

Keep Penn's Woods Healthy – Workshop Agenda

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Location: Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA

Hosting Organizations: James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State; Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub; Penn State Extension; Environmental Policy Goddard Chair Group at Penn State

Workshop Goals

Family forest landowners are increasingly concerned about a number of growing threats, including invasive plants, pathogens, extreme precipitation, and declining forest health. As family forest owners work with foresters and natural resource professionals to complete management plans, addressing these new or worsening threats has become more challenging. This session will:

- Provide information on the current and anticipated changes to Penn's woods
- Describe how to integrate climate change considerations into management planning and activities
- Share examples real-world projects that considered climate change adaptation as one of multiple management objectives

Agenda

8:30 Registration & Coffee

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

- Overview of family forestry in PA, managing PA family forests for a variety of management objectives – Allyson Muth, James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State

9:20 Presentations – Changing Climate, Changing Forests

- Climate change & Pennsylvania: past and present – Ali Bowling, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Forest Impacts and Adaptation Resources – Patricia Leopold, USDA Forest Service/NIACS

10:20 Break

10:40 Technical presentations – Managing our Changing Forests (each presentation is 15 min + 5 min Q &A.

- Engaging and Supporting Family Forest Owners in Climate-Smart Forestry, Melissa Kreye
- BCAR & CCAR Adaptation Plantings – Denise Alving, Penn State
- Healthy Forests Checklist – Allyson Muth

11:40 Group Activity: What are the biggest challenges in managing your woods - Margarita Fernández

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 Transition to Hartley Woods via bus

1:30 Activity: Assessing the woods with the Health Forests Checklist

3:00 Board bus and return to PennStater

3:15 Wrap up and workshop evaluation

3:30 Adjourn and travel safe!

More information and workshop materials: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/keep-penns-woods-healthy-workshop>

Speakers



Denise Alving is a PhD Candidate in Forest Resources in the Department of Ecosystem Sciences and Management at Penn State. Her research focuses on climate adaptation in forests, including best management practices for assisted migration of novel future-adapted species and maintenance of native/threatened species. Her thesis research examines the role of underlying geology in mediating survival and growth of native and introduced tree species.

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Ali Bowling, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Executive Policy Specialist, is a leader in environmental policy, specializing in department-level initiatives that drive sustainability and conservation. With a background in both nonprofit and private sectors, she has played a pivotal role in developing key strategies, including an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, a greenhouse gas inventory for DCNR, and a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the Department. Ali Bowling's expertise lies in fostering collaborative efforts that address pressing environmental challenges while promoting equitable solutions for communities. Passionate about advancing sustainable practices, she continues to influence policy and drive meaningful change in the field of environmental conservation. Her motivation for this work is the future for the next generation, including her two sons. abowling@pa.gov



Margarita Fernández is an ecologist studying carbon sequestration and co-benefits of climate-smart forestry in Pennsylvania's private forestlands. Her work with the Goddard Chair of Forestry & Environmental Resource Conservation at Penn State aims to create solid cooperative research and extension deliverables (both in Spanish and English). She actively collaborates with Penn State Extension and the Forest Owner Carbon and Climate Education Program (FOCCE).

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Melissa M. Kreye is an Associate Professor of Forest Resources Management in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and an Extension Specialist at Pennsylvania State University. Her extension programs include the Forest Owner Carbon and Climate Education program and Effective Environmental Outreach Strategies. Recent research projects examine landowner interest in forest carbon payments and opportunities to use prescribed fire as a forest management tool.

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Patricia Leopold is the Climate Adaptation Specialist for R9 State, Private, and Tribal Forestry (SPTF) and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS). As part of a diverse and active team, she has led the publication of multiple ecosystem vulnerability assessments, provided technical assistance to diverse land managers on climate change adaptation, and delivered dozens of trainings and workshops. In SPTF, Patricia works to integrate climate change into all programs, and serve as the climate and forest carbon point of contact for SPTF staff and agency partner staff.

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Allyson Brownlee Muth began at Penn State in 2004 working with the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Program and conducting outreach to forest landowners across the state (and beyond). She is now an associate research professor and the director of the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State. Allyson has degrees in forestry and an Ed.D. with an emphasis in Collaborative Learning. She has worked in the forest industry and for private consulting firms and has a strong interest in peer learning and in creating dialogue to advance understanding of forest stewardship issues and opportunities. abm173@psu.edu

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