



DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 344

Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

www.delawareforest.com

Winter 2017

A Message from the President ...

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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State Forestry Administrator

Dr. Michael A. Valenti

Newsletter

Dot Abbott

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members,

Well, It seems as if another year has gone past, and the Delaware Forestry Association Board of Directors have been hard at work. This year, our Fall Forestry Field Day was held at the University of Delaware Virdin Center in Lewes DE, and centered on forest pest management and invasive forest insects. The Board of Directors was also busy screening applicants for the annual scholarship to be awarded to a student from Delaware pursuing an education in Forestry or a related Natural Resource field. It is the intention of the Delaware Forestry Association to award a scholarship again in 2017, so if you know any college students who are in an accredited natural resource curriculum, or are planning to enter one, please have them submit a scholarship application (*more information can be found at our web site: www.delawareforest.com*).

Another item of business the DFA Board of Directors will be addressing is the vacancy of an empty chair on the board. The floor will be open to nominations for board members at the annual meeting. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please be sure to attend the annual meeting.

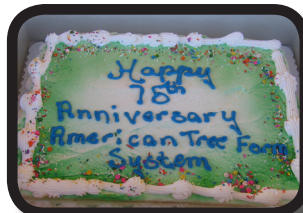
We would also like to let everyone know that the Delaware Forestry Association will be selling Blue Bird boxes and Wood Duck boxes at the annual banquet. Prices for Blue Bird boxes will be \$25 and Wood Duck boxes \$35.

Also, The Delaware Forestry Association would like to give a huge thank you to Dot Abbott. She has announced that she will no longer be serving as the Chair of the Delaware Tree Farm Program committee or producing the Delaware Forestry Association newsletter. Dot has worked tirelessly to support both programs and will be sorely missed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her over the years. Without her hard work, these programs would not be what they are today.

As 2017 moves along, the Delaware Forestry Association hopes to keep providing educational and networking opportunities to forest landowners of Delaware, as well as all citizens of Delaware.

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.



2016
Delaware Forestry Field Day
UD Virdin Center, Lewes, DE
October 15, 2016

Delaware Forest Service NEWS

The Delaware Forest Service made a key land purchase in late 2016 at Blackbird State Forest with funding from the Open Space Program. The State now owns the 324-acre Blackbird Farm formerly owned by the Hesselstine family. This was a key purchase because it brings our Tybout Tract out to Oliver Guessford Road to the north and Dexter Corner Road to the west. Most importantly was the conservation of about 176 acres of hardwood forest on the northwest side of Blackbird Creek in the all-important Blackbird/Millington Conservation Corridor. About two years ago the family approached us and wanted the State to have a chance at purchasing the property—they did not want to see it developed. And although Open Space was zeroed out in terms of funding the last two years, we secured the funds needed to protect this ecologically important parcel. The wooded sections were and still are under an active forest management plan with plans in the future for further selection cuts in this oak/yellow-poplar dominated forest.

As illustrated in the example above, we never know when a willing seller will approach the Delaware Forest Service with the offer to sell or ease a forested parcel. We were extremely fortunate in this instance to have the funds available through Open Space although this program is now nearly out of funds altogether. This shows how important those funds are but unfortunately, there is virtually nothing left to work with in 2017. The State appears to be in for another rough year budget-wise. But I urge all of you to encourage anyone involved with budget decisions (senators, representatives, Governor's staff, etc.) to fully fund Open Space when the time is right. I further encourage you to urge those same people to permanently fund the Forestland Preservation Program that has been in place for many years now but only funded once by then Governor Minner. Even with a relatively small level of funding, over the course of time, we can make huge strides in protecting and conserving forestland in Delaware. Just look at the success of the nationally-recognized Aglands Preservation Program. It is my sincerest hope that we too, someday, will enjoy that kind of success in saving forestland in Delaware.

Just a final note on one of our core programs funded by the U.S. Forest Service: State Fire Assistance. Through this funding we train and equip personnel and provide other resources to help control and contain large out-of-state fires. In 2016, the Delaware Forest Service dispatched two Type 2 Initial Attack crews (20 firefighters on a crew), a number of single resources (individuals), and a brush truck to assist with fires in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, and Virginia. It was a very tough year for wildfires throughout the country but especially last fall in the south. We remain committed to providing resources in the future, as needed, to help protect the forest resources of the United States.

Michael A. Valenti
State Forestry Administrator

2017 DFA Scholarship Applications

Applications are being accepted now through April 1st for the 2017 DFA scholarship award. Applicants must choose "forestry or a related major" 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. Our successful applicant will receive their award at the Delaware State Fair on Governor's Day. For more information and a complete application form, contact: John Herbert (ph: 302-684-8820) or Sam Topper (ph: 302-856-2893) ... or visit our website: <http://delawareforest.com/>

Delaware Tree Farm Program Update

This New Year will usher-in a change in three leadership roles for the DE Tree Farm Program committee. Until our June 2017 business meeting, Laura Yowell (*currently our Vice-Chair*) will serve as the 'interim' chair, Sam Topper will serve as the 'interim' Program Administrator and Rachel Egolf (*currently our Secretary*) will serve as the 'interim' treasurer. Dot Abbott and Jeff Fisher will continue to work with these folks during the transition period to secure a perpetual advocate for each position. Jeff Fisher departs the Treasurer's position after serving in this capacity for many, many years and the entire Delaware Tree Farm Program is grateful for his dedication and commitment. The Delaware Tree Farm Program now functions under the "Recognized" Tree Farm rules of the American Forest Foundation-American Tree Farm System. Reinspection of our current Delaware Tree Farms, along with acceptance of new Delaware Tree Farmers, will continue as we provide forestry outreach & education opportunities. If you are interested in participating on the Delaware Tree Farm Program committee, please contact the Delaware Forest Service. An invitation-to-join will be offered during our 2017 DTF Awards Banquet on March 23. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations Leslie Merriken - 2017 Delaware Tree Farmers-of-the-Year!

BLUEBIRD & WOOD DUCK BOX KITS

Delaware Forestry Association is still offering these kits made from sustainable local cypress wood. They will be available for sale at our 2017 Annual Meeting or contact Brian Michalski @ 302-697-7195 for more information. **PRE-ORDERS, ONLY!**

Dot Abbott
Chair, Delaware Tree Farm Program Committee

DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2017 • Bridgeville Fire Hall • Bridgeville, Delaware

- 5:30 p.m. Registration & Social Hour
Silent Auction ... remains open till 7:45 pm

- 7:00 COUNTRY-STYLE DINNER
Crab Cakes, Oven-fried Chicken, Roast Beef Au Jus, Beef Dumplings, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Bean Casserole, Cole Slaw, Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Beverages (Coffee, Ice or Hot Tea, Water)

- 8:00 Welcome
DFA Business Meeting
Election of 2017-2018 DFA Board Directors
Delaware Tree Farmer-of-the-Year Award
Delaware 25th Anniversary Tree Farmer Recognition
Delaware Forest Service - Forestry Administrator's Update

- 9:00 Wrap-up/Announcement of Silent Auction Winners/Adjourn

- If you are able to DONATE items to the Silent Auction, please bring them with you or contact a DFA Board Director ●
- To help expedite the evening's activities, please pre-send your 2017 DFA Membership dues with your meeting reservation, Thank you! ●



YES, I plan to attend the DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| | # of adults _____ | X \$ 27.00 | = | |
| | # of children (<12 years old) _____ | X \$ 0.00 | = | <u>FREE</u> |
| | | Total enclosed | = | _____ |

Please make check payable to: Delaware Forestry Association
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 344, Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

Reservation Deadline = March 17, 2017



Its time to **RENEW** your Delaware Forestry Association membership for 2017! 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: _____

July 20 - July 29, 2017 = Delaware State Fair ... our DE Forestry Association/DE Tree Farm exhibit will be displayed in the AG Commodities Building during the first five days of this event. Stop-by and visit. Interested in staffing the display for a few hours? Contact the Delaware Forest Service for more information.

Upcoming Events and other 'Forestry-Related' News

The Woods in Your Backyard online course (Spring 2017) - Wednesday, March 1 to Sunday, June 4, 2017
A self-paced, non-credit course runs 12 weeks from March 1st to June 4th, 2017 to help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. The course uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. The course costs \$85.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. For more information, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/events/wed-2017-03-01-0800-woods-your-backyard-online-course>. To register through Eventbrite, go to <https://wiyb-spring2017.eventbrite.com>.

Forest Health & Your Woodland Workshop. Saturday, March 11, 2017 - 8:30am to 12:30pm. Eastern Shore Hospital Center, 5262 Woods Road, Cambridge, MD 21613. Cost: \$8 includes breakfast snacks, lunch & resource materials. Sponsored by: University of Maryland Extension & Maryland DNR Forest Service. As an owner or manager of woodland property on the Eastern Shore, you are concerned about being a good steward of the land you own or manage. But the continued influx of invasive species, forest pests and diseases, and sea level rise, can have a dramatic impact on the health of your woodland. Insects and diseases such as southern pine beetle and gypsy moth have been threats for some year, but a new invasive insect known as emerald ash borer will soon cause the mortality of all ash trees, many of which are found in wetlands and other sensitive areas. This workshop will provide you knowledge about threats to forest health, strategies to minimize the impacts, and resources available to help you implement needed practices. Registration and other information is available online at: <https://foresth2017.eventbrite.com>. For more information regarding registration contact: University of Maryland - Wicomico County, Salisbury, MD, #410-749-6141. For more information on the program content contact: Jonathan Kays (jkays@umd.edu) or #301-432-2767X323.

Delaware's portion of the **Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative** is about to be launched through a coordinated agency partnership effort, working with the local conservation districts, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and DNREC-Watershed Assessment Section. This initiative will target the current USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and provide more detailed information to forest landowners on how they can benefit, this includes outreach efforts from Delaware's Riparian Forest Buffer taskforce. Stay tune - your forestland may be eligible for financial and environmental benefits.



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