



Your FFSF Newsletter

Welcome

Thank you for your interest and support. We welcome you to this the first newsletter of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests. Our intent is to provide members with three newsletters a year to update you on the Foundation's recent activities and items you might find interesting.

As for now, we are simply calling it Your FFSF Newsletter. Nifty names are escaping us. If you have a naming suggestion, please e-mail it to Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org. When enough suggestions are received we will put them out for consideration.

We welcome your ideas and article submissions. Send them to the above e-mail address.

Meet our Intern Jenna Smith



Jenna Smith, a junior at Allegheny College, joined the Foundation as an intern for the fall semester. Jenna is working as new media coordinator for the Foundation. She is developing videos for YouTube, increasing our Web and new media presence and assisting with PowerPoint and other presentation materials.

Jenna, who is from the Borough of Staten Island in New York City, is an environmental sciences major and communications arts minor.

Follow Us on Facebook

You can follow the Foundation for Sustainable Forests on Facebook. We regularly update our Facebook page and provide information on our activities, programs and news. Simply go to our Facebook page (You can find it by typing in Foundation for Sustainable Forests in the Facebook search bar) and hit the like button. To ensure that you receive all of our updates, also go to the little gear symbol, open the selection and check add to" my interests" list.

Gaining on our Core Mission

The Foundation will soon close on the purchase of 85 acres of forest land along Caldwell Creek in Southwest Township, Warren County.

The parcel increases the Foundation's footprint along Caldwell Creek, an important and popular Class A trout fishery to nearly 800 acres. In addition to the recent purchase, the Foundation has committed bequests and/or agreements for approximately 700 acres around the stream.

Ownership of the land by the Foundation ensures it will forever remain forested, free from development and managed to the highest ecological standards, thereby protecting the stream in perpetuity.

The Foundation financed the purchase through a loan. The Foundation intends to raise funds in the community and elsewhere to retire the debt. Your support will be important.

This is the Foundation's second purchase in Warren County. Last year it obtained 50.7 acres of forestland in Spring Creek Township. The Foundation's acquisitions in Warren County coincide with and support an emerging initiative of the National Audubon Society to identify, protect and improve management of forests in Western Pennsylvania that are critical for supporting populations of declining species of forest birds.

In neighboring Chautauqua County, New York the Foundation is partnering with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and others to protect a 311-acre tract along Bear Lake and possibly an additional 350 acres of forestland that would provide a buffer and greater landscape corridor. The Foundation is also working with a potential donor for a bargain sale to obtain 127 acres in Mercer County. The deal is very close to completion.

All of these projects and many more to come are made possible by our members and supporters.

Know the Board

The Foundation's board of directors is currently composed of seven members, who bring a wide range of talents and expertise to the organization. The Board members are:

Troy Firth, president and founder. Troy is forester, forest landowner, maple syrup producer and visionary whose forest management practices are taking sustainability to new levels.

Thomas C. Hoffman, Esq., a lawyer and CPA with the Knox Law firm in Erie. Tom was instrumental in creation of the foundation.

Guy Dunkle, a professional forester and land manager. Guy is directly involved in the Foundation's land management overseeing most projects.

Terry Bensel, Ph.D., former chair of the Environmental Sciences Department at Allegheny College, Terry is now Associate Dean of the school.

Jane Woods, a retired dentist who now lives in Erie and is a forest landowner and long-time supporter of the Foundation.

James Finley, Ph.D., Ibberson Chair in Forest Resource Management, Penn State University. Jim has been at Penn State since 1975 and is known nationally as a forest researcher, teacher and stewardship advocate.

Emil Spadafore, Esq., a Meadville attorney with the firm Thomas, Spadafore and Walker. Emil is an active volunteer, providing a wide range of services to the Foundation.

The Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference

Many of you joined us for the Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference on May 18th and 19th.

It was an unqualified success, so much so that the Foundation intends on holding an annual conference. Plans call for the 2013 conference to again be on the weekend preceding Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18, 2013. Details will be released as soon as they become available.

In anticipation here are a few pictures from the 2012 event.



The Friday evening panel featuring Wendell Berry



Preparing Saturday's lunch



Jason Rutledge of the Healing Harvest Foundation



Saturday's field sessions proved popular

Our hope is that the 2013 Loving the Land through Working Forests conference will continue to both inspire and provide practical information on forest management for ecosystem health.

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

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests

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Allegheny College Partners with the FFSF

Allegheny College and the Foundation for Sustainable Forests recently signed a groundbreaking agreement that can protect forested ecosystems in the region while providing long-term financial support for the college.

The college is the first to formally join in the Foundation's shared gift program, whereby donors can leave forested land to the Foundation with a provision that 50 percent of the net earnings from the land go to the college.

The Foundation's shared gift program is not exclusive to Allegheny, but available to all of the region's educational and other nonprofit institutions and organizations. Land donations to the Foundation for the shared gift program can be made by individuals with any nonprofit listed as the shared recipient of the land's earnings. The Foundation can assist landowners in preparing a request or donation to the Foundation either through the shared gift program or solely to the Foundation.

The Foundation stands ready to aid area community institutions and nonprofits in formalizing a memorandum of understanding for the shared gift program, which might enable them to reach new donors in new ways.