



# Newsletter

## Spring/Summer 2017

### Greetings from the Executive Director

#### *Cultivating a Land Ethic and Addressing the Stigma of Forestry*

The month of May was a busy one; we hosted the first-ever *Friends of the Foundation Dinner*, a *Sustainable Forestry Woods Hike* for forest professionals, and of course, the 6th annual *Loving the Land Through Working Forests* conference, held at our newly dedicated Moxie Woods in Mercer County.

The Foundation was fortunate to have one of its own, Board Member and distinguished Penn State Professor James Finley, set the tone for the weekend with keynote addresses at the Dinner and the Conference. Jim's message was clear: as private woodland owners we must transcend the desires and actions of a single generation for the benefit of a forest landscape that will (hopefully) outlive us all.

Thanks to presenters such as renowned Forest Manager Marshall Pecore of the Menominee Forest in Wisconsin, and Allyson Muth of Penn State's Center for Private Forests, Jim's message was echoed by their strong focus on the importance of having a land ethic and a long-term, even multi-generational, forest management & conservation plan.

In the age of invasive species and climate change, forests that are virtually untouched by people are still 'touched' by our influence in these and other ways. The weekend's common refrain was the idea that "hands-on" forest management can proactively improve our forests' integrity and resiliency. And it is here that we must acknowledge a prevailing stigma:



*Left to right: Marshall Pecore, Richard Bowden of Allegheny College, Rita Pecore, Amanda Mahaffey of the Forest Stewards Guild, and Annie Socci at the FSF Dinner*

For good reason, there is a common misconception among woodland owners that *all* forestry is bad for the forests; timber is the commodity and the forest that remains is a byproduct.

As we reflect upon May's programs, I ask you to consider this instead: *Active forestry, done well, is a tool- an important means to enhance forest health and diversity.* Under this scenario, we proactively cultivate the health of the forests first, and the timber becomes the byproduct.

I welcome your thoughts as you consider this perspective- let's have a conversation!

Annie Socci, PhD  
Executive Director



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# Celebrating Forest Conservation & Stewardship at May's events!



*Marshall Pecore (left) travelled from the Menominee Forest in Wisconsin. He shared his valuable perspectives, such as the role of community in shaping long-term stewardship and sustainability, and the use of understory vegetation to identify which tree species a site is best suited to host. Thank you to Marshall and his wife Rita for making the journey!*

*The FSF Dinner at the Country Club in Meadville featured a thoughtful Keynote presentation by **Jim Finley** (far right) of Penn State and the Center for Private Forests. **John Noel Bartlett** (near right) was recognized for his years of notable, and continued, service. John was the FSF's first employee and established many of the programs we enjoy today.*



## Faces from the 6th Annual

## Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference



*"Each year I look forward to the conference. Great events - great people."*



*We wish to extend our thanks once again to our sponsors, who made these events possible!*

*Emil & Kathy Spadafore*

*Craig & Monica Schwegman*



**Northwest PA  
Woodland Association**



# Loving the Land— Landowners Tell Their Stories

*Contributed by Jean Engle*

When a group of students and faculty from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, decided in 1970 to extend their university class into the summer in central Pennsylvania, one of the students' fathers explained to friends that his kids had gone off to "get some Moxie."

In 1974, then down to six people, the "Moxies" moved to Youngstown, Ohio, in search of better jobs and a try at urban life and closer involvement in labor, feminist, and LGBT politics. In 1981 and in need of open space, we purchased the 112-acre parcel that now forms the core of the Moxie Woods. Pat Tuchscherer, Ken Jorgensen, Glorianne Leck and I drew up a partnership agreement for the land that included a promise that someday it would be passed on to a non-profit conservancy for permanent protection as wildlife habitat.

Over the years, we worked to rebuild the depleted soil, avoiding chemical inputs, composting, providing forage for wildlife, and planting native trees and shrubs. As Moxie community members dispersed to other places, I stayed on for a variety of personal reasons, not the least being a deep attachment to that land and its fields and forests.

"The farm," as we had always called it, embodied my lifelong wish to live in the country, even though I could never quite get there full time—again, for many reasons. But I spent as much time as I could tending the young trees, watching my planted meadow arrive every summer in new garb— more Monarda and Joe Pye than the year before, less Partridge Pea perhaps, and slow-developing surprise, majestic Senna, finally rising above all the other plants in about year four of the meadow.



*The pond and homestead area at Moxie Woods*

*...Continued on page 4*

## Student Researches Bird Diversity in the FSF's Blooming Valley Forest

For many years, we have enjoyed a partnership of learning and inquiry with the good folks at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, as we work together to understand better the impacts of our stewardship on forested ecosystems as a whole.

Happily, this summer is no exception. Student researcher Carl Pohlman will be working in a number of forested sites in Crawford County to determine how different forest management approaches affect bird diversity. Lucky for us, his study includes the FSF's Blooming Valley Forest, located between Stoltz & Price Roads. Throughout the summer, Carl will visit the forest and conduct 'point counts' of birds by sight and sound throughout the forest.



*In Carl's own words:*

"My name is Carl Pohlman, I am a rising Junior at Allegheny College majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Psychology. I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and hold a lifelong interest in all things bird related. I am excited to be conducting research this summer, with the help of the Foundation, on the avian biodiversity found at sites that differ in management technique. I look forward to passing on the findings of this research later in the summer."

## Please Welcome Our Newest Board Member, Patrick M. Maloney

*Contributed by Guy Dunkle*

In March of this year, Patrick Maloney of Woodcock Borough, Crawford County, was elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors. A native of Crawford County, Patrick's experiences here and abroad have given him an intimate knowledge of forest ecosystems. Patrick holds a dual degree in Natural Resources & Biology from Northland College in Wisconsin. His professional background includes work as a logger, federal wildlife management technician, and backcountry expedition guide. Currently, Patrick works as a forester managing private woodlands in the area and producing maple syrup on a commercial scale. Since 2011, he has volunteered at FSF events, in particular giving demonstrations on sustainable timber and maple syrup harvest.



An avid canoeist, Patrick frequently competes in regional races, paddled 1,000 miles from Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories to the Arctic Ocean, and has completed the 740-mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail and numerous journeys through the Boundary Waters region of Minnesota. Patrick is an avid hunter and trapper; he lives on a farm and volunteers as a troop leader with Boy Scouts of America.



*Pat (left) works alongside Ray Blystone (right) during a FSF demonstration.*

As an organization focused on working lands, The Foundation for Sustainable Forests is fortunate to have Patrick, who has come to know local forests through the time he has devoted to working in and enjoying them. Despite interacting with forests in very physical ways such as logging and hunting, Patrick has an extremely thoughtful and careful approach to forest management. The Foundation is pleased to welcome a passionate, kind conservationist to our Board.

### *Continued from page 3...*

Where there's no clear slope, the land tends to be wet to moist, so I concentrated my woody efforts on native viburnums and deciduous hollies, along with the five native trees that *Bringing Nature Home* (2007) author Doug Tallamy identified as the best caterpillar—and therefore, bird—food: oaks, cherries, willows, birches, and poplars. Once retired, I allowed myself the luxury of sitting on the cabin deck, watching the birds come and go, walking in the fields and woods, and reveling in the quiet of that place.

I had learned about the Foundation for Sustainable Forests several years before, as I began to think about the eventual transfer of the land. Troy and Guy assured us that the covenants in our deed would remain in place if the FSF protected the lands and that the forest would be managed according to their long-term goals and principles. My partner and I had considered keeping a portion of the land and building there, but decided instead to move to eastern PA. The land—especially the forest—needed to be managed for long-term sustainability, and I was confident that the FSF would do that into the future, and do it well. We arrived at a bargain-sale agreement with the FSF that has enabled Marilyn and me to begin a new life—and new land stewardship and permanent preservation of 12 acres—in the hills of Berks County farm country. I know I'll return many times—having access to the Moxie Woods as long as I wish—and see sustainable forest management in the longer term. It's an exciting process, and one that doesn't require me to wield a chainsaw, to my great relief!



*Jean Engle is a naturalist, conservationist, and co-founder of the Youngstown-based nonprofit "Treez Please". She and her partner now reside in Bernville, PA, where her land stewardship journey continues.*

Would you like to share your landowner story? E-mail Annie Socci: [amsocci@ForestsAndPeople.org](mailto:amsocci@ForestsAndPeople.org)

# Progressing in our Mission

*Contributed by Bob Slagter*

Hello everyone and happy summer! As your friendly Chair of Fundraising for the FSF, I am writing with updates on some important projects that we have been engaged in, thanks to you!

In March, we held our first quarterly “Coffee and Cake” Landowner Outreach session at the Edinboro-McKean VFW Hall in Erie County. Forest landowners from western/central Erie County came to learn about and explore conservation options for their woodlands. We will hold the next installment of this series in a new region later this summer.

Also in March, the FSF presented at the *Private Forest Landowner Conference* in Altoona, PA, attended by over 600 people. Annie Socci & Guy Dunkle presented two programs. "High Grading 101" was designed to educate landowners on how to recognize potentially harmful forest management practices proposed in their woods. "A Holistic Approach to Wildlife Management" described an ecosystem-level approach to managing woodlands.

As described on Page 2, the Foundation hosted several outreach and community events in May, which together engaged almost 200 people! We are so glad that many of you could attend.

And in June, the FSF was invited to a 2-day event called *Working in your Woods: A Bird's Eye View* in Bradford, PA, where Annie Socci co-presented with USDA-Forest Service researchers Susan Stout and Scott Stoleson on how active forest management can improve bird habitat and species diversity.

So as you can see, we have been busy. But, I'm not one to rest on my laurels, and thankfully neither are you!

*Here is how you can support the Foundation's Mission in the months ahead:*

- **Be a Member.** Our annual Membership drive is well underway, but we still have a ways to go! Please join or renew today by visiting [foundationforsustainableforests.org/membership](http://foundationforsustainableforests.org/membership) or call (814) 694-5830.
- **Donate to the FSF on Erie Gives Day, Tuesday, August 8th.** All funds will receive a match from the Erie Community Foundation, and will be applied towards landowner outreach, forest conservation, and Foundation operations. Visit [eriegives.org](http://eriegives.org) or call (814) 454-0853 on that day to make a donation between 8am-8pm.
- **Make or Pledge a Donation to the Moxie Woods Fund.** Through Jean Engle's generosity, the FSF acquired this 123-acre treasure for truly a bargain! Donor Jane Woods gave a significant boost to this project, but our work is not yet done. The FSF must raise \$15,000 by 2018, and a subsequent \$20,000 between the years 2019-2022 to complete this conservation project. You can donate funds or pledge the net proceeds of a sustainable timber harvest in your woodland. Please contact John Bartlett or Annie Socci by e-mailing [Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org](mailto:Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org) or calling (814) 694-5830.
- **Support the 3rd Phase of Project Outreach.** If you prefer to support outreach and education programs, please donate to this critical initiative. Projects include quarterly "Coffee & Cake" sessions for forest landowners to discuss conservation legacy planning options and educational programs on forest stewardship. We also welcome volunteers to help us coordinate and host these events.



Well, that is all the news from Dotyville for now. Thanks for reading, and I'll be seeing you!

*Bob Slagter is Chair of the FSF's Fundraising Committee, a PA Forest Steward, passionate conservationist and avid hunter and fisherman. He is active in several conservation and habitat improvement initiatives alongside the FSF in Warren County's Caldwell Creek watershed.*



*Left to right: Guy Dunkle, Jean Engle, and Annie Socci at the FSF Dinner, where Jean received a bowl made from a cherry tree at Moxie Woods in recognition of her donation.*



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*The Foundation for Sustainable Forests is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust and outreach organization dedicated to conserving forested land and protecting sustainable working forests. Through direct ownership, partnership with landowners, and active forest management, we promote the protection and stewardship of forests.*

### Board of Directors

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### Staff

Annie Socci, PhD  
*Executive Director*

John Noel Bartlett  
*Development Director*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Save the Date!**  
**Erie Gives Day is**  
**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**



Last year you came through in a big way to more than double the number of individual gifts on this day, with a total of **70 gifts in 2016!**

**Won't you help us to reach 100 gifts this year?**

Your donation between 8am-8pm on August 8<sup>th</sup> will generate a pro-rated match courtesy of the Erie Community Foundation.

To give, visit [www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org) or call (814) 454-0853

**Annual Fall Potluck @ Woodland Lodge**

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 🍁 4pm Onward**

The Woodland Lodge, 2662 Eureka Rd. Grand Valley, PA

Members, family & friends are welcome!

*For more information or to RSVP for the Potluck,  
Visit [forestsandpeople.org/events](http://forestsandpeople.org/events) or call (814) 694-5830*