



2014

## Annual Report

# Foundation for Sustainable Forests

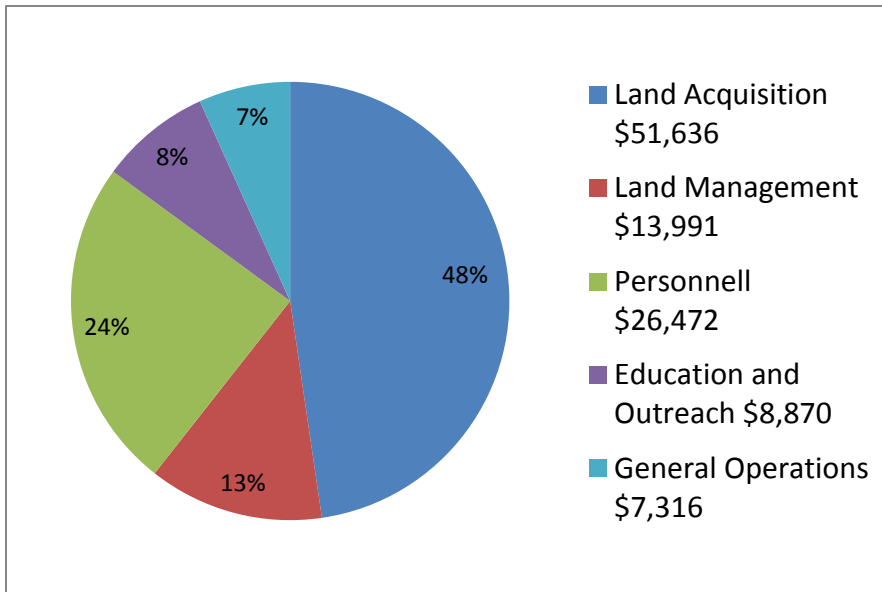
*Our Mission: To protect forested land and ecosystems and support rural communities through working forests; to raise awareness of the importance of preserving intact forested ecosystems; and to highlight sustainable forestry and practices for the benefit of the land.*

The Board of Directors is pleased to present this annual report providing a brief overview of the Foundation's work and finances in the past year and work plans and goals for 2015.

Among the notable achievements in 2014 were:

- Protection of an additional 62 acres in the Caldwell Creek corridor in Southwest Township, Warren County; 47 acres through a conservation easement and 15 acres through acquisition.
- Completion of Phase I of Project Outreach, which identified the owners and prioritized every forested parcel of more than 25 acres in Erie, Crawford, Venango and Warren counties. This extensive undertaking was only made possible through the support of the four counties that provided assessment records and parcel maps free of charge (a \$9,500 value), conservation partner Audubon Pennsylvania and the GIS software firm that donated the ArcGIS software. Phase II, directly contacting those property owners about forest management, legacy planning and conservation options will be under taken as soon as funding is in place.
- Began work on a complex project that if successful will result in the acquisition and protection of nearly 400 acres in the Caldwell Creek watershed, including more than 290 acres in the main stem corridor. This continues the Foundation's efforts in this high-priority watershed.
- A successful third annual Loving the Land Through Working Forests conference. The 2014 conference on May 16 and 17 featured a special session on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> for professional foresters and land managers in partnership with the Forest Guild. The Saturday –in-the-field programming included the Pennsylvania Tree Farm of the Year Tour among the many sessions. The popular Speaker's Program on the Friday evening of the conference featured Aldo Leopold biographer Curt Meine.
- Continued expansion of the Foundation's education and outreach efforts, which ranged from tabling and speaking events to leading elementary students in exploring a working forest to working directly with landowners and others on forest issues.
- Adding the Forest Guild in 2014 to the Foundation's lengthy list of formal programming and conservation partners.

# 2014 Expenditures & Finances



The Foundation for Sustainable Forests strives for fiscal transparency and good stewardship not only of the land, but of its finances and the trust placed in it by its many generous supporters. This chart represents a snapshot of our spending in 2014. What is

missing is the monetary value of our many volunteers and the significant in-kind donations of goods and services, such as the work of our foresters and land managers, that significantly reduced the Foundation's expenses.

Donations (including memberships) and grants accounted for about 60 percent of the Foundation's total income in 2014 and earnings from our protected lands managed as working forests about 24 percent. The goal of the Foundation is for land earnings to eventually cover all operational expenses and even provide some funding for acquisitions, enabling the Foundation to do even more with supporters' donations.

## Our Supporters Make It Possible

The Foundation's mission is only achievable through the dedication and involvement of our many supporters. And support comes in many ways, from those who help spread the word about the work of the Foundation, to those who are able to provide financial support, to volunteers who help at events or arrange speaker's programs, to those that plan for the future.

If you are a woodland owner, the Foundation can provide you with information on the many conservation options available for your land and information on estate and legacy planning designed to ensure its future protection. And legacy and estate planning are options available to anyone who would like to provide future support for the Foundation. And please, if you have remembered us in your will, let us know so that we can thank you during your lifetime.

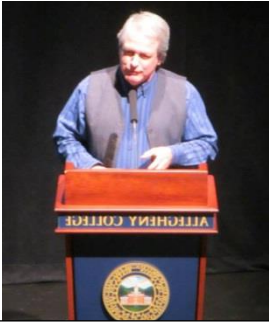
Volunteering to help at events, arrange speaker and tabling programs or assist with other tasks is a great way to get involved in the of our forestlands.

For information on gift planning, other financial support or volunteering please email [Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org](mailto:Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org) and join in protecting our forested ecosystems.

## Words to Ponder

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise," Aldo Leopold

# Scenes from 2014



Curt Meine, featured speaker for the Loving the Land Through Working Forest Conference 2014; Troy Firth leads an in-the-field session; and one of many conference participant discussions.



Tabling, speaking and educational programs were numerous in 2014.



October in the Foundation's Blooming Valley Forest



Board Member Jane Woods (L) at the Erie Gives presentation.



The first-ever Forest Fest Indoor Potluck Picnic held Nov. 8, 2014 at Woodland Lodge was a rousing success bringing together dozens of forest lovers to share good food, good music and a commitment to sustainable forestry and protection of forested land.

## Visit Us

On the Internet: [www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org](http://www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org)

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Foundation-for-Sustainable-Forests/188562913152](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Foundation-for-Sustainable-Forests/188562913152)

In Person: 22418 Firth Road, Spartansburg, PA 16434

By Phone: 814-694-5830

# President's Message

This past year was one of many successes for the Foundation, but there were many challenges as well.

In 2014 the Foundation was able to protect additional forested land through direct ownership and conservation easements, completed work that will enable it to directly contact owners of woodlands in Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango counties, and it reached out to hundreds of people through its outreach and educational programming, such as the annual Loving the Land through Working Forests conference. All of this will continue in 2015.

The challenges faced by the Foundation center on building the capacity and funding to acquire and protect forested land when the opportunities arise and to undertake the outreach and education programming necessary. We know that much needs to be done right now if we are to keep the woods in Penn's woods – Pennsylvania – and other northeastern states. We are losing high-quality forested land daily to development and fragmentation, poor management and the never-ending disease and pests threats. If we are to have healthy communities, healthy rural economies and a healthy environment we must have healthy forests. It is critically important to raise awareness of these issues and offer workable solutions. – Troy Firth, President.



## The Foundation for Sustainable Forests

It's Habitat



It's Landscape



It's Jobs



It's Heritage



## It's Everything We Care About

**Our Mission:** To protect forested land and ecosystems and support rural communities through working forests; to raise awareness of the importance of preserving intact forested ecosystems; and to highlight sustainable forestry and practices for the benefit of the land.



### The Foundation for Sustainable Forests:

- ❖ A Land Trust
- ❖ A sustainable forestry education and advocacy organization
- ❖ Dedicated to the protection of working forests to the benefit of the land

[www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org](http://www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org)