

**Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2025, 9:00 am – 11:00 am**  
**Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Secretary, Adam Miller.

**Members Present:** Bernie Zlomek, Sarah Llewellyn, Brad Metzger, Annie Stark, Darrel Williams, Champ Zumbrun, Steve Resh and Adam Miller

**Members Not in Attendance:** Deborah Landau and Marie Miller

**Special Guests:** Caity Embly (TNC)

**Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2025**

- **Completed** Develop the 2025 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Completed** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Completed** Maintain current membership and welcome new members as appropriate
- **Completed** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Completed** Complete all financial disclosure forms and update Volunteer forms as needed
- **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
- **Completed** Facilitate Liberty Tree Program and implement a Liberty Tree planting at the Allegany County Courthouse to be coordinated with July 4<sup>th</sup> event.
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- **Completed** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Completed** Conduct a county-wide 5<sup>th</sup> grade Arbor Day poster contest
- **Completed** Review and approve urban tree planting grants such as MDOT & MUCFC
- **Completed** Initiate planning to commemorate celebration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a representative big tree and public outreach event for 2026
- **Completed** Support Real World Forestry program at Evergreen Heritage Center

**Note:** Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2025 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:**

Prior meeting minutes were already reviewed online.

**Volunteer Hours (Since last meeting): 55 hours total** (Bernie – 6, Steve - 12, Champ – 21, Darrel – 3, Brad – 9, Sarah – 4)

**Financial Activities**

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. He reported that all accounts were balanced and up to date. Two checks were signed and given out to Champ and Marie for Liberty Tree and Envirothon prize reimbursement. One check was signed to transfer funds to the Project Learning Tree account.

### **Statewide Meeting Update/Review**

Steve and Adam provided a recap of the statewide forestry board meeting and discussed the highlights from the meeting. This included PLT panel discussion as well as a recap of the upcoming changes to the forestry board structure. The board discussed how to offer PLT trainings to other boards and forest service staff within the region.

### **Big Tree Program**

Adam provided an update on the status of measuring big trees that are due to be remeasured. A total of 9 trees have been measured so far, a combination of new nominations and remeasures. John and Joli have offered to assist the board with getting trees measured.

### **Project Learning Tree (PLT)**

There was much discussion about how to include other boards and state employees at our workshops in order to pass on this long-lasting training to future generations. There was also some discussion about offering this workshop to Allegany County high school science teachers. Annie has offered to look into this as a possibility.

### **Liberty Tree**

Champ updated the group that he collected seed from the Liberty Tree at St. Johns College. He said that Davey Tree allowed us to use their bucket truck at no charge. The board voted to send a thank you letter to Davey Tree, specifically John Jastrzemski. He also stated that he heard from the nursery that only around 20 yellow poplar seedlings germinated this year. Interest in the program remains high with our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching. The board is also searching for a tree to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> and has one picked out along old route 40 in La Vale.

### **New Business:**

#### **Forestry Board Changes**

Adam provided a quick update on some of the changes upcoming in 2026. Most of these were also discussed during the statewide meeting recap. He reminded the board that they will still have full control on financial activities. He also reminded them of the structure and how we will need to send the board chair and one other person to a regional meeting quarterly starting in March of 2026.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest 2026**

The board briefly discussed some do's and don'ts for next year's competition. Sarah is willing to do more outreach and assist with poster drop off points. The theme should be given to us in the new year. We will visit this at the next meeting in 2026.

#### **Cumberland Watershed Plan**

Steve provided an update to the board on the implementation of the Cumberland watershed forest stewardship plan. He stated that they had an active timber harvest going on and that the rest of the plan is going status quo.

#### **Board Enrollment**

Juls Wood officially resigned as a forestry board member as he moved to North Carolina. The board thanks him for his service and wishes him well. Marie is still in decision about her role as Board Chair in 2026. Caity Embly was in attendance as a guest. She plans to join the board in 2026 and Deborah Landau plans to resign as she is not able to adequately attend meetings.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Christmas gathering – 12/10/25

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

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

- **January 15, 2025:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **January 13, 2025:** Brad and Champ attended a virtual meeting with MD 250 group to talk about getting Liberty Trees. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**
- **February 2025:** Sarah reached out to 5 schools promoting the arbor day poster contest. **Sarah Llewellyn**
- **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** PLT workshop at FSU for 18 elementary ed major students. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, and Adam Miller**
- **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. Voted on 5<sup>th</sup> grade Arbor Day posters. **Darrel Williams, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Attended statewide forestry board meeting at Greenbriar State Park. **Steve Resh and Adam Miller**
- **March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Abigail Squire at Pleasant Valley. **Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, Champ Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Attended Ag Awareness Day at Washington Middle School for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. **Marie Miller, Adam Miller, and Sarah Llewellyn**
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025:** County Envirothon at Rocky Gap State Park. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Lucas Colledge at Pleasant Valley. **Francis Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, and Adam Miller**
- **June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** presented prize money to Allegany County 5<sup>th</sup> graders who were top 3 in the arbor day poster contest. **Sarah Llewellyn & Adam Miller.**
- **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Luke Arkins at Allegany College. **Steve Resh, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**
- **June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Maryland State Envirothon competition at Garrett County 4H center. **Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek & Adam Miller**
- **June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Liberty Tree Planting at Allegany County Courthouse. **Francis Zumbrun & Brad Metzger**
- **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025:** Attended Brad Metzger's retirement event after 35 years of service with MDE. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Darrell Williams, Steve Resh & Adam Miller**
- **July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Forestry photo judging and July board meeting at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. **Bernie Zlomek, Marie Miller, Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, and Darrell Williams.**
- **August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Forestry Board meeting and presentation of prize checks to the photo contest winners. Big tree measurements field day. **Marie Miller, Darrell Williams, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, Bernie Zlomek, & Colby Whiteside**

- **September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** PLT workshop at Frostburg State University for 18 students. **Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, and Adam Miller**
- **September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Forestry Board meeting at Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office. **Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, Juls Wood, and Adam Miller**
- **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Big Tree Measurements Day with ACM forestry students. **Adam Miller & Colby Whiteside**
- **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Attended Statewide Forestry Board meeting in Rockville, MD. **Steve Resh & Adam Miller**
- **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Fall Envirothon training at Evergreen Heritage Center. **Adam Miller & Colby Whiteside**
- **November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Collected seed from the Liberty Tree at St. Johns College. Seed then sent to the Ayton State tree nursery. **Champ Zumbrun**
- **November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** November Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Sarah Llewellyn, Annie Stark, Darrel Williams, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Adam Miller & Caity Embly**