



## The Renewable Resources Extension Act in Pennsylvania

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to The Pennsylvania State University are administered by the College of Agricultural Sciences and the School of Forest Resources. Funds are principally directed to the RREA Strategic Issues of Forest Stewardship and Health, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, and Economic Opportunities for Individuals and Communities. Through long standing partnerships with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, we are able to leverage at least \$5 for every \$1 of RREA support. Examples of RREA funds use in FY 2008 are presented below.

### The Sustainable Forestry Teacher Resource Center (SFTRC)

This web-based resource (<http://sftrc.cas.psu.edu/>) provides a mechanism for public and private school educators to download and share lesson plans. SFTRC provides links to other environmental education resources and offers information about natural resources careers. The web site's broad goal is to increase youth understanding and knowledge about sustainable forestry by expanding teaching of sustainable forestry topics. Improving teacher confidence in forestry subject matter by providing useful resources to assist in their teaching was the first step to accomplish this goal. The site averages 660 visitors daily.

### Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PAFS)

Since 1991, 470 Forest Steward Volunteers have undergone 40 hours of intensive training on natural resource issues so they can reach out to private forest owners and others interested in the responsible stewardship of forests. These volunteers have been instrumental in founding 24 local woodland owner associations, extending across two-thirds of Pennsylvania's counties. In 2007, they reported volunteering nearly 22 FTEs of time and reached nearly 20,000 people with a stewardship message. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry is increasingly identifying the volunteers as a critical resource for meeting their mission and objectives for private forests.

*"I have found a second career through the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards. It has added value and meaning to my life as I reach out to other forest owners and share my excitement about forest stewardship." – PA Forest Steward*



PAFS Learning to teach youth about tree growth

### Pennsylvania Forests Web Seminar Center

Starting with a small grant from the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and RREA support, a monthly online web-based seminar series was launched. In only two months, more than 200 individuals registered to participate in the Center's program. The program is meeting better than anticipated success and speakers have volunteered programs through 2010.

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