

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2026**

Present: Judy Niedzielski, Don Grove, Linda Grove, Greg Bartles, Mary Jo Bartles, Doug Inkley, and Aaron Cook. Guests: Susan Simonson (ACWA), Dave Hays, Anna Twigg

**Outreach** – Updates for the display in advance of the Flower and Garden Show: NRCC handouts, Tree Farm Tour at Don & Linda’s property, recruitment flyer. Aaron will print these and bring them for the display. The trees will ship on 3/10, if there is time, Aaron will prepackage them to make the display easier to run. Don & Linda may be able to help, Aaron will ask if there is time to do it.

Discussion about Arbor Day Trees, Aaron mentioned the nursery is behind this year. He will contact the nursery the week before he intends to drive and pick them up to make sure we are on schedule for the packaging event on 3/24 at noon.

**Chair** – At the last meeting Judy announced she is stepping down from Chair, effective 3/31. The board applauded Judy for her very long tenure in this role. Discussion was held on the responsibilities of this position, both locally and on the new Regional Forestry Board. Anna clarified that the Chair would be required to continue filing ethics paperwork. Aaron mentioned the term is for 2 years, and that it would be good to also have a Vice-Chair so the new chair would know they are not taking this on forever. Mary Jo agreed to serve as Chair, a motion was made by Doug, and the Board unanimously approved. Thanks Mary Jo! Aaron asked the board to think about a Vice-Chair, and we will circle back to that at a future meeting. There was discussion about recruitment. Anna mentioned there is a flyer in the new handbook. Susan offered up ACWA’s network to circulate this recruitment information. Anna mentioned a contact in Boonsboro may be interested in serving on the Board. Greg mentioned a soon to be retiring friend that would likely be interested in the Board. Aaron mentioned the recruitment process is ongoing and all are welcome.

**Big Tree** – Doug was able to stand up a subcommittee to review standards for non-native tree listings. He was able to get at least one other to serve on the committee, and he will continue to recruit. He hopes this will even out the process and clear up other items with Big Tree nominations and records. Aaron determined the spicebush he was to measure has died and sent that notice to the Big Tree Committee.

**Other Business** –

- **Arbor Day Poster Contest** – Event ends on 4/1, our next meeting is on 4/1. Unlikely we will have all entries in hand by the meeting. Posters are due in Tawes by 4/11, Anna can take them down. Anna mentioned she thinks 2 schools are participating this year. We will figure out a way to judge and work around the schedule.
- **Tree Farm Tour** – UMD Extension and Tree Farm will be hosting a woods walk at Don & Linda’s Tree Farm on April 28. Aaron will be there representing MFS. Registration is required:  
<https://agmr.umd.edu/events/woods-walk-grove-tree-farm/>
- **120<sup>th</sup> MFS Anniversary** – Greg mentioned the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MD Forest Service and Park Service is April 5<sup>th</sup>. He provided information for a legacy video project, and folks will be visiting his collection.
- **ACWA/ Washington County Forestry Board Collaborative Invasive Species Workshop** – Susan Simonson attended to represent ACWA. The Board voted to

support a combined workshop with ACWA at their January meeting. ACWA will find a venue and advertise the event, has some funding for printing materials and setting up a gift card for participants to use to start controlling invasive plants. The Forestry Board will create an agenda and suggest appropriate speakers, along with sending a list of invasive plants that should be covered. It was agreed that there should be a fee to attend, that fee will be used to support a scholarship for future County NRCC students. A draft agenda will be created, along with a list of invasive plants by the April meeting, and then forwarded to ACWA for their April meeting. The event will be held on a weekend in August.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4 PM. **The next regular business meeting will be on April 1 at 2PM.**