



DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 344
Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

www.delawareforest.com

Summer 2019



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Newsletter

Laura Yowell

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members,

I am happy to announce that the Delaware Forestry Association awarded Dover resident Arron Jackson a scholarship to attend Western New Mexico State University, where he will study Wildlife Biology and Criminal Justice with the ultimate goal of becoming a Conservation Office.

While on the topic of education, it should be noted that The Delaware Forestry Association will not be holding a formal field day this year. In lieu of a formal field day, DFA will be supporting the Delmarva Forestry Seminar. The Delmarva Forestry Seminar will be held on September 21st at Wor-Wic Community College. This event will consist of morning lecture sessions followed by an afternoon field tour of Great Cypress Swamp. Lunch will be provided. This event will provide continuing education credits for Master Logger, SAF/MD LPF, LTE, and ISA. For more information contact the University Of Maryland Cooperative Extension Office at akemen@umd.edu or call Agnes directly at 410-827-8056. Pre-Registration is required.

As with any organization, there are always some house keeping issues. As we were amending our mailing lists, we realized that there may be some outstanding members on our roles. If you are receiving a DFA newsletter and are no longer a member please contact me at jamesfignar@comcast.net and I will have your name removed from the roles. Conversely, if you are receiving a newsletter and have not paid dues, but wish to remain an active member, please contact me and we will reconcile the membership register.

On a sadder note, as many of you may or may not know, Walter Allan Jones had passed on June 17 2019. Mr. Jones was a key figure in initiating the Delaware Forestry Association. He had previously served as a board member and as President of the Delaware Forestry Association, often hosting DFA meetings in his home before the facilities at Redden State Forest were available. On behalf of the Delaware Forestry Association, its members and directors, a \$500.00 memorial contribution was made to the Bridgeville Fire Company.

Alex Fignar
President 2019

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 Winner Announced

The Delaware Forestry Association is pleased to announce this year's scholarship winner. The deserving recipient is Arron Jackson of Dover DE. He will be attending Western New Mexico State University where he will be majoring in Wildlife Biology and Criminal Justice. Congratulations Arron!

It's never too soon to think about next year's scholarship. If you know any high school seniors or current college students who are majoring in Forestry or a closely related field, please let them know about this scholarship.

Scholarships are accepted year round with an April 1st deadline.

The winner will receive their scholarship during Governors day at the State Fair next July.

More information and the application can be found at https://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

State Forestry Administrator's Update

Delaware Forest Service News

ECI (Eastern Correctional Institute) in Princess Anne, MD (Somerset County) is planning to convert their facility from woody biomass to natural gas in the near future. Steve Koehn (former Maryland State Forester and current Director of Cooperative Forestry for the U.S. Forest Service), is leading the charge to convince the planners of this conversion to reconsider upgrading to a new wood biomass system—one that would accept lower quality wood chips. Such a conversion will broaden wood fuel sourcing options and lower fuel costs in the long run. The estimated savings of such a system over natural gas is conservatively estimated at more than \$1 million each year. The effects on the struggling forest products industry on the Delmarva Peninsula would be significant with losses of annual activity estimated in the millions of dollars.

The Governor's Council on Forestry (GCF) is working up a strategy to attract forest products businesses to Delaware. The planned expansion of the Port of Wilmington in the next few years could facilitate a significant amount of wood product imports and exports. There is high demand overseas for logs, cants, pallets, and kiln-dried products such as plywood. We have an ample wood supply, we just need the industry located here along with improved shipping capabilities. That is the goal of the GCF.

Good news—the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forestland Preservation Program has \$1 million budgeted for FY20. I urge all DFA members to spread the word about this program whereby the State purchases the development rights of your forested property, but you retain ownership and the ability to conduct forest management practices such as periodic harvests. In FY19, only 11% of the allocated \$1 million was disbursed for three forested parcels totaling 150 acres. Available funds are currently under-utilized, so we need to get the word out to forest landowners who might consider taking advantage of this conservation program. Anyone interested in selling their development rights should contact the DDA Aglands Preservation and Planning Section (302-698-4530).

Turkey hunters had an overall success rate of 14% on State Forest lands in 2019 with an average tom weight of 19.7 lbs. Turkeys were harvested on all three State Forests (Blackbird, Taber, and Redden). A post-season survey of permitted hunters will help the Delaware Forest Service effectively manage turkey populations to improve the success rate on the lands we manage. The 2020 State Forest turkey hunt application is due January 10, 2020 and is available online: <https://agriculture.delaware.gov/forest-service/>.

Michael A. Valenti
State Forestry Administrator

WOODS TO WILD LANDS

DELMARVA FORESTRY SEMINAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:30 AM- 4:30 PM



Morning education sessions at Wor-Wic Community College, MD

Afternoon bus tour of the Great Cypress Swamp, DE

To Register:

<https://go.umd.edu/DFStix>

For Agenda:

<https://go.umd.edu/DFS>

Cost: \$50/ticket or Bring a Friend! \$80 for two (lunch included)

Earn CEC's MD-DE Master Logger: 6, SAF: 6, LTE: 4.5, ISA: TBD

For more information: contact Agnes at (410) 827-8056 or akedmen@umd.edu

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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.

As I mentioned last news letter National is making some big changes. The first change announced is we now have a new Northeast Tree Farm Manager. This should hopefully ease communication challenges with National as we will have one point of contact for all communications going forward. This I am sure is the first of more changes to come.

The next big National news announcement is that the current certification standards are entering there last year. Tree Farms standards are certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). They require an overview of standards every 5 years. While this may not directly affect Delaware Tree Farmers as we are a reignment state, there will be opportunity for public input by you as a stakeholder.

Last but not least, we will not be holding our annual fall field day this year. The Delmarva Forestry Seminar is being resurrected, we encourage all of our



members to attend. The format for the day should allow for even more learning opportunities than we can provide. Hope to see you all there!

Submitted by Laura Yowell, Chair



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