team. During this time she completed an M.S. degree in Natural Resources and an urban forestry thesis that involved the audit of more than 200 U&CF tree planting grants statewide. These grants were awarded by the Delaware Forest Service (DFS) between 2000 and 2014. Perhaps the most interesting and positive result of the research was the 94% average annual survival rate of all the plantings she analyzed. This is the first such audit of a U&CF grant program in the 20 states that comprise the U.S. Forest Service's Northeast Region. The DFS also welcomes Garon Warner as the new Conservation Tech at Redden State Forest. Garon operates a small farm in the Georgetown area and has advanced knowledge of diesel mechanics. This skill will come in handy because Redden operates and maintains a number of diesel-powered vehicles.

The DFS has benefitted greatly in years past from the State's Open Space program. Through this program, we have added key parcels of land to the State Forest system, all for public benefit. But due to budget constraints, funding for the program has been zeroed out the last two fiscal years. We anticipate a resumption of funding in the future when the State's budget improves. The Open Space Council operates under the guidelines put forth in the State's Land Protection Act. This law was revised during the last legislative session to clarify some of the sections and the requirement for DNREC to develop State Resource Area (SRA) maps was removed. The Open Space Council now will only use maps showing existing protected lands as guidance for future projects. Additionally, counties will no longer use SRA maps in the development of their comprehensive plans.

Bill Seybold completed an aerial survey of the entire state in June. He noticed some small southern pine beetle (SPB) spots, mainly scattered in tidal areas along the coast. If you ever come across a suspected SPB infestation, please call the DFS so Bill can come out and evaluate the site. We successfully helped DNREC control and eliminate a SPB infestation at the Assawoman Wildlife Area a few years ago. Bill also identified a small two-acre gypsy moth defoliation site near Glasgow in New Castle County. Delaware has not had any significant gypsy moth defoliation for nearly 20 years. No one is sure if this represents the beginning of a population build-up like in the early 1990s. We also found noticeable gypsy moth populations down in the Nanticoke and Cypress Swamp areas of Sussex County. Please be on the lookout for major forest insect pests in your area and contact the DFS if you have any concerns.

Michael A. Valenti  
State Forestry Administrator

## 2017 DFA Scholarship Applications

Applications are being accepted now through April 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2017 DFA scholarship award. Applicants must choose forestry as their major and be enrolled full-time in a two-or-four-year accredited school program. The \$1,000 scholarship is to be used for tuition, room & board or books. For more information and a complete application form, contact: John Herbert (302-684-8820) or visit our website.

## Delaware Tree Farm Program Update

Delaware Tree Farm Program & Delaware Forestry Association will co-sponsor the 2017 Delaware AG WEEK 'Woodlands Management' Workshop on Wednesday, January 11 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds-ACE Building. Evaluations provided from the 2016 workshop will help 'craft' this educational outreach event. If you have an interest in learning more about a 'specific' forestry-related topic and/or can provide information on a potential speaker, please contact Dot Abbott: dotad@udel.edu.

The Delaware Tree Farm Program Committee has developed a Leadership Manual/Handbook to help guide our future direction and assist our Delaware Tree Farmers with resources to help them better manage their forest. This is an on-going project. Copies are available upon request. We are continuing to update our database and reaching-out to all currently recorded Delaware Tree Farmers through a survey mailed directly to the last known address of our DE Tree Farmers. Thank you, in advance, for completing & returning this survey.



Dot Abbott  
Chair, Delaware Tree Farm Program

2016 Delaware Tree Farmer-of-the-Year  
From left, Jonathon Tartt and his father Daniel Tartt, Jr. are honored by Rep. William R. "Bobby" Outten, and Rep. David L. Wilson with a proclamation recognizing Tartt as the 2016 Delaware Tree Farmer of the Year.

Join us to celebrate  
75 years of ATFS!



WE invite YOU to celebrate ...

# 2016 DELAWARE FORESTRY

## - Field Day -

University of Delaware - J. Penrose Virden Center  
700 Pilottown Road  
Lewes, Delaware  
Saturday, October 15, 2016  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

### PICNIC-STYLE DINNER

Outside Grilled: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Ribs  
Cole Slaw  
Potato Salad  
Baked Beans  
Corn-on-the-Cob  
Chips, Cookies, Brownies, Fresh Fruit  
Ice tea, Lemonade, Water, Sodas, Coffee

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- Local Acoustic Folk Musicians -

**Outdoor Event**  
- Rain or Shine -

**Forest Health Discussions & Site Tour ... Forestry Equipment Demonstrations & Local Logger-Sawmill Products ... Wood Mizer Portable Saw Mill Demo ... Small Engine Exhibit/Demo ... Local Wood Carving & Other Wood Products ... Skidder ... Forest Fire-Fighting Equipment ... Build Your Own Bluebird Box**

**FREE Admission** to DFA members, Delaware Tree Farmers & guests

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

Please contact Dot Abbott (302-730-4000) or e-mail: dotad@udel.edu - **by October 10, 2016**

*This event is co-sponsored by the Delaware Forestry Association, Delaware Tree Farm Program & MD/DE State Implementation Committee*

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Its time to **RENEW** your Delaware Forestry Association membership for 2016! Select from one of the five membership categories below and mail your membership information and payment to:

Delaware Forestry Association, P.O. Box 344, Bridgeville, DE 19933

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$ 5.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvester \$ 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25.00     |   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Upcoming Events and other 'Forestry-Related' News**

**WOODLOT MANAGEMENT (BF150)** - Assessing the economic potential for managing woodlands and woodlots. Woodlots are a common feature of most farms in the eastern US, and are often overlooked for the value they might bring to the landowner and to farm enterprises. Farmers and woodland owners will benefit if they recognize the potential values of their woodland resource, are familiar with common ways a woodland can add value, and can identify how the woodland will support the interests of the owner. During this course, we will examine the methods to assess forest resources and discuss common woodland activities such as cutting firewood, harvesting logs for mushroom cultivation, assessing trees for timber potential, and other activities that encourage forest health while creating economic potential in the woods. Register online at: <http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/all-courses/farm-woodlot-management-bf-150/>

**November 2-3, 2016** = the **FUTURE OF THE U.S. HARDWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY** conference will be held at the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV. The event is sponsored by the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service, National Hardwood Lumber Association, Superthin Saws, Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturer, Inc. (AHMI), Virginia Tech, and Virginia Cooperative Extension. More information can be found at <http://woodproducts.sbio.vt.edu/woodcomponents/preconference2016.php>

**January 11, 2017** = "Woodland Workshop" - 2017 Delaware AG Week, Ag Commodities Education (ACE) Building, Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE ... more details will be mailed at a later date.

**March 23, 2017** = Delaware Forestry Association's Annual Banquet & Delaware Tree Farm Program Awards Ceremony, Bridgeville Fire Hall, Bridgeville, Delaware

This past May, the Delaware Forestry Team lost one of our beloved leaders. Walter F. 'Walt' Gabel passed away at his retirement home in Florida. Walt had served as our Delaware State Forester for 35 years, retiring in 1991. He not only enacted the educational role of Smokey Bear, in costume, throughout Delaware classrooms - but he revered the tradition of being "Mr. Smokey Bear" to many. Walt, your smile and antics will be long remembered, with gratitude.

**BLUEBIRD & WOOD DUCK BOX KITS** - Delaware Forestry Association is still offering these kits made from local cypress wood. They will be available for sale at our 2016 Delaware Forestry Field Day event or contact Brian Michalski @ 302-697-7195 for more information. **PRE-ORDERS, ONLY!**