



BURNING ISSUES

www.paforestheritage.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past weekend I volunteered at the Forest Heritage Discovery Center. The weather was great on both Saturday and Sunday. In fact, Sunday was quite comfortable. When I opened the windows there was a nice cross breeze that kept inside the Center quite comfortable.

All afternoon on both days traffic into Caledonia State Park was quite heavy. By the time I closed up at five not nearly as many people had come out to leave the park as had gone in!

Among the visitors this weekend were several families with young children. By that I mean anyone who looks younger than a teenager. It's easy to see that they are looking for something to do and don't have much patience with anything boring. Some of their favorites I noticed were the firefighter cutout that they could pose in, the firetower fire-finder, the old firetower telephone, and surprisingly, the wildlife posters in the Smokey room. Another favorite was the backpack pump and target we set up outside. I think to really understand what children want, I would need to see how the room looks to someone who is 3 to 4 feet tall!

I would like to thank all those who came up with these ideas of things that interest children. And I invite all our volunteers to bring any ideas they may have. The history displays are crucial and interesting to the older visitors, but it's important to keep our younger visitors in mind, as they are our most important audience.

If you would like to become a volunteer, we have many weekends open. Just check out our webpage for links to the calendar or send me a message at info@paforestheritage.org. If you haven't volunteered yet, don't hesitate to "intern" with someone else, as a recent new volunteer called it.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the results of our recent golf tournament Rich Valley. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this activity happen.

Peter Linehan

GOLF OUTING

June 23, 2017



First Foursome – Rick Klimkos, Shannon Terry, Matt Kring and Tag Kring

The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association held the 16th Annual Golf Outing Friday, June 23, 2017. The rain-shortened event was held at the Rich Valley Golf Course in Mechanicsburg, PA.

48 golfers in 12 foursomes participated in the event. A mid-afternoon storm shortened play but all agreed it was a great event.

The First Foursome was Rick Klimkos, Shannon Terry, Matt Kring and Tag Kring. The second foursome was Shane Hoover, Brent Will, Andy Masson and Mitch Morrill. In third place was the foursome of Dave Klinger, Steve Kline, Terry Felty and John Risser.

The Pot of Gold was won by Ken Brenner. Closest to the pin on #5 was Rick Klimkos. The longest drive on #7 was Dave Klinger. Despite the rain, the intrepid golfers tried their best to play out but the torrential rains just would not allow play to continue.

Following the golf, dinner was served at the clubhouse where the prizes were awarded.

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Kelsey Miller Firefighter



When most people think of wildland firefighters they picture in their minds burly men with beards, in yellow shirts and hardhats. Kelsey Miller does not fit that stereotype. Kelsey became interested in wildland fire while an undergraduate at Shippensburg University. Her ecology professor, Dr. Tim Maret, sparked her interest in using fire as a forest management tool. After earning her undergraduate degree, Kelsey went on to earn her Masters in Ecology at Shippensburg, and her interest in wildland fire continued to grow.

In 2016, she took the S-130 and S-190 classes, passed her work capacity test, and became a member of the Tuscarora Support Crew. As she emphatically states, “I would not have got to this point were it not on the support crew.” While her initial interest was in prescribed fire she notes, “Before you can go out and do a prescribed burn, you have to learn about fire, and how to extinguish it.” Earlier this month Kelsey attended Camp K for the basic class and is now certified to travel out of state, an experience she is looking forward to.

In the spring of 2017, Kelsey traveled to Oregon to participate in the Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX). Training exchanges are designed to create opportunities for trainees to work on their Position Task Books (PTBs), and receive evaluations from qualified trainers. She was one of 40 persons who attended. Kelsey noted how valuable the experience was as she got to be part of a crew, learned ignition styles, and worked with engines.

As she completes her degree, Kelsey is working with the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, as well as the Capital RC &

D. She is also an EMT with Yellow Breeches EMS. She is still trying to figure out her career aspirations. “Being a small young woman in the fire service presents its challenges,” she notes, “It takes time to build trust with the other firefighters. It is important to be patient. I have a lot to learn and I am open to new experiences.” Down the road she has her sights on being a burn boss or fire manager. “It is good to be involved with wildfire suppression. I see it as a civic duty.” Kelsey Miller – a new face in wildland firefighting.

PaFORE – New PFHA Initiative

The Association has begun a new initiative to document forest history, increase Discovery Center Attendance, and increase membership. PaFORE is the acronym derived from PA Forest Heritage Outreach and Education.

The initiative will encompass collection of stories, biographies, and experiences of firefighters, foresters and others involved with Pennsylvania’s forests. The stories will be documented on paper, by audio recording, and by video recording.

PaFORE also will begin collecting photographs. The photographs may be old black and white photos of historical importance, or more modern ones of firefighters, fire crews, fire apparatus, forest work, fires, and just about anything that pertains to Penn’s Woods – both historic and current.

The Bureau of Forestry is cooperating with the PFHA to develop Story Maps where interested persons may view a webpage that will tell a story of a particular region or area, and its forest and fire history.

The documents and video and audio recordings will be available for viewing at the PFHA Discovery Center. The Story Maps will be available on line as well.

The PFHA is currently seeking grants, totaling about \$7,500 for the purchase of equipment, such as a computer, scanner, and video and audio recording equipment to make this effort happen.

If you have photos or other documents that you would like to share with the PFHA, please contact the Editor at Klimkos@embarqmail.com for further details.

The Act of June 2, 1870 which became P.L. 1316 was enacted for forest protection. This law gave the county commissioners authority to appoint persons, “to ferret out and bring to punishment all persons who willfully or otherwise cause the burning of timber lands, and to take measures to have such fires extinguished where it can be done.” Expenses for these people were to be paid out of county treasury

PA Forest Heritage Association

Officers

President Dr. Peter E. Linehan
pel2@psu.edu

1st VP Paul Sebasovich
psebasovich@gmail.com

2nd VP Bob Rudy
bob@bobrudy.com

Secretary - Lisa LaSalle
lasallelisa@yahoo.com

Treasurer – John Bitzer
jbitz@ptd.net

Immediate Past President - Jack Graham
jatogr@embarqmail.com

Permanent Chairs

Mont Alto Historical Society - Beverly Spicer
beal70sp@comcast.net -

DCNR Secretary's Designee - Roy Brubaker
robrubaker@pa.gov

PA Forestry Association - Rich Lewis -
rlewis7575@aol.com

DCNR Bureau of Forestry, FFP -
Charlie Choplick - cchoplick@pa.gov -

Directors

Richard Flowers - 2017 - rflowers@flowerscpas.com

Roy Siefert - 2017 - rsiefert2@juno.com

John Berst - 2017 - berst_2@msn.com

Jeff Stuffle - 2017 - jandmstuffle@verizon.net

Joe Devilbiss - 2019 - joendot2@verizon.net

John Eastlake - 2019 - jeastlake@comcast.net

Bill Parr - 2019 - wwparr@comcast.net

Bob Schweitzer - 2019 - RESchw38@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Michael J. Klimkos

Klimkos@embarqmail.com

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Wildfire Statistics to June 1, 2017

Total Fires - 399
Acres Burned - 1,380.00
Total Damage - \$530,481
Most Fires – District 17 – 65
Most Acreage – District 11 – 303 acres
Structures Damaged – 2
Structures Destroyed – 6
Injuries – 5

(Golf – Continued from Page 1)



2nd Place – Shane Hoover, Brent Will and Andy Masson. Mitch Morrill was the fourth person



3rd Place – Dave Klinger, Steve Kline, Terry Felty and John Risser.

WHILE ENJOYING THE FOREST THIS SUMMER
REMEMBER – “ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!”



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 rich heritage of forestry and forest protection in Pennsylvania, and to inform and educate the public about present-day forestry, including forest fire protection, and its future in the Commonwealth.

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 Heritage Association

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St. _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail: _____

Check One:

- Student/ Youth \$5
- Individual \$15
- Family (number in household _____) \$25
- Sustaining \$35
- Non-Profit Volunteer Organization (check below) \$35
 - Forest Fire Crew
 - Volunteer Fire Company
 - Forest Fire Wardens Assoc.
 - Other Organization _____
- Corporate \$100
- Life \$300
- Contributing \$ _____

I do not wish to join but I would like to make a donation \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:

Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association

Mail to:

**The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Assoc.
6151 Route 209
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-7039**