



DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 344

Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

www.delawareforest.com

Winter 2020



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Newsletter

Laura Yowell

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members, Friends, and Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone into the new year. First and foremost, I would like to invite all of our membership and associates to our annual Delaware Forestry Association banquet being held on Thursday, March 19, at the FELTON FIRE HALL, located 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 DFA Board of Directors would like to ask members to pay dues in advance of the dinner if possible. Prepayment of dues helps us process banquet attendees faster at the door and makes tracking our finances easier on our treasurer.

At this time, I would like to remind everyone that the Delaware Forestry Association is again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one qualified applicant who is applying to, or is currently enrolled in, a Forestry or Natural Resource related field of study at an accredited university. Scholarship applications will be due on April 1, 2020. Applications are available electronically at our website <http://www.delawareforest.com/scholarship>. Also, the Delaware Forestry Association will offer tuition assistance to one student from each county in Delaware if they are interested in attending the Natural Resource Career Camp, Camp Hickory, located in Garrett County, MD. Please contact the DFA Board of Directors for more information.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, members, and associates of the Delaware Forestry Association for their contributions of time and resources. Without the dedication of these individuals, this organization could not function. Furthermore, I hope to see everyone at the banquet on March 19.

Sincerely,

Alex Fignar
President 2020

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 are at:

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



Aaron Jackson of Dover (above, center) was the 2019 winner of the DFA scholarship.

Pictured at the check presentation at the Delaware State Fair are, from left: DFA board members Don Wiggins, Sam Topper, Brian Michalski, Aaron Jackson and his mother, DFA President Alex Fignar, and DDA Deputy Secretary Kenny Bounds.

State Forestry Administrator's Update



We are now into our second season of issuing turkey hunting permits specifically for State Forest lands and received 383 applications for 2020. This is a 62% increase over the 236 applications received in 2019. One hundred and forty-six permits were randomly awarded (Blackbird [40], Taber [6], and Redden [100] State Forests) for the upcoming four-week harvest season April 11 to May 9, 2020.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forestland Preservation Program has \$1 million for the current easement round that had an application deadline of September 2019. This was the second year in a row of program funding. Forest landowners who met the deadline will soon find out if they were selected. Please help spread the word to forest landowners who may be interested in having the State purchase their development rights. Remember, participants still maintain land ownership and are free to manage their forests and this includes timber harvesting. Those interested in the program should contact the DDA Aglands Preservation and Planning Section (302-698-4530).

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) is nearing completion of a draft 2020 Delaware Forest Action Plan, an update from when it was first written in 2010. The new version includes two parts regarding Delaware's forest resource: an assessment and a corresponding strategy. The assessment is a detailed evaluation of the forest resource and changes that occurred over the last ten years. It presents a list of priority issues, threats, and opportunities based on the most current forest inventory data. The strategy portion contains 105 measurable goals specifically designed to address threats and opportunities. Draft versions of both documents will be made available soon. The DFS welcomes comments and suggestions from the forestry community, especially tree farmers and members of the Delaware Forestry Association.

A few years ago, the State of Michigan received a U.S. Forest Service grant for an economic study on the forest products industry throughout the entire 20-state northern region. Delaware will receive a spinoff individual state report in 2020 (*Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Delaware*) that is specific to Delaware but contains pertinent information from neighboring states. The economic data presented in the report combined with updated information in the Forest Action Plan should help our efforts to diversify and expand the forest industry in Delaware. When this occurs, many ecological and economic benefits will result, especially for Delaware forest landowners.

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.

We recently completed a large audit of our database, the first since 2012. This was a long overdue and necessary project to keep our membership roster current. If you are receiving this newsletter and no longer own your property, or have just lost interest, please call me and let me know. I would be happy to fix that for you.

We participated in the Delmarva Forestry Seminar held at Wor-Wic Community College back in September, with a field tour held at Delaware Wild Lands. It was nice to see so many of our landowners there. We are already looking forward to the next one, to be held sometime in the fall of 2021.

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



Delmarva Forestry Seminar



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 2019 Delaware State Fair.

Each winner will receive five redbud and five serviceberry seedlings during the spring 2020 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.)

2019 Timber Tax Tips

If you bought or sold timber or timberland in 2019—or had timber management related expenses—you may want to check out the article “Tax Tips for Forest

Landowners” for the 2019 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/library/taxtips2017.pdf>. Share it with your accountant as well.



Seedling Give-Away Winners

- Henry Griffith (Ellendale, DE)
- Jude Parfitt (Greenwood, DE)
- Doug Greig (Hartly, DE)
- Nancy Burris (Harrington, DE)
- Robin Harrington (Houston, DE)
- Ken Allen (Camden, DE)
- Ryan Kardos (Millsboro, DE)
- Mike Goff (Greenwood, DE)
- Cindy Larimore (Greenwood, DE)
- Daniel Fleetwood (Laurel, DE)



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