



Spring-Summer 2015

Foundation for Sustainable Forests Newsletter

New Board Member Named

We are pleased to announce the election of Robert “Bob” Slagter to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests.

Bob of Bradfordwoods in Allegheny County has been a long-time supporter and volunteer with the Foundation and brings a wide range of skills and knowledge to the board. He is a retired from industrial sales, an avid fly fisherman and has a cottage on Caldwell Creek in the Southwest Township, Warren County stream corridor that is a conservation focus area for the Foundation. Bob’s commitment to conservation is long standing and the Foundation holds a conservation easement on his Caldwell Creek property.



"I am very pleased and honored to be asked to participate with The Foundation for Sustainable Forests as a board member," Bob said. "After being involved with the Foundation as a member, an easement holder and lease holder, I have found this organization to be uniquely effective in preserving and enhancing forest lands. I hope to bring my experience as a PA Forest Steward and advisor to The Center for Private Forests at Penn State to help me be of assistance in moving the Foundation forward".

Bob joins board members: Troy Firth, president and founder; Thomas C. Hoffman II, Esq., secretary; Guy Dunkle, land manager; Terrence Bensel, Ph.D., Dr. Jane Woods; James Finley, Ph.D.; and Emil Spadafore, Esq.

Do You Femelschlag?

That’s a question that should be on every forest conservationist’s mind and you can ask it by proudly wearing the newly available Foundation for Sustainable Forests’ T-shirt that has the Foundation’s logo on the front and the question on the back.



The T-shirts in sizes small, medium, large and extra-large are available for \$17.50, including shipping, etc. You can order using PayPal on the Foundation’s Web site: www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org or by sending a check or money order with a note indicating the size(s) desired to FFSF, 22418 Firth Road, Spartansburg, PA 16434.

Supplies are limited, so act now.

So what is femelschlag? It is a German silviculture term for the use of small group selections and cutting lightly, which improves biodiversity and the overall health of the land. It is the forestry approach used and encouraged by the FFSF. So yes, we femelschlag!

Holding our Collective Breath Awaiting Word on C2P2 Grant

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests submitted an application in April to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a C2P2 grant to purchase 292 acres in the Caldwell Creek Corridor, Southwest Township Warren County. Grant awards are expected to be announced in late fall with the funding available in early 2016.

Known as the Stony Hollow Project, it is by far the largest and most complex attempted to date by the Foundation.

The project is a continuation of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to protect and conserve the Caldwell Creek corridor and watershed. Caldwell Creek is a significant cold-water fishery and a 1.4 mile stretch of the stream is catch-and-release fly-fishing-only. In addition, the Warren County Greenway's plan calls for creation of a protected "natural areas" corridor along the stream and the area is within a designated Important Bird Area. Currently the Foundation controls about 780 acres in the fly-fishing-only corridor of Caldwell Creek through ownership, conservation easements with timber management and committed bequests.

The Stony Hollow tract has frontage directly on the fly-fishing only portion of the stream and a tributary, Stony Hollow Run flows through the property. Stony Hollow Run is listed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as a Pennsylvania Wild Trout Waters (natural reproduction.)

In addition to the Stony Hollow parcel, the project will result in the acquisition through donation of an additional 100 acres within the watershed, bringing to nearly 400 acres that will be protected as a result of the project. The donor is offering the land to the Foundation to use as a cash-equivalent match for the DCNR grant. The total value of the project (acquisition and donation) is approximately \$1.4 million.

The Foundation's board and staff believe it submitted a strong application for C2P2 funding, but only time will tell if it was successful. It is never too late to let your legislators and other state officials know of your support for this project and the long-term conservation value it represents.

Project Outreach Phase II Fund Drive

Under the leadership of Bob Slagter Blaine Aiken and Craig Schwegman a concerted fund drive using email, on-line giving and direct contact will begin within a few weeks to raise a minimum of \$7,500 to undertake Phase II of Project Outreach. Lead commitments have already been made for 10 percent of the total.

Phase II will enable the Foundation to make direct contact with the owners of forested properties in Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango Counties. Phase I identified each wooded parcel and its ownership of 25 acres and more in each of the counties and prioritized the properties utilizing a number of factors including size, location relative to currently protected properties, needed stream buffers, etc.

The need is clear. If we are to keep the woods in Pennsylvania – Penn's Woods – we must ensure proper forest management today and legacy planning for tomorrow. Research shows only a fraction of Pennsylvania's private forest landowners utilize professional foresters, let alone developed ecologically-sound forest management plans. An even tinier percentage has given thought to legacy planning and the role they will play in the long-term future of Pennsylvania's woodlands.

When you are contacted, please show your support for this educational and outreach effort by giving generously. And stay alert for a special offering.

Successful Again! Loving the Land 2015

The western New York setting for the Loving the Land Through Working Forests 2015 conference was successful in attracting many new faces and extending the Foundation's message on forest management and the need for long-term conservation of our forested lands.

Star Childs of Great Mountain Forest in Connecticut opened the conference with his talk on Forest, Family and Legacy followed by a panel discussion in Lenna Hall, Chautauqua Institution on Friday evening, May 15. The program was incredibly well-received and the audience had many thoughtful questions for the panelists.

The in-the-field sessions on Saturday, May 16 at a woodlot southeast of Sherman drew a good turnout and participants raved about the programming.



Loving the Land
Through
Working Forests



*Kathy and Emil
Spadafore*



Wegmans

2015 Conference Sponsors



Upper Left: Star Childs (center) with participants on Saturday.

Upper Right: Legacy Planning with Tom Hoffman, Esq.

Center Left: Troy Firth, FFSF President, leads a management discussion.

Bottom Left: The Friday evening panel: John Jablonski, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy; Amanda Mahaffey, Forest Guild; Troy Firth and Star Childs.

Thinking Differently

Providing Food for Thought at Private Forest Landowners Conference

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests both exhibited and presented at the Pennsylvania Private Landowners Conference, the Future of Penn's Woods on March 20-21 at the Blair County Convention Center.



Presented by the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, it is one of the largest conferences in the nation directed specifically at family and individual forest landowners. Jim Finley, the Ibberson Chair of Forest Resource Management at Penn State and a member of the FFSF Board, heads the center.

FFSF Board Member and Land Manager Guy Dunkle and Development Director John Bartlett presented a program titled Thinking Differently that outlined the Foundation's management approach and the importance of leaving a forest legacy. The presentation drew a good number of people and most importantly was well received. Also presenting at the conference was FFSF Board Member Tom Hoffman, Esq. who gave a talk on legacy and estate planning.

The Foundation's exhibit, pictured above with Tom Hoffman and Guy Dunkle, was popular, resulting in a lot of questions and discussions about the work of the Foundation and better forest management.

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