



**DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 344**  
**Bridgeville, Delaware 19933**  
[www.delawareforest.com](http://www.delawareforest.com)

**Winter 2019**



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Dr. Michael A. Valenti

### **Newsletter**

Laura Yowell

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members, Friends, and Family,

It seems 2018 has gone by in a flash, or a blur, or maybe one continuous rain storm that has kept us from noticing the cycle of the seasons, but it is now 2019. First and foremost, I would like to invite all of our membership and associates to our annual banquet being held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the FELTON FIRE HALL, in Felton, DE. Members are encouraged to bring a guest who may not have attended a DFA banquet before or are unaware of our organization. As a reminder, the Board of Directors would like to ask members pay dues in advance of the dinner if possible. Prepayment of dues helps us process banquet attendees faster at the door.

Currently, the DFA Board has been discussing some ideas about streamlining our organization. While we are in preliminary stages, we would like to poll the membership on a few changes and look forward to input from you. Some of the proposed changes would be moving the annual banquet from Thursday evening to a Saturday afternoon to early evening time slot. Many of the harvesting contractors and wood processors get up very early and the Thursday evening slot is a late night for them. Secondly, we would like to poll the membership on going to a digital newsletter as opposed to a paper copy. While we understand that not everyone uses email on a regular basis, we would like to know if people prefer electronic distribution verses paper distribution. These changes will be discussed at the annual banquet, but we would like to have the membership think about them beforehand.

Shifting gears, the Delaware Forestry Association would like to recognize Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse for securing funding for the Delaware Forestland Preservation Program. It has been nearly ten years since this program has received funding and due to Secretary Scuse's hard work, it appears that this program will be considered for funding on an annual basis going forward.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, members, and associates of the Delaware Forestry Association for their contribution of time and resources. Without the dedication of these individuals, this organization could not function. Furthermore, I hope to see every one at the banquet on March 21.

Sincerely,  
Alex Fignar

*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.*

## DFA Scholarship

### Award Accepting Applications

Each year, the Delaware Forestry Association awards a scholarship in the amount of one thousand dollars. The scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student who must choose forestry or a related major and be accepted or enrolled in a two-year or four-year accredited school program. Applications will be accepted year-round; the application deadline is April 1 of each year. The chosen applicant will be notified of their award by May 1.

The successful applicant will receive his or her award at the Delaware State Fair on Governor's Day. The application and rules may be found at [http://delawareforest.com/DFA\\_scholarship\\_form.pdf](http://delawareforest.com/DFA_scholarship_form.pdf)

Applications may be mailed to:  
Delaware Forestry Association  
c/o Sam Topper  
Delaware Forest Service  
Redden State Forest  
18074 Redden Forest Drive  
Georgetown, DE 19947



2018 scholarship winner Shawn Mitchell (at left) received a ceremonial \$1,000 check at the Delaware State Fair from DFA President Alex Fignar, DFA director Brian Michalski, Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse, and Gov. John Carney.

## State Forestry Administrator's Update

Ten years ago the Delaware Forest Service developed a forest action plan that included two components: an initial *Statewide Forest Resource Assessment* and a subsequent *Statewide Forest Strategy*. Some of you were, no doubt, involved in that 18 month process spearheaded by then State Forester Austin Short. The U.S. Forest Service requires an update of this 2010 action plan as per the guidelines in the 2014 Farm Bill. This update is necessary to maintain our eligibility for core forestry program funding without which we could not effectively deliver essential forestry programs. The process has begun with an online survey for those interested in the future of Delaware's forests—my hope is that all DFA members will participate in this survey. The information collected will eventually help guide us in developing a set of specific, measureable, achievable, relevant, and timely goals. Over the next ten years, the Delaware Forest Service will work hand-in-hand with partners and cooperators throughout the state to attain those goals. The future of Delaware's forests is at stake, please take the time to provide your valuable input.

I have some good news about the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forestland Preservation Program. For FY19, \$1,000,000 was allocated to this program. This is the first time since its inception (2009) that the program received funding. We are hopeful that more funds will be available in FY20. If you are interested in this program or know someone else who might be, please contact the Delaware Aglands Preservation Program at the DDA for further information. Forest landowners have the opportunity to sell their development rights to the state but still maintain ownership of the property and can conduct forest management practices (including harvesting) as they so desire. Please keep in mind that forestland may qualify for both the Aglands and Forestland programs but can only be entered into one. It is to your advantage, however, to have your forestland appraised through both programs. Due to the different methodology in appraisals, one may come up significantly higher than the other.

Starting this season (2019) the Delaware Forest Service will handle turkey hunting permits on State Forest land through our office instead of DNREC's. This will allow our staff to collect the detailed information we desire to help us effectively manage this game population on lands we oversee. In early January we received 326 applications (68 of which were disqualified). 146 of the valid 258 applications (56%) were randomly selected for permits (including 6 out-of-state). The 112 persons who were not selected are on a wait list. Blackbird State Forest will accommodate 10 hunters/week for the four-week season, Redden State Forest will host 25 hunters/week for four weeks, and Taber State Forest has 2/week for only three weeks due to a prior scheduled MD/DE hunting dog field trial event. We look forward to working collaboratively with hunters to sustain a thriving turkey population and improve future turkey hunting experiences on State Forest lands.

Michael A. Valenti  
State Forestry Administrator



## Tree Farm Update

The Delaware Tree Farm Committee NEEDS YOU! We are currently seeking new committee members to fill a few vacant spots, if you or anyone you know is interested please give me a call at 302-856-2893.

The National organization has announced that there will be big changes coming to the program, this will affect how the state programs are run. At this time we have no further information on what those changes will be and what to expect. We will keep everyone up to date as information is released.

I would like to thank Doug Simpson for hosting our annual field day this past October. We had 42 people attend and we issued Master Logger credits to five Master Loggers. We started the morning in the mill, learning how it operates and watching it in action. Then we enjoyed an excellent lunch catered by Jimmy's Grill. After we all had our fill we loaded into the hay wagon to see the tree farm. I think we can all say we learned a lot and it was enjoyed by all.



Our next meeting will be held on April 15th at 6pm @ the Redden State Forest Headquarters. We are inviting the membership to attend this meeting to see what it is all about. We will serve light refreshments and coffee. Please let me know if you would like to attend so I can get a head count, also bringing a guest is encouraged.

We hope to see everyone at the banquet this year as we recognize our new Tree Farmer of the Year and all our tree farmers who will hit their 25 years of membership milestone.

Submitted by Laura Yowell, Chair

## 2018 Field Day!



## Seedling Give-Away

### Raffle Winners

The Delaware Forestry Association is pleased to announce the winners from our FREE Tree Seedling Give-Away Contest at the Delaware Forestry Association/Delaware Tree Farm Program exhibit during the 2018 Delaware State Fair.

Each winner will receive five redbud and five serviceberry seedlings during the spring 2019 planting season. Each of these trees is native to the State of Delaware and not only provides shade, reduces surrounding air temperatures and has interesting seasonal foliage, they are also important for our native wildlife. Congratulations to all of the winners! (See box at right.)

## 2018 Timber Tax Tips

If you bought or sold timber or timberland in 2018—or had timber management related expenses—you may want to check out the article “Tax Tips for Forest

Landowners” for the 2018 Tax Year. This article is released every year by the U.S. Forest Service and serves as an introduction to common forest accounting situations. Common situations include selling or buying timber or land, pre-commercial thinning, planting, spraying, cost-share program participation, losses from natural disasters, conservation easements, and others. It can be found on the web at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/>



### Seedling Give-Away Winners

- Lisa McGee (Millsboro, DE)
- John Doerfler (Milton, DE)
- Lee Ellen Sheehan (Dover, DE)
- Lou Ann Rieley (Millsboro, DE)
- Linda Ealy (King of Prussia, PA)
- Jen Kemp (Harrington DE)
- Jenna Anger (Bridgeville, DE)
- Christie Cornish (Dover, DE)
- Donna Rattle (Hartly, DE)
- Aaron Hickman (Dover, DE)



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