



2017 Year in Review

The past year has been a busy one for the AFA board. Allow us to review our efforts:

- A new newsletter format and schedule
- A new website design and content
- New Facebook and Twitter accounts, and a regular schedule of posts
- Updated PowerPoint presentation, both design and content
- Made a video version of the presentation slides available online
- Initiated a promotional and educational video series available online
- Participated in the ANF Forest Health Cooperative

The Board is excited about their renewed effort to educate and inform the public about the organization and the importance of multiple use management on the ANF. Watch for more on this effort in 2018!

President's Message

Over the past five years, I have come to care very deeply about forest issues and concerns beyond the financial impact on my school district. So I am honored to serve you as president in the year to come.

I will be reaching out for help with two initiatives:

- 1) Establishing a group to work on ideas for educating students and teachers in our area on sustainable forestry, and
- 2) Establishing a group to assist with development of sample comment letters for every forest project that is proposed. If you are willing to assist with either of these efforts, please let me know.

Please remember that this is your organization. If we are to be successful, we all need to participate. If you have comments or concerns, please share them with me.

Thank you! *Amanda Hetrick*

Winter 2018

Board of Directors

Officers:

Amanda Hetrick—President
Bob Kirchner—Vice Pres.
Becky Lucia—Secretary
Ed Sleeman—Treasurer

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

Next Meeting:

*Feb. 27th
Kane Area Schools
3:00 pm*

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facebook.

ANF Publications

The U.S. Forest Service offers several publications online as free downloads. These are filled with a wide variety of research, photos, and data charts on topics that range from forest pests to forest visitors, forest inventory, wildlife, recreation, forest management reports, and many more. We encourage you to bookmark the web page for future reference.

While the Forest Service excels at research and reports, they do not make these publications easy to find! To view the list of publications, use this [LINK](#) or go to the SOPA link on page two of this newsletter and click on "Newsroom" in the navigation bar at the top of the web page.

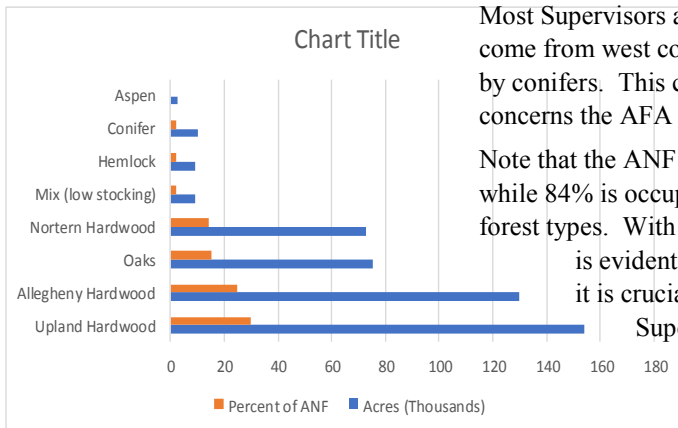
Annual Meeting Report

The AFA held its annual meeting on Nov. 16th at Olmstead Manor in Ludlow. Election of officers included Amanda Hetrick as President, Bob Kirchner as Vice President, Becky Lucia continuing as Secretary, and Ed Sleeman re-elected as Treasurer. Five at-large board seats were all re-elected.

Andrea Hille, ANF Forest Silviculturist, was the guest speaker and gave an excellent presentation on the Forest Health Collaborative. She also answered questions from the audience related to forest health and management issues. Ms. Hille shared that she expects an increase in harvest volume on the ANF in 2017/2018, and that the 2016/2017 receipt should reflect an increase as well.



Hardwood Management Experience Preferred



Most Supervisors assigned to the ANF come from west coast forests dominated by conifers. This chart illustrates why this concerns the AFA Board.

Note that the ANF is only 2% conifer, while 84% is occupied by the hardwood forest types. With this statistic in mind, it is evident why the AFA feels that it is crucial that ANF Forest Supervisors be experienced in the management of hardwood forests.

Threats Identified

The Forest Health Collaborative group identified eight threats on the ANF:

- Age Class Imbalance
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Safety & Esthetics
- Loss of Forest Diversity
- Loss of Hemlock Species
- Black Cherry Defoliation and Decreased Reproduction
- Non-Native Diseases
- Non-Native Plants

Strategies were identified and prioritized by the group, with a composite strategy created to address:

- Sustaining Resilience
- Black Cherry Sustainability
- Rapid Response Approaches
- Integrated Pest Management
- Restoring Impacted Ecosystems
- Monitoring
- Hazard Tree Removal on Roads
- Prioritizing Remaining Areas
- Assisting Private Landowners

The Collaborative will re-convene annually to share information, discuss trends and observations, treatments, research, and strategies.

Bob Kirchner participated in the Collaborative on behalf of the AFA.

Lest We Forget...

“And now, first and foremost, you can never afford to forget for one moment what is the objective of our forest policy. That objective is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself; nor because they are refuges for wild creatures for the wilderness, though that, too, is good in itself; but the primary object of our forest policy in the United States, is the making of prosperous homes. Every other consideration comes secondary.”
---Theodore Roosevelt



This quote, from the President who created some 2 million acres of national forests, reserves and refuges, aligns with the AFA's purpose. We too believe that the beauty of the forest is important, and that preservation of limited sections is valuable. We too believe that managing the forest to support habitat for wildlife is important. But, most of all, the ANF should support healthy communities by providing funding for its host communities and jobs for its residents.

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.

Forest Road 195 Windthrow Salvage: Forest; Forest Products; Comment Period: Ends February 2018.

Marienville ATV Connector EA: Forest; Recreation management; Comment Period: Jan—Oct 2018.

Porkey Heights Supplemental EA (updated): Forest; Change to previous thinning prescriptions; Comment Period: December 2017—Apr 2018.

Pine Bear Supplemental EA (updated): Forest Products, Vegetation

Management, Road Management; Comment Period: April 2018.

DeYoung EA: Elk, Forest; Forest Products, Wildlife/Fish/Rare plants, Watershed management; Comment Period: till February 2018.

FR136/FR343 Road Relocation & Wetland Restoration EA: Elk; Watershed management, road management; Comment Period: Jan—Oct 2018.

Hoover Project EA: Warren; Forest Products; Comment Period: March 2018.