



BURNING ISSUES

www.paforestfiremuseum.org

1ST QUARTER 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message (3/13), we have just experienced this year's first wildfire on Second Mountain in Dauphin County. The difficult mountainous terrain made fighting the fire very difficult. Fortunately, only four or so acres were affected. It seems that the recent dry conditions led to very favorable conditions to spread a fire. Let's hope that the rest of the spring will be wet enough to keep the fire danger low. Since people are the ultimate cause of so many wildfires the role of the Discovery Center at Caledonia State Park in educating our visitors is critical! Smokey Bear still has a job to perform.

Soon we will be asking for volunteers for the upcoming season to keep the center open on our traditional Saturday and Sundays. We will also be looking at ways to open on more days. Details of our signup process will follow.

In February I had the opportunity to speak at a brownbag lunch at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in Harrisburg. My topic was the life of Ralph Brock, the first African-American forester in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, there have been several articles written about Brock and his career in forest conservation. (PFHA life member Alex Day was instrumental in researching and publicizing the story of Ralph Brock). Originally from West Chester, Brock came to Mont Alto in 1902 and was a student in the first class of foresters at the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy. By all accounts he was a top student in his class. After he graduated, he became the director of the seedling nursery, which was critical to early reforestation efforts. He stayed at Mont Alto until 1911
(continued page 2)

GOLF OUTING – June 24th

The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association Golf Outing is Planned for June 24, 2016 at Rich Valley Golf Course, located between Mechanicsburg and Carlisle in Cumberland County. See the announcement on Page 5.

Charlie Choplick, DCNR -BOF



I grew up in Shamokin PA, right in the heart of the anthracite coal region. I graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Regional High School and briefly attended Bloomsburg University. Being unclear of what I wanted to do with my future, I dropped out of college and joined the United States Army and ended up spending my enlistment in the 2nd Armored Calvary Regiment located in Nuremberg Germany. Upon my discharge, taking full advantage of the G.I. Bill I enrolled in the Forestry Technician Program at Penn State Mont Alto and continued on to receive a B.S. in Forest Science at University Park.
(continued page 3)

Years Gone By

July 14, 1886 *The Forest Republican* of Tionesta reported, "One of the most destructive forest fires that ever visited this section of the country is now raging near here in Forest County. The fire originated in a large bark slashing in which was piled several thousand cords of bark. About sixteen hundred cords of bark, together with several lumber camps, are now burned and the fire is not yet under control. Horton, Crary & Co, who own the bark, have a hundred men fighting the fire, and it is thought it will be under control before night."

April 21, 1916 A forest fire swept North and South Union and Georges townships, Fayette County that burned 6,000 acres and injured two fire fighters. The most seriously burned in fighting the flames were J. C Beatty, fire warden of North Union Township and his son, William P. Beatty, fire warden of South Union Township. Both were burned on the hands and feet.

May 13, 1926 *The Harrisburg Telegraph* reported that the fire in the Tangascootack watershed was under control and had burned more than 140 square miles. That is almost 89,600 acres. It is doubtful that the fire was that large as it would have burned over an area the size of Philadelphia and fully about 18% of Clinton County. It is possible but it is more likely the fire burned over 14 square miles or about 8900 acres.

May 14, 1926 Near Tyrone, Blair County, a fire, after raging for five days and burning over between 40,000 and 50,000 acres of timberland, was finally extinguished. This is probably the largest fire ever to strike Pennsylvania in the 20th Century. At the same time a 3,000 acre fire burned near Croydon in Elk County. Another fire began near Loleta, Forest County which grew to a 7,000 acres.

May 17, 1926 A 26,000 acre fire began at Owls Nest in Elk County. To date it is the largest recorded fire in the Allegheny National Forest. Two lumberjacks were reported missing and never heard from again.

May 9, 1936 A fire near Medix Run, Elk County was reported to have burned over two square miles.

1946 Rudolph Wendelin was hired by the USDA and for the next twenty-seven years was the artist who drew Smokey Bear. Jackson Weaver gave voice to Smokey for radio promotions. Also during the year Maurice K. Goddard became the Resident Director at Mont Alto.

President's Message (cont.)

when he left State employment to work as a nurseryman and horticulturist in the private sector. While there is evidence that the prejudices of the day contributed to his leaving, much has been done to commemorate his historic role. There is a historic marker at Penn State Mont Alto and the Bureau of Forestry Seed Orchard on South Mountain has been named in his honor.

I found that although my audience had heard of Ralph Brock, they didn't know many details about him and his contributions. For the PFHA, the story of Ralph Brock represents a real opportunity. At the Discovery Center we have had visitors from all over Pennsylvania and the USA, from all walks of life. Most of them know very little about how the forests of were preserved and who was involved. It becomes real when we can show the men and women who worked so hard to make conservation happen. As we can tell more of these will be our impact.

In this edition we are proud to introduce our new PFHA logo. We would like to thank Fawn Brucker, an art illustrator with the DCNR for the final version. Also, thanks to Tobi Graham and Abigael Reed for their work in getting the process started.

Peter Linehan

**PA Forest Heritage Association
Officers**

President Dr. Peter E. Linehan

1st Vice President – Bob Rudy

2nd Vice President - Paul Sebasovich

Immediate Past President - Jack Graham

Secretary - Lisa LaSalle

Treasurer – John Bitzer

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Newsletter Editor

Michael J. Klimkos

Burning Issues is the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association and is published quarterly. The primary distribution is by e-mail. Paper copies mailed only on written request

Wildfire Statistics to March 23, 2016

Total Fires - 146

Acres Burned - 278.27

Estimated Damage - \$4018.45

District 11 has had 27 fires that burned 65.00 acres and caused an estimated \$2,395.14 in damage.

So far in 2016 in fires across the state 27 residences have been threatened and one has been damaged.

25 other structures have been threatened and 1 has been damaged and 2 have been destroyed.

One injury has been reported.

(Choplick from Page 1)

I took a seasonal job at the Bald Eagle State Forest and after 2 seasons was hired on as a Computer Forester in the Bureau of Forestry's Central Office in Harrisburg. I joined the Division of Forest Fire Protection in 2000 as the Federal Excess Personal Property Manager and was promoted to the Logistic and Finance Section Chief in 2010; with this position came the privilege of serving on the Board of the PA Forest Fire Museum Association!

I took an interest in the PA Wildfire Crew Program (formally known as Specialized Crew) and enjoy heading out to western states in the summer to assist the U.S. Forest Service combat large wildfires. I'm currently qualified as a Resource Unit Leader in the Planning Section and Base Camp Manger which falls under Logistics.

I currently reside in Halifax PA in upper Dauphin County with my lovely wife Tracey ,Golden Retriever pup Pippa Lynn, and cat Lucky Duck Jackson III.



P.O. Box 176
Fayetteville, PA 17222-0176

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association is to preserve and showcase the heritage of forests and fire protection as they relate to forestry. The association celebrates Pennsylvania's pioneers in forest stewardship – past, present and future

Vision Statement

The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association is a place of discovery. Significant artifacts and interactive exhibits trace the past and point to the future of forestry in Pennsylvania. The museum is dedicated to the stewardship of all forest resources and honors the men and women who sustain today's forest. Here everyone can enjoy a variety of experiences that further an understanding of forestry and forest fires. In addition to indoor and outdoor exhibits, the facility includes a library, training center, classrooms, volunteer accommodations, museum store and administrative offices. Future plans include outreach programs, transportable exhibits, an auditorium and food service.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll the following as a member of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association:

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Check One:

- Student/Youth \$ 5.00
- Individual \$ 15.00
- Family (number in household) \$ 25.00
- Sustaining \$ 35.00
- Non-profit Volunteer organization (check below). \$ 35.00

- Forest Fire Crew
- Volunteer Fire. Co.
- Forest Fire Wardens Assn.
- Environmental Org.
- Other _____

- Corporate \$100.00
- Life \$300.00
- Contributing \$ _____
- I do not wish to join, but I would like to make a donation \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
The Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association

Mail to:
The Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association
6151 Route 209
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-7039

Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association

We changed the name of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association to better define our mission which is to tell the story of Forestry in Pennsylvania. Our new name is the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association.

Our Forest Heritage Discovery Center is located in Caledonia State Park. The Center is open every Saturday, Sunday, and major holiday; Memorial Day through Labor Day. Throughout the year, we take tour requests from school groups and special interest organizations. Last year we had over 1500 visitors. The revenue we receive from the golf outing goes to the Discovery Center to further educate the public. Last year we held a birthday party for Smokey Bear where children and adults alike learned about wildfire prevention and wildfire suppression in PA.

This year the golf outing revenue will go towards construction of new displays for the Center.

And

Pennsylvania Forestry Association

Announce Our

15th Annual Golf Outing

Friday, June 24, 2016 – Rain or Shine

RICH VALLEY GOLF COURSE

227 Rich Valley Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA
www.richvalleygolf.net · 717-691-8805

Play begins at 1:00 p.m.

Team Registration is between 12:00 noon and 12:30 p.m.

Play is “Four Person Scramble” Format

Entry fee \$65 per player or \$260 per team

Fee includes cart • hot dogs, water • dinner

Prizes

- First, Second, Third-place Team
- Closest to the Pin on Par 3 Holes
- Longest Drive Men & Women
- Skins Game
- Pot – O – Gold
- Door Prizes – Raffles – More

Promote your Business or Organization Donate a Door Prize or Purchase a Sponsorship

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP

Team Entry including Tee Sponsorship—\$300

Tee Sponsorship—\$100

Outing Sponsorship—Gold \$50 • Silver \$25

Other monetary donations and Gift Certificates

Contact Paul Sebasovich, 13 Twin Oaks Drive, Duncannon, PA 17020, phone 717-215-8359, with any questions or to provide donations or sponsorships.

Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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PA Forest Heritage Association Golf Outing Form

Register by June 20, 2016. Cost per team is \$260

If you do not have a team, send your entry fee of \$65 to register and we'll form teams

Make check payable to **PA Forest Heritage Association** and mail with form to:
Lisa LaSalle, PFHA Secretary, P.O. Box 154, Berrysburg, PA 17005; 570-449-4150

CAPTAIN:	_____	_____
	Name and Address	Phone
Player 2:	_____	_____
	Name and Address	Phone
Player 3:	_____	_____
	Name and Address	Phone
Player 4:	_____	_____
	Name and Address	Phone