



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.

Budget Committee Formed

The newly formed Budget Committee will begin work in September to draft a 2018 budget. Key line items will be wages for a part-time Executive Director, a continued marketing effort, and implementation of education programs and events. The budget will be presented at the November 2017 Annual Meeting.

Facebook Marketing Success

The AFA board has enlisted the assistance of Gibbons Business Solutions, LLC to create engaging Facebook posts and the early results have been outstanding!

Beginning in July, GBS has posted to our page weekly, using graphics created by their designer and a re-post from another page. Topics have included Follow Us, HB1494, Ensuring the Future of our Children/Communities/Way of Life, Healthy Forest Requires Balance, and the Fathers of Forestry.

Five posts, "boosted" for between \$2 and \$10 each, have resulted in over 200 likes, 10 shares, and a total reach of over 6,600. This effort has also gained us over 75 new page likes!

SRS Funding Lapses

In May, there was bi-partisan introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to extend Secure Rural Schools for an additional two years. [Read more here.](#) Unfortunately, re-authorization seems to be unlikely.

Collaborative Underway

The AFA is participating in a series of five ANF collaborative meetings with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a "Forest Health Strategy."

The goal/intent is to "...identify the specific pathways through which forest health challenges threaten the values and ecosystem services our forests provide." And then to "Identify strategies to address these forest health issues."

For the full article, visit our website's Blog page, or follow this [LINK](#).

Summer 2017

Board of Directors

Officers:

Bob Kirchner—President
Dave Morgan—Vice Pres.
Becky Lucia—Secretary
Ed Sleeman—Treasurer

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

*November 2017 Annual Meeting:
Watch your mailbox for details!*

Follow Us On

facebook

Video #2 Production Complete

Production of the second AFA video is complete and features interviews in the forest with Ken Kane and Tom Kase. These gentlemen have so much knowledge to share, that the resulting video is between 4 and 5 minutes long.

The interviews also produced considerable footage that will be used in several additional short (30-second) clips to educate the public. These will focus on the elements of sustainable forestry and the effects of improper forest management. All these videos will be posted on our website and social media accounts.

The footage is also providing material for TV ads, and still images for Facebook posts and print marketing materials.



Rapp's Good Neighbor Legislation Signed

State Representative Kathy Rapp sponsored [House Bill 1494](#), authorizing the Commonwealth to enter into a Good Neighbor Agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. The bill was unanimously advanced by the state House in July 2017. Recognizing the potential benefits of such an agreement, the Commonwealth's Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs listed the agreement among its top recommendations. Governor Wolf signed [Act 25 of 2017](#) into law on July 20th, which will take effect 60 days from that date.

This legislation will enhance forest management and maximize the benefits of the Allegheny National Forest by allowing the state to help manage the forest through timber harvesting, promoting forest regeneration, and restoring or improving habitats. Good Neighbor Agreements were first used in Colorado and Utah, and were authorized nationwide as part of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee has conducted a SWOT analysis and made the following recommendations to the Board:

- Hire a part-time Exec. Director
- Educate students & Teachers about sustainable forest management
- Schedule Active Forest Management Week event
- Provide an activity such as tree planting sponsored by local industry, AHUG, USFS, and schools
- Add TV and radio spots to communications
- Consider an ad hoc committee to prepare suggested comments on ANF projects and comment on all projects proposed on the ANF

Red Rot in Black Cherry Trees

The fate of too many Black Cherry trees on the ANF is to rot away on the forest floor due to Red Rot. This disease is a huge economic drain on the ANF, as well as a danger to users of this recreational resource. When the forest is properly managed, these trees would be removed through harvesting and converted into a useful, economic product before the Red Rot progresses to the point of break-off in wind events.



Logging Insurance

The AFA board is working to address the disproportionately high liability and worker's comp insurance rates for the logging industry in PA. A meeting with PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, Dept. of Ag, and the insurance industry is being planned to try to find a solution.

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.

Farnsworth EA: Warren; Forest health, diversity of vegetation patterns and age classes, large woody debris deficiencies in streams; Comment Period: (updated) July—Nov. 2017.

DeYoung Supplemental EA: Elk and Forest; Change previous thinning prescriptions; Comment: April—Oct. 2017.

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

Bradford Forest Restoration: Forest, McKean, Warren; Harvesting & refor-

estation; Comment: May—Oct. 2017.

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

KEF 2017 Windthrow Salvage CE: Elk; Salvage 140 acres, interpret effects of windthrow on Allegheny Hardwood Mgt. Strategy Study; Comment Period: July—Sept. 2017.

Pine Bear Supplemental EA: Elk; Change previous thinning prescriptions; Comment Period: Sept. 2017—March 2018.