

## 2019 Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Chapter, FFLA

The Commonwealth fire tower replacement project has been completed (the first phase). The new towers are modern, safe, and already in service. Thank you to Mark Haughwout and Gary Weber for visiting and photographing/documenting both current and older PA fire towers following the FFLA Northeast Conference this past June. The photographs and article in the FFLA Lookout Network magazine are wonderful! Thank you!

Currently, the Big Pocono tower restoration project at Grey Towers continues. Additionally, the Standing Trail group has adopted both Greenwood and Little Flat towers to be restored with funding from the local DCNR Forest District. Interest has been expressed by the landowner of Big Flat Tower to have it restored (his own project) District Office 1 (Michaux State Forest) is working with landowner on a said agreement/sale. A few of the old towers have been saved (top portions only) by some of the District Offices to re-erect as educational exhibits, to my knowledge these are the towers that were put aside for that purpose: Keffers, Bear Springs, Mauch Chunk.

On a more somber note, Snowy Mountain tower near Fayetteville has been a repeated target to vandals. This was one of the first towers rehabilitated through the efforts of Steve Cummings and is located near the Forest Heritage and Discovery Center of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum in Caledonia State Park. I was fortunate to visit the tower in May 2018 and was able to assess the problems myself. In addition to the vandalism the wooden stairs/landings and top cabin floor appear to be in a very deteriorated condition. The fence was cut open and anyone could easily slip through to climb the tower, hence the ongoing vandalism problems. Tragically, vandalism has been a major problem in our Commonwealth for many, many years. The solution proposed by DCNR Michaux State Forest is to remove the tower and re-erect the upper portion as an educational exhibit either near the District Office or in Caledonia State Park.

Our Facebook group continues to grow, currently we have 158 members. Much new and old historic photographs/information continues to be shared by our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Bubnis

FFLA Pennsylvania Chapter Director