



Membership Campaign

Our 2017 Membership Drive is underway. Be sure to renew your membership, so we can continue fighting for Sustainable Forestry, Environmental Stewardship, and Stable Communities!

Encourage your friends and colleagues to join too! As we build our membership, we build the strength of our organization.

Visit our website's Membership page today to complete the application online, or print and mail the form with your check.

New AFA Newsletter

We have always strived to provide our members with lots of great information with our newsletter—it's no different with this updated version!

We will be posting all issues on our website and distributing future issues by email, so be sure we have your updated address by emailing AFAAction@gmail.com.

AFA Produces Videos

Have you seen our new "Join Us" video? It's the first in a series that will inform and educate the public about the AFA, our mission, and sustainable forest management. Visit our website or YouTube channel to view the video.

Watch for the next video to be produced this spring. It will focus on the importance of sustainable forestry for the health of the ANF, the safety of ANF visitors, the environment, and the economy of our communities.

Follow Us on Facebook!

Facebook is part of our online marketing effort, and the most timely source of information.

We use this platform to share news related to multiple use and management issues on the ANF, Title II funding, forest health threats and reports, and more. To stay informed, like and follow the AFA page and share our posts!

Spring 2017

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Bob Kirchner—President
Dave Morgan—Vice Pres.
Sue Swanson—Secretary

For a full list of AFA Board Members, please visit our ["About" page](#).

Next Meeting:

May 10, 2017
3 PM at Texas Hots,
in Kane, PA

Follow Us On

facebook.

The New www.AllegheenyForestAlliance.org

At the core of our renewed marketing effort is the new AFA website. It has an updated look, easy navigation, and provides access to information about the organization and our purpose.

It includes an archive of our newsletters, links of interest, and how to contact us. It also has info on how you can help us advocate for sustainable forest management on the ANF. And we've made volunteering easier by adding a simple online application to tell us more about yourself and how you would like to help.

A link to our new promotional video is available on the sidebar—with more coming soon—and links to our Facebook page

and YouTube channel can be found at the top of the page.

Both an online and printable PDF version of the membership form makes joining the AFA easy. You will notice that the membership form includes a choice of payment options, including online payment by credit card or PayPal account. This is in-the-works and will be available soon—for both memberships (new and renewals) and making Contributions to the AFA.

Check out our new website, and please share links to it on your own website and Facebook page. We will let you know as we add to this key resource!



Thompson Testifies for Timber Harvesting

Congressman Glenn Thompson, R-Pa, addressed the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in March. He testified in support of the payment in lieu of taxes and Secure Rural Schools funding as “a critical lifeline for national forest counties in providing essential services because of greatly reduced timbering in national forests since the early 1990s.” He also addressed the need to sufficiently fund both national forest management and local essential services, advocating for increased timber harvesting on the ANF as a solution.

Thompson recently expressed to AFA leadership his feeling that we should have opportunities with the Trump Administration and the current Congress. Among several suggestions was AFA development of a White Paper on the current timber cut backlog as a vehicle for addressing this situation. We will continue working closely with the Congressman and pursue all opportunities.

ANFRAC Report

In Dec. 2016, the Allegheny Resource Advisory Committee recommended and the Forest Supervisor approved the following projects for grants from Forest County’s 2014/2015 Title II funding:

Marienville Four Season Trail \$163,029

Firefly Itinerary \$8,952

Tionesta Hatchery Upgrade \$15,000

Any excess funds on completion of these projects will be directed to the Marienville Four Season Trail project.

Emerald Ash Borer Threat Under Estimated

The effect of the [Emerald Ash Borer on the ANF](#) has been severely under estimated. This pest, which kills a tree in 1—4 years, was found on the ANF in 2013. The USFS “[Integrated Program Strategy for Reducing the Adverse Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer Throughout the Northeastern Area](#)” (2010) named “economic utilization” of live and recently killed ash trees as one objective, and recognized the danger of hazardous trees in places frequented by people. Yet the initial treatment plan to was scaled back and will not truly address the threat to the ANF and ANF visitors.

In an August 2015 field hearing, the Forest Service expressed little concern about the threat as they estimated that Ash comprised only 4% of the ANF inventory (local foresters estimate 7% to 11% to be more accurate.) Still, with an estimated 5,000 board feet per acre and a round number of 500,000 acres, there is 2.5 billion bf of timber on the ANF. Even if only 4% (100 million bf) of this is Ash, at a value of 50 cents/bf the economic loss of not performing comprehensive treatment is enormous: \$12.5 million (25%) lost to our schools and townships, and \$37.5 million lost that could help support proper forest management on the ANF.

Strategic Planning

At its February meeting, the AFA formed a Strategic Planning Committee consisting of Michelle Bogacki, Sue Swanson, Amanda Hetrick, and Bob Kirchner.

This committee is charged with planning how the organization will achieve its goals over the next few years. Projects, events, marketing, funding sources and more will all be addressed.

We will keep you updated on the strategies developed and may ask your help as we implement those plans.

Want to help with the planning? Contact us at AFAAction@gmail.com.

ANF Project Comment Opportunities:

We encourage you to keep informed of and comment on proposed projects on the ANF. Use the link below to view the current Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) Report for the ANF.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110919>

As we publish this newsletter quarterly, we suggest that you check the SOPA link monthly for any updates between issues. We will list critical projects and AFA comment actions here.

Tracy Ridge Shared Use Trails & Plan Amendment: McKean, Warren; Expected Decision: Mar. 2017; Description: Allow mountain biking on approx. 12.5 miles of hiking trails. Forest Plan would be amended and an order prohibiting bicycle use would be modified.

**The AFA has submitted a letter to Ranger Hatfield supporting the proposed use change.*

Farnsworth EA: Warren; Comment Period: May—Aug. 2017.

Emerald Ash Borer Remediation: Forest, McKean, Warren; Comment Period: Nov. 2016—May 2017.

DeYoung Supplemental EA: Elk and Forest; Comment: April—Oct. 2017.

Porkey Heights Supplemental EA: Forest; Comment: April—Oct. 2017.

Bradford Forest Restoration: Forest, McKean, Warren; Comment: May—Oct.

Chaffee EA: Elk, Forest; Comment Period: March—Oct. 2017.