

Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 9:00 am-11:00 am
Western Regional Forestry Office
14110 Pleasant Valley Road, Flintstone, MD 21530

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair, Marie Miller.

Members Present: Marie Miller, Brad Metzger, Champ Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Darrell Williams, and Adam Miller

Members Not in Attendance: Steve Resh and Anne Stark

Special Guests: Deborah Landau

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2024

- **Completed** Develop the 2024 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Completed** Complete all financial disclosure forms and Volunteer forms
- **Completed** Attend arbor day event at LaVale Library to present historic tree cookie
- **Completed** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Completed** plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- **Completed** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Completed** Conduct a county-wide 5th grade arbor day poster contest
- **Completed** Review and approve urban tree planting grants such as MDOT & MUCFC

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2024 Annual Work Plan. The word “completed” will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been accomplished.

Old Business

Review of Minutes:

Approval of the October meeting minutes were completed. Champ made a motion to approve and Juls seconded the motion. The vote to approve passed.

Volunteer Hours (Since last meeting): 41 hours total Brad – 6, Bernie – 24, Champ – 24, Juls – 2, Steve – 8 and Sarah – 8 Total = 72

A fillable form will be available starting in 2025 to track volunteer hours.

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. He stated that the checkbook and the bank statement matched. A check for \$49.37 was written to Champ to cover the cost of shipping Liberty Tree seed to the state nursery. Several donations were received and deposited for the PLT and the Liberty Tree program.

Mike Minnick Donation:

The board was able to donate \$130 total out of pocket to be donated to a scholarship in memory of Mike. A check for \$130 was written out to Hospice Care of Garrett County in memory of Mike Minnick as well.

PLT:

The Fall PLT Workshop was held on October 25th at FSU. 20 students attended the workshop from both Frostburg State (elementary ed major) and Allegany College of Maryland (forest technology). Various board members and DNR staff were present to assist with the workshop. Also, a director's commendation was presented to the board for 32 years of facilitating these workshops, completing a total of 88 workshops, which have reached a total of approximately 2,600 students so far.

Liberty Tree:

Champ stated that he was able to successfully complete two rounds of seed collection from the Liberty Tree at St. Johns College. He partnered with Davey Tree Care company to use a bucket truck with a lift in order to reach seed higher up on the tree. The seed was then sent to the state nursery to be germinated. Champ suggested the idea of grafting the tree in order to provide seedlings with the direct DNA from the last remaining Liberty Tree in our country.

Historical Tree Cookie:

Brad and Champ updated the group that the historical tree cookie project is complete and is officially on display at the LaVale library. This cookie was dedicated on arbor day 2024 and now permanently resides in a hand-made display case with a historical write-up panel which was built by Brad Metzger. The cookie is from a 356-year-old white oak which grew right beside the national highway.

Statewide meeting recap:

No one from the board attended the meeting. Some were not invited, and others were not able to login to the virtual meeting. The virtual meeting invite was sent out well after the meeting was scheduled to start. The board expressed some frustrations with the process of the statewide meeting.

New Business:

Big Tree Program:

The board tentatively plans to have a big tree measuring field day in the spring of 2025 around May. The idea to host a public event and educate landowners about forestry and big trees was suggested for early fall 2025 around September. Adam sent out nomination forms and information pertaining to the rules of the statewide program. Adam will also create a list of big trees to be measured in the future. Marie will have an ACM work study student compile a list of current big trees in Allegany to be inventoried.

5th Grade poster contest:

The board decided to have our poster contest information ready to send out by mid-January. All posters are to be turned in by February 7th and will be voted on by the board in the February meeting. Marie will put together an information packet and Sarah will work on a short power point presentation. Winning posters could be on display at a local art gallery and paired with a seedling give-away event. We are still awaiting details on the upcoming poster contest in 2025.

High/Middle School Art Poster Contest:

The board has been discussing the idea of creating a poster contest for both highschool and middle schoolers with monetary prizes. There was a brief discussion on creating a flyer/video to hand out to science and art teachers across the county. Also, some discussion on partnering with Allegany Arts Council or the Ferleman Art Gallery on sponsoring prizes. No firm decisions were made, and it was tabled til the next meeting.

Website/Facebook:

Marie reminded the board to send a headshot and brief biography to post on the website. And also reminded them to provide information related to programs to post on the website (Champ- Liberty Tree, Bernie- PLT). Marie plans to have an ACM work-study student work on the website this fall.

New enrollment:

Deb Landau attended our meeting for the first time on behalf of TNC. She said she will likely be back for future meetings and consider her application in early 2025. Also, Slater Hafer plans to attend future meetings and consider putting his application in for early 2025 as well.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas party at Puccini's – December 18th 5:30-7:30

January Board meeting – January 15th

The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 18, 2024:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley and Google Meets. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams Juls Wood, Annie Stark, Francis Zumbrun and Adam Miller**
- **January 22, 2024:** Adam and Bernie met to work on the Forestry Board Facebook page. It was decided that a new page will be created. **Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **February 9, 2024:** Champ attended 8 elementary schools across the county to promote the 5th grade arbor day poster contest. Annie helped to arrange this behind the scenes. **Francis Zumbrun and Annie Stark**
- **February 20, 2024:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek, Darrel Williams Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn (guest), Francis Zumbrun and Adam Miller**
- **March 8, 2024:** Facilitated a Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop at Frostburg State University (FSU). **Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Adam Miller, Julie Conway & Kat Phillips.**
- **March 20, 2024:** March Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Brad Metzger, Adam Miller and Darrell Williams (virtual)**
- **March 20, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**
- **March 25, 2024:** LaVale Civic Association open at the LaVale Library to display historic tree cookie, promote Forestry 101 camp at Evergreen, and to provide info and/or materials for tree planting event. **Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, and Champ Zumbrun**
- **April 1, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Champ Zumbrun, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**
- **April 13, 2024:** LaVale Civic Association tree give-a-way and tree planting event. 44 trees **Brad Metzger**
- **April 15, 2024:** Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery tree planting event. 16 trees. **Adam Miller, Kat Phillips, Julie Conway & Melissa Nash**

- **April 20, 2024:** LaVale Arbor celebration event where tree cookie and a liberty tree were publicly dedicated. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**
- **April 22, 2024:** Cumberland Arbor Day Event. 12 trees were planted. **Adam Miller**
- **April 24, 2024:** Hosted forestry component of Allegany County Envirothon at Rocky Gap. **Bernie Zlomek, Champ Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **April 30, 2024:** Completed a riparian buffer planting of 500 seedlings at Allegany College with approximately 35 high school and college students. **Adam Miller, Marie Miller, Julie Conway, Kat Phillips, and Annie Stark**
- **May 6, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Marie Miller and Adam Miller**
- **May 10, 2024:** Completed a tree planting at the Cumberland Episcopal Church. 33 trees were planted. **Adam Miller, Kat Phillips & Julie Conway**
- **May 14, 2024:** May Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Sarah Llewellyn, Adam Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Annie Stark, Darrell Williams, Steve Resh (virtual) and Champ Zumbrun (virtual)**
- **May 16, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Bedford County, PA at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Marie Miller and Adam Miller**
- **June 10-12, 2024:** Forestry Board Summit Meeting. Handed out Liberty Trees. **(Steve Resh & Darrell Williams)**
- **June 20, 2024:** Summer picnic/meeting at Darrell's house. **(Bernie Zlomek, Annie Stark, Steve Resh, Darrell Williams, Francis Zumbrun, Adam Miller, and Kat Phillips)**
- **June 17-28, 2024:** Forestry 101 Camp at Evergreen Heritage Center. Juls wood was the camp director and Adam attended as a speaker at the camp. **Juls Wood, Adam Miller, Marie Miller**
- **July 14, 2024-** Allegany County Fair Photo Judging. **Sarah Llewellyn, Anne Stark, Adam Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller**
- **July 21-27, 2024-** NRCC. Brad, Steve, and Adam were speakers. Marie was Curriculum director. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Adam Miller, Marie Miller**
- **August 21, 2024-** Meeting and Photo Judging Award presentation. **Marie Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek**
- **September / October 2024 –** Assisted with Outdoor School for 5th graders in Allegany County. **Champ Zumbrun & Sarah Llewellyn.**
- **October 16, 2024 –** October Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office. **Marie Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Adam Miller, and Slater Hafer**
- **October 25, 2024 –** Facilitated a PLT workshop at FSU for 20 FSU and ACM students. Directors' commendation presented by Melissa Nash. **Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Kat Phillips & Adam Miller**
- **November 1st, 2024 –** Liberty Tree seed collection at St. Johns College. **Champ Zumbrun**
- **November 6th, 2024 –** Fall Envirothon training at Evergreen Heritage Center. **Sarah Llewellyn**
- **November 9th, 2024 –** Historical tree cookie presented at the LaVale library and is on display in its final resting place. Brad hand built the display case and informative panel. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**
- **November 15, 2024 –** Liberty Tree seed collection at St. Johns College. **Champ Zumbrun**
- **November 20, 2024 –** November Forestry Board Meeting. **Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller, Sarah Llewellyn, Deb Landau, Champ Zumbrun, Darrell Williams, Juls Wood, and Adam Miller.**