

(left to right) Maureen Socha landowner, Benn Carlson (Assistant District Forester Tioga Forest District) and Tom Socha landowner.

Tom and Maureen Socha owners of Hickory Fields Farm in Farmington Township Tioga County Pennsylvania were recognized today by PA DCNR Tioga Forest District as "Tioga County Forest landowner of the Year 2016".

Tom and Maureen were recognized for their "excellence in forest stewardship". Since 1995 Tom and Maureen have put a lot of hard work and effort into planning the future of their natural resources and conducting projects to enhance their forest resources and enhance wildlife habitat for game and non-game species. Tom and Maureen use their farm as a learning grounds for environmental education.

Since before 1995 Tom and Maureen have been cooperators with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State University Extension Service and the Pa Game Commission. Tom and Maureen have participated as both student and presenter for environmental education training topics and public workshops.

Tom and Maureen are active in the Tioga County Woodland Owners Association, Penn State Extension Board and Boy Scouts of America.

Thanks to Tom and Maureen for your past, present and future stewardship of natural resources and environmental education of our youth in Tioga County Pennsylvania.

Submitted by Steven Hoover Service Forester Tioga Forest District

