



Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on October 17th from 6—8pm at Grandma Baire’s Restaurant in Kane. This is a free event with hors d’oeuvres and beverages provided. The guest speaker will be the new ANF Supervisor, Jamie Davidson. Reminder postcards will be mailed to members soon.

Please RSVP by October 10th by contacting our Executive Director at 814-657-8290 or afaexec@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

PA’s Changing Climate

You have probably noticed the warmer and wetter conditions we’ve been experiencing in Pennsylvania in recent years. A DCNR article predicts that some of our native species won’t be able to adapt quickly enough to this change and we may need to begin introducing trees native to the southeastern U.S. Read the full article at this link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GoodNatured/pages/Article.aspx?post=83>

iMap Invasives tool

Have you heard of [iMapInvasives](#)? With this website and mobile app, you can easily report your finding of invasive species ([see PA’s list here](#)), whether you find them in your yard, in the woods, or on our waterways.



We generally think of invasives as plants, such as Purple Loosestrife. However, invasives can be plants, animals, birds, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, insects, diatoms or algae. There are currently 398 invasive species being tracked in Pennsylvania.

New ANF Supervisor

Jamie Davidson, the new ANF Forest Supervisor, has arrived and the AFA is eager to begin working with her!

Read more about Jamie online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/allegheeny/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD660825>

Fall 2019

Board of Directors

Officers:

Amanda Hetrick—Pres.
Bob Kirchner—Vice Pres.
Becky Lucia—Secretary
Jack Hedlund—Treasurer

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

Executive Director:

Julia McCray
afaexec@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

October 17, 2019
Grandma Baire’s, Kane

Forest Health Awareness Day 2019 Well Attended!



On Thursday, May 9, 2019, the AFA partnered with the Forest Area School District and the Warren County School District to plan and present “Forest Health Awareness Day” in Clarendon, PA.

The event planning team put significant time and effort into planning the logistics of the event, preparing a handout, and sending invitations to all municipal and school leaders in Warren and Forest counties, as well as our state and federal legislators. This event was a real team effort and well worth it, with approximately 80 people attending!
(cont’d on page 2)

Arthur Stewart on the ANF site, explaining the trees marked as 1) dead, dangerous and without harvest value, 2) dying and should be salvaged, or 3) mature and ready to harvest.

Forest Health Awareness Day (cont'd from page 1)

Thanks to AFA Board Member and Warren County School Board Member Arthur Stewart and his teams at Cameron Energy and Caledonia Land Company for hosting us and providing such a perfect setting for our event. They also provided samples of logs and marked standing trees affected by pests and diseases, selected the adjacent forest tour sites, provided photos for the educational handout, and many other efforts to prepare for this event.

Arthur and AFA Board President Amanda Hetrick led the discussion regarding how our communities and schools have been affected by the steady decline in timber receipts from the ANF.

AFA Board Member Ken Kane, President of Generations Forestry, presented a fantastic education session for the diverse group in attendance. His mix of local timber and energy history and sustainable forestry information was very effective in telling the story in a way that was understandable and interesting for the entire audience.

That audience included approximately forty 9th grade students from Warren County and Forest Area schools, who were absolutely fascinated with the way Ken made history and science come alive for them.

The examples of an ANF section of forest past its prime and suffering from multiple pests, diseases and old age, compared to an adjacent section of private forest in excellent health with an equal division of age classes, were striking. Many people commented on how they would never look at the forest in the same way, assuming that the old and decaying forests they drive past are healthy and what a forest should look like.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the assistance of the staff at the Allegheny National Forest. Their help in providing content and data for the 14-page educational handout was invaluable. In particular, their outline of how to submit a good project comment will be of great use to the AFA!

The educational handout developed for this event was highly praised by both Health Awareness Day attendees and ANF staff. A portion of the handout was also used by the Allegheny Forest Health Collaborative during their Media Day event on May 16th.

This publication is now available on our website at: http://alleghenyforestalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Handout_8.5x11_final_pbp_web.pdf



The ANF site exhibiting many examples of poor health.



Beech Bark Complex killed this tree, which is now unsalvageable.



Dead and dying trees and shade-loving Hemlock taking over.



Ken Kane (in back) points out signs of health issues in the tree tops.

Forest Health Awareness Day (cont'd from page 2)



Ken Kane pointing out to attendees the differences in the canopy of a healthy section of well-managed private forest adjacent to the ANF section visited.



Students and other attendees examining the samples of trees affected by Red Rot, Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Complex, and other pests and diseases.



Ken Kane explaining the three stages of forest growth that make for a healthy age class distribution on the private forest and how the same management would improve ANF health.

Health Collaborative Annual Report

The Allegheny Forest Health Collaborative is a group of approximately 40 agencies and organizations that all have an interest in the health of the forest and are working together to identify issues and find solutions.

For more details about the Collaborative's work, and to download their 2018 Annual Report, visit the ANF website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/allegheny/workingtogether/advisorycommittees/?cid=fseprd544619>

Health Collaborative's Media Day

Many people have grown up under the impression that a forest full of untouched trees with a dense canopy overhead and bare forest floor is beautiful and healthy. At the same time, Disney animators and writers of stories and fairy tales used a "deep, dark forest" as the place you find terrifying monsters and wicked witches. Confusing, isn't it?

The Allegheny Forest Health Collaborative (in which the AFA participates) held a "Media Day" event on May 15th in Bradford. The event offered local reporters, a concerned citizen, a wildlife organization representative and other attendees the opportunity to understand the Collaborative and sustainable forestry. The AFA's Executive Director attended and was impressed with the illustration used:

Attendees were taken to a section of private forest that contained large trees that were suffering from Beech Bark Complex, Cherry Red Rot, and Emerald Ash Borer (among other pests and diseases). There were many seedlings under these trees, but they were struggling for their share of light and nutrients. Most would never survive, and those that did would not be strong. A woodpecker was the only wildlife in evidence.

The group then moved across the road to a section that had been timbered approximately six years ago and saw a handful of mature, seed-producing trees that had been kept for precisely that purpose. Below, was a dense population of strong seedlings up to 6- to 8-foot tall, berry brambles, wildflowers, and... birds and evidence of wildlife everywhere! The habitat for wildlife was much improved and the future forest was becoming established. If anything can make people understand the benefit of sustainable forestry, it is an example such as this!

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey

Environmental Science interns at the [Roger Tory Peterson Institute](#) (RTPI) in Jamestown, NY (Anna Sena and Shania Nuse) recently completed internships focused on hemlock woolly adelgid surveying and public outreach/education in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania.

Through a partnership with USDA State and Private Forestry, the ANF, The Nature Conservancy and RTPI, they produced a video on how to survey for hemlock woolly adelgid. They also developed a design for wallet cards containing HWA information and reporting instructions, which will be printed by RTPI and available for distribution soon.

See the video at: <https://youtu.be/fMxzzwLJ4tg>
Report HWA findings to the [PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry](#).



FAW pressing for Wilderness at Kinzua Dam

Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness continues to press for the addition of nearly 30,000 acres of Wilderness on the ANF, this time via commenting on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (COE) Master Plan for Kinzua Dam. FAW supporters posted comments on the Kinzua Dam Master Plan website urging the COE to advocate for designation of the ANF lands surrounding the reservoir as Wilderness Areas. The areas named include Morrison Run 6,887 acres, Tracy Ridge 9,705 acres, Scandia 4,752 acres, Chestnut Ridge 5,191 acres, and Cornplanter 3,022 acres.

FAW's proposal appears to both eliminate and reduce existing Developed Recreation Areas on Tracey Ridge, a 7.1 management area designation which allows salvage/sanitation and non-production timber harvest. It would also remove Late Structural Linkages (MA 2.2) designation on Morrison Run and the Allegheny Nat'l Recreation Area, and Even-aged Management (MA 3.0) on the lower end of Chestnut Ridge.

While the COE cannot nominate areas for Wilderness designation, we still need to be vigilant that the ANF does not give weight to a COE master plan recommendation, should that verbiage find its way into the final master plan. The best way to prevent the creation of more Wilderness on the ANF is to participate in project comment opportunities and the next Forest Management Plan revision process.

The last thing the ANF needs in its battle with pests and diseases is more Wilderness.

Oak Wilt Watch

Oak Wilt has been around for more than 75 years. But, unless you are a forester, you may not have heard of it. The USDA has published a Pest Alert flyer, which you can find on their website or at this [link](#). If you find signs of Oak Wilt, email phnelson@pa.gov at the PA Dept. of Agriculture to report it.



Signs of Oak Wilt

ANF Project Comment Opportunities: July–September, 2019

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 frequently for any updates between issues. We will list critical projects and AFA comment actions here.

Otter EA (updated): Elk; Recreation Management, Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants, Forest Products, Watershed Management; Start: Oct. 2019 (**NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOUND**)

Marienville ATV Connector CE (updated): Forest; Recreation management; **Expected Decision Notice: August 2019; Expected Impl.: Sept. 2019.**

Cherry Run EA (new listing): Warren; Land management planning, forest products, vegetation management (other than forest products); **Expected Decision / Implementation: Nov. 2019.**

Tracy Ridge Shared Use Trails & Plan Amendment Project EA: (CANCELLED)

Bradford Forest Restoration Project EA (updated): Forest, McKean, Warren; Forest products, Vegetation management, Road management; **Decision Issued. Implementation: April 2020.**

*See our website for a guide on how to make helpful comments on USFS project proposals: <http://alleghenyforestalliance.org/index.php/participate/>