

# THE TICKER

A Weekly Public Affairs Update for the PFPA Membership

PRODUCED BY:

PENNSYLVANIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

“YOUR CAPITOL INSIDER”



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## Forestry Task Force Resolution Moves from Committee

Last week, the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee gave approval and sent to review by the full Senate of resolution SR 55, which establishes a Forestry Task Force in the Joint Conservation Committee.

The Task Force will investigate DCNR's upcoming State Forest Management Plan; the impacts of invasive species on Pennsylvania's forests and forest products industry, regulatory relationship between the forestry industry, local governments and county conservation districts, and decline in qualified timber harvesters.

Legislators on the Task Force include the bill's primary sponsor, Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango), and Sen. Sean Wiley (D-Erie), Rep. Kathy Rapp (R-Warren) and Rep. Jaret Gibbons (D-Lawrence).

The Task Force also has an advisory committee that includes DCNR, PGC and the HDC, as well as industry representatives from PFPA and others businesses.

The Forestry Task Force is not waiting for approval of the SR 55, as it has already met once. A report and list of recommendations to the General Assembly is expected next year.

## EPA Threatens PA with Sanctions

EPA has reminded DEP that PA is falling behind on its Chesapeake Bay pollution reductions. By 2017, PA is to have reduced its nitrogen pollution by 23 million pounds, mostly from the agricultural and urban/suburban runoff.

Earlier this month, a U.S. appeals court upheld a federal plan limiting pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to this ruling, EPA sent a letter to DEP indicating that EPA may begin to withhold some grant dollars to PA should the state fail to meet its pollutions reduction goals.

The letter asked DEP to seek additional compliance from the ag sector, expanding nutrient management rules beyond concentrated animal feed operations, accelerated installation of high priority conservation practices (such as forest buffers) on farms, revision of the MS4 (PAG-13) stormwater management permit to include specific load reduction, and adopt a revised stormwater DEP BMP Manual consistent with Chesapeake Bay Program requirements.

While much the focus is on ag and urban stormwater, DEP could seek additional forestry regulations.

## PFPA Update

DCNR and DEP are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month.....The PA Independent Fiscal Office recently released revenue trends report for June, which saw 2014-15 state revenues increased almost 7 percent over the previous fiscal year.....The Pa Department of Agriculture has expanded its Spotted Lanternfly surveillance to include portions of Lehigh and Montgomery counties.....Allegheny County landowners Raul Chiesa and Janet Sredy won the Regional Tree Farm Award and are in the running for the American Tree Farm's "National Tree Farm of the Year" award..... Former PGC wildlife head, Cal DuBrock has been named the next Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation at Penn State. He will start the job on September 1, replacing Jim Grace, who resigned last October.....Environmental group PennFuture has announced the appointment of Larry J. Schweiger as president and CEO to replace Cindy Adams Dunn who assumed the role of secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Schweiger was the headed the National Wildlife Federation for 10 years.....

## PFPA News

- 🌲 The PFPA Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 29 at the Toftrees Resort in State College. A Forest Product Executive Development Workshop will be held during the day, with the Annual Meeting to be held that evening. PFPA is again partnering with the Penn-York Lumbermen's Club, which will hold its September monthly golf event and meeting on Monday, September 28 at Toftrees Resort. Registration information will be sent to PFPA members later this month.
- 🌲 The PA SFI Office will be closed for vacation - July 20-24.

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**“DYK” – Did You Know?** — Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease for three straight years and for the first time deer ticks have been found in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. – *PA Department of Health*