

# Women and Their Woods

Information for Women Forest Landowners  
Issue 6, Summer 2012

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## **Spring Workshop Offers Hands-On Information for Forest Landowners**

*Trish Englehard, NY landowner and 2011 WaTW Retreat Graduate*

On Friday April 20 to noon on Saturday, a group of about twenty women gathered on a private piece of land outside Wyalusing, PA, for a Women and Their Woods workshop. These programs are administered by Penn State Forest Resources Extension and the



*Women and Their Woods attendees  
during the Spring workshop.*

Delaware Highlands Conservancy with support from the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, US Forest Service at Grey Towers and PA DCNR Department of Conservation and Recreation. Their purpose is to educate women land owners about programs that can help them manage their forested lands, as well as, teach women skills to do some of the physical jobs themselves. Other programs are popping up all over the country and a new website, [WomenOwningWoodlands.net](http://WomenOwningWoodlands.net), has been designed to link these organizations and resources together.

The workshop began with two foresters, Daniel Swift and Dr. Peter Smallidge, giving a presentation about controlling invasive plants with herbicides and the use of a flamer. Swift is a private consulting forester and Smallidge is the New York State Extension Forester at Cornell. Participants observed invasive plants that block sunlight from reaching the forest floor, preventing tree seedlings from growing. The 'flamer' is a propane tank with a hose, wand, and torch that is used to burn the invasive plants. Two people work together, one with the flamer and one with a water pack with sprayer, to wet the area on the forest floor and prevent fires. Participants were able to try this out.

The different types of herbicide sprays were discussed, as well as the different types of equipment for application. Swift had filled several of the backpack sprayers with water so that the participants could try them on to get a feel for the equipment professional foresters use. This participant has a new respect for the strong backs foresters must have!

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The Women and Their Woods program is administered by Penn State Forest Resources Extension and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy with support from the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, US Forest Service at Grey Towers, and PA DCNR Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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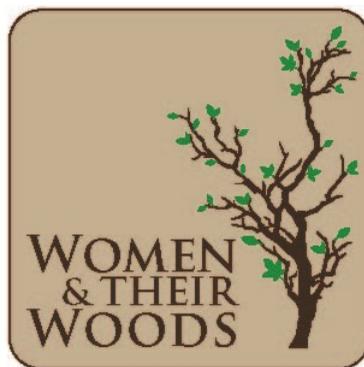
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Throughout our region, women are increasingly responsible for the stewardship of private forestlands. Women landowners require accurate information and relevant knowledge about available options for managing their properties.

Women and Their Woods is a dynamic, fun, and informative program that teaches women to effectively care for their lands. Women and Their Woods emphasizes conservation stewardship and the value of intact forestlands and instills in women landowners a sense of confidence in their abilities to meet the challenges of forestland ownership.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful. Please contact us for further information on how to be involved.

We need your Email Address!

As conservation-centered organizations, we want to conserve resources by communicating with you through e-mail.

Please send your email to [conserve@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:conserve@delawarehighlands.org) and specify if you would like to receive our mailings electronically or continue to receive hard copies in the mail.

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From the forested land we returned to Nancy and Marvin Baker's yard to watch the harvesting of a black walnut log from a tree that was blown over last fall. Smallidge and Swift talked about small scale logging equipment and safety. They also used a special log carrier



*Small scale logging with Dr. Smallidge.*

(arch) attached to a four wheeler to move the log from its location. Participants were also instructed and given the opportunity to cut slices from a walnut limb with a chain saw. Those who did, wore protective chaps and a logger's hard hat for protection. Friday was concluded with a potluck dinner and sharing of stories of ourselves and our land.

After breakfast on Saturday, we learned about cost sharing from Mike Hannawalt and Dan Swift.

Hannawalt is a District Director with the Federal Natural Resource Conservation Service and shared with us programs that are available to help landowners offset the cost of managing their lands. The Bakers and Swift are utilizing some of these programs to manage the Baker's land.

Natural Resource Conservation Service and shared with us programs that are available to help landowners offset the cost of managing their lands. The Bakers and Swift are utilizing some of these programs to manage the Baker's land.

We spent a lot of time learning about how to eradicate the unwanted plants, so it seemed only right that we would end the workshop by planting some of the plants that are wanted. The Bakers qualified for funding to plant trees and shrubs along a hedgerow on their land to increase wildlife habitat. Swift had prepared the planting site with holes and marker flags. We participants put as many plants into the site as we could before the weather changed from grey clouds to rain clouds.



*Planting native shrubs.*

The next Educational Retreat and Training will be held on September 27-30, 2012 at Camp Susque north of Trout Run, Lycoming County PA. (See *page 6* for *Retreat Details and Agenda*.) I was very impressed as a participant last fall and came home with armloads of information. See you at a future event!



The Women Owning Woodlands web project strives to bring topical, accessible, and current forestry information to woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, events, resources, and personal stories.

**womenowningwoodlands.net**

## A Forest Management Tool to Improve Your Perspective

*Adapted from an article by Shelby E. Chunko, Forest Stewardship Quarterly, Volume 5, Number 3, Winter 1996*

This is not about chainsaws and diameter tapes or any other tools that come from your favorite hardware store or forestry supplier. This is about how to see your forest for the trees with a management tool you may not have considered –journals.



*Journaling at the 2011 Educational Retreat*

The first step in keeping a journal is to make it a habit to keep a small tablet or notebook and a pencil in your back pocket whenever you work or walk in your forestland. Your field notebook can be your journal, or you can transcribe it more fully into a larger notebook or computer file. Remember, a journal can include pictures and drawings, as well as words.

What to put into your journal? It all depends on you and your interests. You might want to keep a record of the wildflower species you see, or what's growing in the understory, or what birds and other animals you see or hear. It is always useful to note the approximate quantity and location of what you see (five

witch hazel bushes in the bottom land, two dozen cedar waxwings sitting on top of an aspen, seventeen white pine seedlings on the southern slope, etc.); when you see it (month and year); the soil and weather conditions; associated vegetation and other land features; and, in the case of wildlife, any behaviors you might observe. You also can record your management activities in whatever detail you choose. The possibilities are endless.

There are numerous benefits to keeping such records, both for you and your land. Once you begin keeping a journal, you will find yourself becoming more observant. After you have kept a journal for at least a year, you will become aware of any changes, often subtle and overlooked if left to memory, that have occurred over time. It then becomes easier to plan your future activities. You might discover a plant or animal species that is new on your land since the previous year – one that you can work to encourage or control, depending on your objectives and interests.

Keeping an outdoor journal is simply a personally satisfying activity. Practically speaking, what you learn from your record of observations enhances your ability to manage your land well, and can contribute to a larger understanding of how change is occurring within a landscape. And finally, your journal can serve as documentation of activities you undertake as you tend your land.



*Mapping a property during the Educational Retreat*

# Real Life Landowner: Fran Wunderlich

By Paula Randler, Program Specialist, USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry

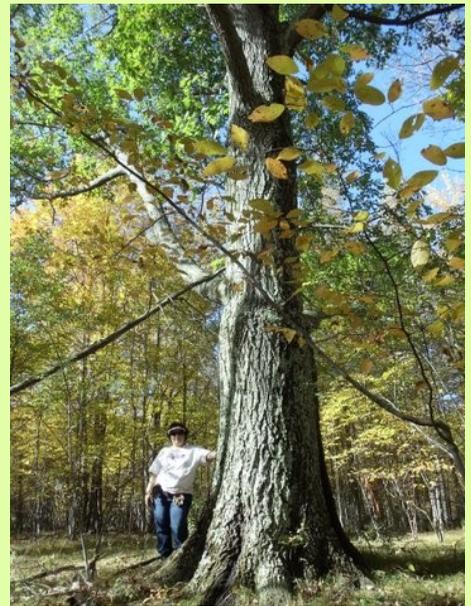
On a chilly morning in January, I interviewed Fran Wunderlich, a Pennsylvania landowner whom I met at the 2011 Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat. Fran and I enjoyed a long conversation about tax breaks, Marcellus shale, and the advice she has for fellow women woodland owners.

Fran and her husband, Charles, own land in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and live in town about 4 miles away. They bought 153 acres in 1991, and back then Fran was plenty reluctant about the added burden of land management on her already busy life. With two young boys at home and little experience with rural property ownership, Fran said to her husband “Why don’t we leave farming to the farmers?” But it had long been his dream to own land, and his vision of their life as forest landowners won the day. Now, Fran is completely committed to rural life and the restoration of her forestland. Her favorite aspect of ownership is being able to hike a trail and spend time in nature anytime she wants. In 2001, the Wunderlichs bought an adjoining 33-acre parcel.

Fran’s greatest triumph on her land has been the conversion of a field of multiflora rose, autumn olive, and other invasives to a beautiful pond and overlook. For the first several years of land ownership, the Wunderlichs spent their time digging a pond and removing invasives. They built a gazebo overlooking the pond where they watch pollinators enjoying the fruits of long, laborious days.

I asked Fran about the management plans they use to guide decision-making in their woods. They have two: a Forest Stewardship Plan written in 1998 (it’s now being updated) and a Conservation Stewardship Plan written in 2010. Their primary management objectives are to create and maintain wildlife habitat and to enjoy light recreational activities like hiking, one of Fran’s favorite things to do. Fran said they “essentially [want] to maintain the natural environment – maintain and improve it.”

I asked Fran what will happen to their land when she and her husband pass on. The land will pass to their two sons, both in their twenties, and she said, “We’ve been toying with the idea



*Fran and a “Mother Tree” on her land.*

# Women Forest Landowner Educational Retreat September 27 - 30, 2012

## AGENDA DETAILS

Join the 2012 class of women forest landowners for a four-day workshop full of exciting educational programs and field trips related to the care and



management of forestland. Women from across the Mid-Atlantic region who own, care for, or are interested in learning more about forestland are encouraged to attend the retreat.

The cost to attend the four day retreat is \$130 and covers lodging and meals at Camp Susque near the scenic town of Trout Run, PA.

The deadline to submit applications is **August 1, 2012**. Applications can be downloaded from: <http://extension.psu.edu/womenandtheirwoods>

### Thursday, September 27:

Dinner, welcome, and evening activities

Guided Star Gazing (weather dependent) - Raymond Williams

### Friday, September 28:

**'What is Stewardship?'** - Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, Penn State University

**Forest Plant Identification** - Jane Swift, Educational Specialist, DCNR

**Forest Ecology** - Jim Finley

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## The Basics of Silviculture

**Field Trip** with DCNR Bureau of Forestry

**Saturday, September 29:**

**Forest Hydrology** - Vivian Williams,  
Stroud Water Research Center,  
Education Programs Manager

**Wildlife in the Forest**

**Forest Measurements and Calculating the Value in Your Forest** - Jim Finley

**Field Trip** with DCNR Bureau of Forestry



**Sunday, September 30:**

**Woods Walk** with Jim Finley

**Estate Planning and Financial Planning** - Susan Lacy, Private Consultant

**Working with Resource Professionals**

**Skill Sharing and Resources**



*\*Portions of this proposed schedule are subject to change.*

Applications for the 2012 Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat can be found online at:

**<http://extension.psu.edu/womenandtheirwoods>**

To receive a hard copy of the application or for more information, please contact Amanda Subjin at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Phone: 570-226-3164. Email: [conserve@DelawareHighlands.org](mailto:conserve@DelawareHighlands.org).

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of a conservation easement, but haven't done anything about it yet." Fran's older son would be interested in managing the property, but the other isn't as involved.

Fran has gained a lot of land management expertise over the years, but she is most eager to share how she put in a pollinator field. Fran said, "I did a lot of research about it. My best advice is to research at the library and at county offices. I took a seminar on pollinator fields put on by the Xerces Society." Fran suggests the Penn State University website. When I pressed her for specifics she said, "PSU Extension, the School of Forestry [sic School of Forest Resources]... oh, any Penn State website!"

In the future, Fran plans to extend her system of trails. She plans to take some advice she was given to "have a goal in mind for your trails, like you're looking for something." She'll mark them with numbers and label them by destination: the vernal pool, the creek, the old oak tree, her land's highest point, and others.

*The above is an excerpt from Paula's interview with Fran Wunderlich. To read the complete story and for more information on forestry, visit [WomenOwningWoodlands.net](http://WomenOwningWoodlands.net).*

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**Women and Their Woods Newsletter**



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