



Burning Issues

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association

<http://www.paforestheritage.org>

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3RD QUARTER 2018



President's Message

The cooler days of autumn may be coming now after one of the warmest and wettest summers we have experienced for a very long time. We have concluded a successful summer of 2018 at the Discovery Center at Caledonia State Park. Thanks to the volunteers we covered almost all the weekends of the summer season. We had almost 750 visitors who had the opportunity to learn about forest conservation and wildfire fighting. We also had a fun Smokey Bear birthday party in August. Thanks to Bob Rudy for organizing contributions from McDonald's and Walmart and wearing the very hot Smokey costume! The children really loved that.

The digital forest history project is advancing. Mike Klimkos installed the touch-screen computer at the Discovery Center and has loaded many forest history resources for users to interact with. This will be an increasingly important way to share our story.

In a major change going forward, the PFHA Board has voted to merge with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. Discussions between our two groups have continued for the past few years. Many PFHA members are also PFA members. The missions of our two organizations are very close. The Board feels that we can broaden our membership and

(continued page 3)

Bill Parr, Jr. Forest Supervisor - Retired Bureau of Forestry



Bill Parr grew up on South Mountain and working in the woods was second nature to him. (*sorry for the terrible pun but there is no better way to say that. Ed.*) Dave Perry was a PDF&W Forest Foreman and neighbor who influenced Bill to take an interest in forestry.

He started as a towerman at Big Flat in February of 1976. As the country began to celebrate its year-long bi-centennial a lack of snow was apparent across much of Pennsylvania. February was dry and a lack of snow cover allowed fires to burn early in the year. On his first day in the tower, there were three fires.

(continued page 3)

PA Forest Heritage Association

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2018 Wildfire Summary to

September 28, 2018

Pennsylvania has been hit with more rain that many can remember. Wildfires in the Keystone State have not been a problem. For the rest of the country – problems! According to the National Interagency Fire Center: As of this date a total of 73 large wildfires have burned over approximately 1,002,970 acres with two more large fires reported today. Pennsylvania Crews have responded.

Emergency responders and support personnel are continuing to provide assistance in the wake of Hurricane Florence

FOR SALE



The Last McNamara Engine Known To Exist

A one ton, four-wheel-drive Dodge WM-300 chassis. The Treador Red truck had a custom body built to hold a 300 gallon water tank, a Hale FZZ centrifugal pump rated at 150 GPM, and a smaller Hale 20 T portable pump. A booster reel carried 300 feet of ¾ inch hose. This is one of the first engines built from the frame up for wildfire fighting.

NEEDS RESTORATION

ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

Contact Peter Linehan for further details.

(President's Message cont. from Page 1)

and our pool of active volunteers by merging. We will be better able to fulfill the PFHA mission of telling the story of forest conservation by becoming part of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

What this means is that your membership renewal this year will come from the PFA. I am asking every member of PFHA to renew their membership this fall as we become a unit of PFA. We will need your help and ideas to tell the story of forest conservation and wildfire fighting in Pennsylvania.

We will be discussing the merger at our PFHA annual meeting at Penn State Mont Alto on Saturday, October 27. Full details can be found on our website, paforestheritage.org/400. I encourage every PFHA member to attend. Also, you can send your questions and comments to me at info@paforestheritage.org or my work email pel2@psu.edu. Thank you for your continued support of the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association.

Peter Linehan

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association annual meeting will be held Saturday, October 27th from 9 to 2 at Penn State Mont Alto. Full details are at the PFA website: paforestheritage.org

Make plans to be there as the merger with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association will be discussed

(Bill Parr cont. from Page 1)

Bill's grandfather and father both worked for PDF&W in the Michaux State Forest. His, son Luke, is a PSU graduate in forestry. In the Parr family forestry roots run deep.

Bill was a Chaplain and Captain with the Buchanan Valley Fire Department. He became a Forest Fire Warden in 1985. He has nothing but praise for the VFDs. "Without the volunteer fire departments, the Bureau of Forestry would have a tough time fighting a lot of the fires. The big thing the Bureau provides is training to the volunteers," says Parr.

He is quick to note that one of the biggest things he has seen is the declaration of "Red Flag" days. Those are the days when fire conditions are prime. He would hope the bureau would utilize the fire towers on those days, as it would give crews a few extra minutes to respond to what could be a potentially devastating situation.

Bill was one of the original museum proponents and has worked tirelessly to make sure its exhibits are maintained and that artifacts and documents do not become lost.

Board members travelled to Pike County on August 15, 2018 to visit the historic Grey Towers formerly owned by Governor Gifford Pinchot. Unfortunately a quorum was not present but many issues were discussed and an agenda was set for October 27th.



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.

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**

PA Forest Heritage Assoc.
P.O. Box 176
Fayetteville, PA 17222-0176

«Name»
«Street»
«City», «St» «ZIP»

Return Service Requested