



Forest Leaves

Volume 31, Number 2 • Autumn 2021



Walk host Sanford Smith shows a core sample taken from a Norway maple at the Penn State Arboretum's Hartley Wood during a Walk in Penn's Woods on Sunday, October 3. Hundreds took to the forests during this statewide day of woods walks. See story on page 6.

Inside this issue...

Carbon Series Part 6: Storing and Sequestering Carbon: Pennsylvania's Forest Resource	3
Pennsylvania Forestry Association Symposium Moves to Virtual Event.....	4
Some Surprising Aspects of Climate Change on Eastern US Forests.....	4
SFI Launches Urban Forest Initiative	5
Pennsylvania Tree Farm: A Brief Look at Ticks, Lyme, and Other Diseases.....	5
At the Center: A New Strategic Plan to Guide the Center's Future	6
Many Take to Pennsylvania's Forests for the 5 th Annual Walk in Penn's Woods.....	6
Forest Leaves Calendar	7
<i>Woods and Wildlife News and Notes:</i>	
The Latest News from the Forestry and Wildlife Extension Team.....	7
October is Riparian Buffer Month!.....	8

Remembering Jim Finley: A Leader Dedicated to Working at the Intersection of People and Forests

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State is deeply saddened to share the sudden and tragic loss of our co-founder and Council Chair Dr. Jim Finley, Ibberson Chair and Professor Emeritus of Private Forest Management and Human Dimensions and Natural Resources, on October 2, 2021. Jim's decades of work informed our understanding of forests, private forest landowners, and all the people who care for the woods, have served as the foundation for the Center's work since its inception in 2011, and guide its vision for the future.

Jim began his Penn State career, and involvement in forestry, as an undergraduate in 1965. In 1970, he completed his BS in Forest Science and left Penn State to join the USDA Forest Service Northern Area Research Station in Broomall, PA. He did this to gain more practical, what many foresters call their "dirt forestry," experience. While with the Forest Service, he and a colleague were among the first to estimate the population of private forest landowners in the United States, setting him on his path to understanding and engaging woodland owners.

In 1975, Jim completed an MS degree in Forest Resources at Penn State and joined its Cooperative Extension Service as an area Extension educator working out of Dushore, PA. While there, he helped organize and initiate two of what would become a statewide network of woodland owners associations, which educated and connected woodland owners to professionals who could help them fulfill their hopes for their land. In 1981, Jim joined the School of Forest Resources faculty at University Park. There his work focused on advancing research and Extension education programs on sustainable forest resource management, especially on



Dr. Jim Finley

private forests. In 1991, he completed his Ph.D. in Extension Education at Penn State.

From the beginning of his career, Jim strived to find innovative ways to protect forest health and vitality. In 1991, a collaborative partnership established between Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry and faculty from the School of Forest Resources provided a platform for Jim and his colleagues to do so. Focusing on private forest landowners and their land, the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program emerged from this partnership, educating and empowering landowners to share what they'd learned with others and supporting them with a set of foundational educational resources to inform their decision-making. Several signature initiatives emerged from Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Program which continue to this day.

Remembering Jim, continued on page 2



PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences

Forest Leaves is published by the Center for Private Forests and Forestry and Wildlife Extension, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, The Pennsylvania State University, 416 Forest Resources Bldg, University Park, PA 16802 • Phone: (814) 863-0401 • Email: PrivateForests@psu.edu Website: ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/news

Remembering Jim, *continued from page 1*

The network of peer volunteers which was established to help educate and inspire other landowners to undertake stewardship of their land celebrates its 31st anniversary this year. This Pennsylvania Forest Stewards volunteer program, with over 750 members trained, remains a vibrant and knowledgeable resource for landowners and professionals alike, and has become a benchmark program for others around the country. Importantly, the work of this partnership continues, with webinars, myriad publications and newsletters, woods walks, and more. Through all of his efforts, Jim reached hundreds of thousands with his simple but profound message, encouraging all of us to care together for the woods of this state, region, and nation which enrich our lives so much.

Jim also was an outstanding academic scholar, with a broad scope encompassing both forestry practice and the connections between people and the natural world. He contributed significantly to the scholarship of the profession across his career, with foundational writings in partnership with lifelong friends and colleagues. As Jim's career evolved, he dedicated himself to understanding how people engage with, and care for, the natural resources around them. He was also committed to helping landowners, professionals, and communities understand that forests, if managed sustainably, could both thrive and provide a host of benefits to people, wildlife, and broader society.

Much of his work was in the area that has come to be known as the study of human dimensions. Working collaboratively with others at Penn State, and across the region and nation, Jim was an early pioneer in transdisciplinary forest-related research. Such studies brought scholars with diverse backgrounds, as well as interested local community members, to the table to design, implement, and analyze contemporary studies. His commitment to conducting timely, relevant research at the highest standards resulted in numerous highly competitive grants and countless journal articles and reports. Perhaps most importantly, it inspired many young academics in a broad array of disciplines to pursue similar work which reflected how to best integrate local and professional communities. In continuation of this work, Jim co-created and co-chaired Penn State's Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment inter-college graduate degree program.

Jim's knowledge and insights were highly sought after within both academic

and landowner communities. He mentored hundreds of graduate students, undergraduate students, and natural resources professionals through his long tenure at Penn State. He also became a friend to many who began their time with him in the classroom at Penn State, interacted with him through trainings, or found his writings. Moreover, he educated tens of thousands of landowners who viewed him as both a highly knowledgeable resource and a source of inspiration. Walks in the woods with Jim Finley were a highly sought-after experience for anyone interested in forests. Wearing his trademark fedora, Jim could often be found wandering through private woodlots or state forests, followed by groups of landowners or professionals, all of whom had a keen interest in what he had to say. He also gave generously of his time to individual landowners, visiting the woodlots of anyone who asked for his help, offering advice, encouragement, and inspiration. Everyone returning from these walks emerged more knowledgeable about the trees, forests, and ecosystems surrounding them and were inspired by Jim's reverence for the natural world. His distinctive ability to encourage landowners to connect their land with their values gave many the confidence to embark on the path toward stewardship. And, he repeatedly demonstrated an ability to turn his expert advice into the foundation for deep and meaningful friendships.

In 2003, Jim was elected a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, a high honor within the professional organization he joined in 1970 and actively participated in throughout his tenure. Jim was also a Pinchot Institute for Conservation senior research fellow. He co-chaired the US Forest Service's National Roundtable on Sustainable Forestry and served, most recently, on the boards of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Foundation for Sustainable Forestry, the Policy Council for WeConservePA, the education committee for the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Eden Hill Conservancy, and many others. During his tenure at Penn State, he shared his expertise with numerous organizations and groups, including state, regional, and federal agencies, non-profits, and others focused on serving forests and people around the world, often garnering awards and recognitions for his effort—far too numerous to list.



For decades, Jim Finley shared his knowledge and deep understanding of the woods with peer volunteers attending forest stewardship training programs.

In 2011, with colleagues from the newly-created Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and others across the University, Jim established the Center for Private Forests at Penn State. This Center continues his pioneering work on private forestlands and landowners, exploring innovative ways to provide landowners with the inspiration, skills, and advice needed for effective stewardship. Despite officially retiring in 2017, Jim continued to work tirelessly to foster the Center's development and growth. He served as the Center's Council Chair, continued to work on applied research projects, and wrote even more material on what it meant to be a steward of the woods. With what little "free" time he had, Jim could be found in his woodshop—often turning his famous bowls and, not surprisingly, teaching others how to do the same; volunteering at the faith-based Krislund Camp in Madisonburg, PA; and enjoying and teaching about the woods with family and friends.

Born December 6, 1948, in Munhall, Pennsylvania, Jim was the son of the late Samuel A. Finley and Martha Eleanor Wycoff Finley. He is survived by his wife, Linda Jones Finley of Port Matilda, PA, one son, Andrew O. Finley (Sarah R. Laubscher) of Okemos, Michigan, three grandchildren, Ava G., Oliver J., and Callum A., a brother, David A. Finley (Anna Marie Balint) of Coatesville, PA, and a nephew, Nathan Finley also of Coatesville, PA.

Jim touched innumerable lives with his passion and care for the woods. This profound loss will echo through personal and professional relationships and the private, and public, forests of the state, region, nation, and beyond. Please hold his family and friends in your hearts.

Part 6: Storing and Sequestering Carbon: Pennsylvania's Forest Resource

By Jonathan Geyer, Hardwoods Development Council Assistant Director,
and Dave Jackson, Penn State Extension Forest Resources Educator

At the 2020 Pennsylvania Farm Show, the Hardwoods Development Council (HDC) hosted the Pennsylvania Hardwoods exhibit. The exhibit's theme was "Imagine the Opportunities of a Smaller Carbon Footprint." The exhibit was made possible by a collaboration between the HDC and the three Pennsylvania Hardwood Utilization Groups: Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Keystone Wood Products Association, and the Northern Tier Hardwood Association. The exhibit featured educational displays pertaining to how implementing sustainable forestry practices and the use of hardwood products can help reduce one's carbon footprint. Below is the last in a six-part series on the themes displayed.

Let us start by taking a closer look at Pennsylvania's forest resource. Based on the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program, 2019 data, Pennsylvania has more than 16.6 million acres of forestland and is 58% forested. From this data we also know that Pennsylvania has the largest hardwood forest volume of any state. The Commonwealth has historically provided about 10% of the nation's supply of hardwood lumber and leads the US in lumber exports.

In addition, the Commonwealth has 121.6 billion board feet of standing sawtimber volume. It has increased 7% since 2013, with an estimated 7,600 board feet per acre. Despite the increased mortality brought about by pest outbreaks, net growth has remained relatively stable,

between 3.0 and 3.1 billion board feet per year. Timber harvests in Pennsylvania account for the removal of roughly 1-1.3 billion board feet in wood products annually. Considering growth, mortality, and harvesting (removals) Pennsylvania's sawtimber volume is increasing by approximately 2 billion board feet annually!

To put into perspective what 1 billion board feet of wood looks like—1 board foot is a piece of lumber 12 inches wide by 12 inches long and 1 inch thick—1 billion board feet is a stack of lumber 2-½ feet high by 5 feet wide, spanning from Harrisburg to Houston, Texas (Figure 1).

Using FIA data, we can also research the history of Pennsylvania's standing wood volume (Figure 2). This graph illustrates the standing sawtimber volume of Pennsylvania's forests from 1955 through 2019. In just 64 years the Commonwealth wood volume has increased over five times! This is due to a variety of reasons, including sustainable forest management practices, farmland conversion to forest, and our forest rebounding from the previous centuries' land clearing and unsustainable harvesting practices.

What does all this mean for carbon storage and sequestration in Pennsylvania's forests? Forests both store carbon, in carbon pools, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon storage is the amount of carbon retained within the forest. Typically, carbon storage levels increase with forest age and peak in northeastern forests when they are greater than 200 years old.

Carbon sequestration, on the other hand, is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere. Trees do this through photosynthesis. The rate at which forests sequester carbon changes over time. In northeastern forests, carbon sequestration typically peaks when forests are around 30-70 years old. Forest-level sequestration rates generally decline with age, regardless of tree species or soil conditions.

The age of the forest not only influences the rate at which they sequester carbon but also the amount of carbon they store. A forest's maximum rate of carbon sequestration happens when trees range in size from sapling, approximately 4 inches in diameter, through medium sawtimber, trees up to 16 inches in diameter. The maximum amount of carbon storage happens when trees are large sawtimber in size, greater than 18 inches in diameter. A forest composed of both young trees and old trees will have high rates of sequestration from the younger trees while maintaining the storage capacity and sequestration rates of the surviving older trees.

Maximizing carbon storage and sequestration is only part of the global carbon picture. To understand the full role forests play in the carbon cycle, one must consider both the amount of carbon stored in forest products and the amount of carbon saved when wood is used in place of more carbon-intensive materials, such as aluminum, plastic, steel, and concrete. All

Carbon, continued on page 5



Figure 1: Pennsylvania's forest products industry harvests between 1 and 1.3 billion board feet of wood volume annually.

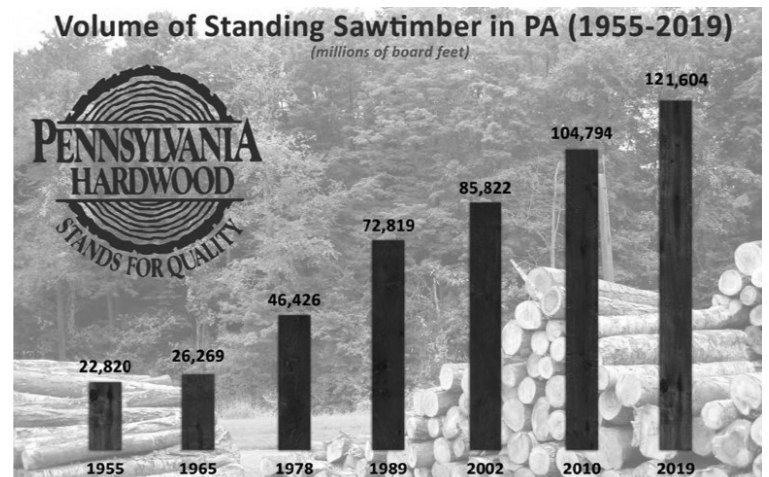


Figure 2: Since 1955, the sawtimber volume in Pennsylvania has increased more than five times, all while harvests continued to remove approximately 1 billion board feet of lumber annually.

Pennsylvania Forestry Association Symposium Moves to Virtual Event

By Mark Ott, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association will hold its Annual Symposium **virtually** on November 2 and 4, 2021, 6–8 p.m. This year's symposium theme is "New Ways to Work with Your Woods." Learn about forestry apps, drones, consulting foresters (they are generally not drones!), Story Maps, and using remote sensing technology during these two information-packed evenings. The annual awards will be presented and PFA election results will be announced. More information will be shared when a schedule and registration information is finalized. Sign up now*

at www.paforestry.org, and join us in November.

Also, mark your calendar for the Annual Conservation Dinner scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022, live and in person. The dinner will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College. As the main fundraiser for PFA, this event gives 350 ticket holders a chance at \$10,000. There are silent and live auctions and lots of great donated items to bid on. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the PFA office at 800-835-8065.

Enjoy the fall weather and colors and be safe.

**For those who registered for the original in-person date, we are glad to offer you a refund of your registration fee. To receive a refund, please contact Caleb Wright at thepfa@paforestry.org to coordinate. The Annual Symposium committee intends to put the non-refunded registration dollars toward future memorial efforts on behalf of Dr. Jim Finley.*

For more information about PFA, visit the website at www.paforestry.org or call 800-835-8065.

Some Surprising Aspects of Climate Change on Eastern US Forests

By Marc D. Abrams, Professor, Penn State University

During my 40-year career as a forest ecologist and tree physiologist, I have seen climate change grow from a fringe idea to the dominant topic of environmental studies. Much of the world has warmed since the 1980s, a trend that started about 1880. This increase of about 1°C or 2°F is attributed to a dramatic increase in greenhouse gases, most notably CO₂, which has increased from 280 parts per million (ppm) in 1880 to about 410 ppm today.

While the benchmark used for current rise in temperature is among the lowest temperatures seen in the last ten thousand years, the increases have not been consistent across the globe. My perception is that the 1°C warming that has occurred for the eastern US has translated to more subtle temperature increases, combined with increasing precipitation. However, some regions have had warming well above the 1°C average, which has been problematic, particularly when coupled with severe drought conditions. For our purposes, let's focus on history and change in eastern forests.

Forest composition in the eastern US has been changing quite dramatically during the last century. The main change has been an increase in shade tolerant and mesophytic (middle moisture) trees, such as red maple (the #1 increaser), followed by black birch, tulip poplar, blackgum, and others. These increases have been to the detriment of oak, hickory, and pine trees. My research has found that one of the main drivers of this change is the suppression of fire, starting with Smokey Bear legislation in the 1930s.

Greenhouse gases and climate change have impacted eastern forests' fall colors

in various ways. While the increase in red maple is bad for the sustainability of oak, hickory, and pine forests, it is one of our brilliant fall leaf color species. In addition, the longer growing season and increased CO₂ are increasing photosynthesis and therefore the leaf pigments that produce the brilliant fall colors. However, the timing of peak colors is now about 5-14 days later than it was about 40 years ago when I first started carefully observing year-to-year variation in fall colors. In New England, peak colors are coming about two weeks later in most years. One potential negative aspect of climate change on fall colors is warm and wet weather extending to mid-October. This type of weather is counter to the normal cooldown, extending the growing season and keeping tree leaves green. This is often bad for colors, with leaves going from green to brown, particularly if there is a sudden frost.

The eastern US has been lucky so far. This is very different from the western US where more dramatic warming and extreme drought, along with fire suppression, have resulted in high fuels, catastrophic fires, and extensive tree mortality over the last several decades. Indeed, the eastern US has seen droughts and large wildfires in the southeast in recent years. Moreover, climate change may be exacerbating the devastating impacts of exotic insects, disease, and invasive plants that are now ubiquitous.

Forests and other plant communities are vitally important in combating climate change. Foresters and landowners can play a vital role in combating climate change through the reforestation of open land and cutover areas, fostering tree pop-

ulations with high genetic diversity, using highly adaptable, generalist tree species, and promoting trees with the ability to migrate, with high seed production, with large ranges and niches, and with greater longevity.

(This article is excerpted from <https://extension.psu.edu/some-surprising-aspects-of-climate-change-on-eastern-us-forests>)

For additional information:

Abrams, M. D. and G. J. Nowacki. 2015. Exploring the Early Anthropocene burning hypothesis and climate-fire anomalies for the eastern U.S. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 34:30–48.

Nowacki, G. J. and M. D. Abrams. 2015. Is climate an important driver of post European vegetation change in the eastern U.S.? *Global Change Biology* 21: 314–334 doi 10.1111/gcb.12663.



Warm wet weather extending into the fall will keep trees greener longer.

SFI Launches Urban Forest Initiative

By Chuck Coup, PA SFI Implementation Committee Program Manager

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) recently announced the launch of a partnership to develop a new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard for application in North America and potentially globally. SFI will collaborate with five urban forestry leaders: American Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of Municipal Arborists, and Tree Canada.

“The SFI network is looking forward to collaborating with our urban forestry partners to promote the establishment of

sustainable urban and community forests that meet local needs, while meaningfully contributing to national, bi-national, and global initiatives such as the 2 Billion Tree initiative in Canada,” says Kathy Abusow, SFI President and CEO. “Together, with these leaders, I’m confident SFI will positively contribute to urban forestry initiatives across North America and globally.”

SFI’s commitment to developing an urban and community forestry standard goes beyond the launch of this new partnership; it is also embodied in the decision to create a new staff position,

Director of Urban and Community Forestry. Paul Johnson assumed this new role on March 15. Johnson brings over 20 years of urban and community forestry experience and deep connections to an international network of partners to his new role.

The new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard is expected to be finalized and launched in May 2022.

For more information about the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, visit the website at www.sfiopa.org or call 888-734-9366.

Pennsylvania Tree Farm: A Brief Look at Ticks, Lyme, and Other Diseases

By John Hoover, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

Ticks and Lyme disease are not a new subject for forestland owners and people who frequently venture out in Pennsylvania. As a former resident of Connecticut, I became aware of this tick-borne disease shortly after it was first reported in 1975 in Old Lyme, CT. Much work has been done to learn more about Lyme disease. A recent study completed in Pike County in northeastern Pennsylvania is useful because of its comprehensive detail and summary done by the Pike County Tick Taskforce. I am writing about what is new to me to help others better understand some of the recent findings regarding ticks in Pennsylvania. Obviously, the best thing is avoid being bitten—but if it happens, you should act.

The taskforce collected over 1000 blacklegged (or deer) ticks from May through July (spring) and October through November (fall) in 2018 and 2019 using corduroy drag cloths pulled along the

ground for several meters before being examined for ticks. In total, 55% of the ticks tested positive for disease. When examined, seven different tick-borne diseases were identified, with Lyme disease being most prevalent at 45%, followed by smaller percentages of Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Bordetellosis, Mycoplasmosis, B. miyamotoi, and DTV (Deer Tick Virus or Powassan). Co-infections, where a tick carries more than one disease, were found in 21% of the infected ticks tested. Although rare, ticks carrying multiple infections were found, but none of the ticks carried six or more infections. This is important because the treatments required for each infection can be different. The important point here is if you are bitten by a tick, you have a small chance of contracting more than one tick-borne disease. All of these diseases have different transmission times, varying from as

little as 15 minutes for Powassan virus to hours or days for others.

I found one website, the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania, <https://www.ticklab.org>, to be particularly useful. They will test submitted tick samples and provide you with the test results so you can then decide if you need to pursue treatment. They list the cost of their basic panel of tests as free (for Pennsylvania residents only).

I found Penn State’s website helpful, as well as the Pike County website where the report originated.

Penn State tick-borne diseases: <https://extension.psu.edu/common-ticks-and-tick-borne-diseases-in-pennsylvania>

Pike County Tick Taskforce: <https://www.pikepa.org/tick>

For more information about the PA Tree Farm program, visit our webpage at www.paforestry.org/treefarm.

Carbon, continued from page 3

carbon removed from the forest during a timber harvest is not immediately returned to the atmosphere. Approximately one-third of the forest products harvested in northeastern US are made into products with long life spans, such as furniture, flooring, and cabinets.

If we decide to continue using wood because it is the most environmentally friendly choice, but do not use wood harvested in Pennsylvania, then it must be imported from somewhere. If it comes from outside the state, it takes energy and

carbon emissions to bring those wood products to our region. Using locally sourced wood not only increases the overall carbon sequestered, but also adds to the local economy.

It is important to understand the whole forest carbon story. This necessitates looking beyond the local level to both the regional and global scale and includes considering the role forest products play. The land-use decisions of Pennsylvania’s landowners will have a profound impact on our forests’ ability to sequester and

store carbon and, therefore, the role they play in mitigating climate change. The greatest impact forest owners can have on carbon is to ensure their land remains a forest, i.e., keep forests as forests.

Reference:

Forest Carbon: An Essential Natural Solution for Climate Change, Paul Catanzaro, University of Massachusetts and Anthony D’Amato, University of Vermont; https://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.org/files/Forest-Carbon-web_1.pdf

At the Center: A New Strategic Plan to Guide the Center's Future

By Allyson Muth, Center for Private Forests Director



- THE CENTER FOR - PRIVATE FORESTS

Center for Private Forests Mission:

Working at the intersection of people and forests, the Center advances research-based insights to inspire and cultivate stewardship of private forests.

Six Key Aims:

Create Scholarship—Develop and share basic and applied research and experience to expand understanding of private forest landowners, their land, and the professionals who advise them.

Inspire Stewardship—Inspire and cultivate a growing community of private forest landowners adopting stewardship values and practices on their land.

Strengthen Connections—Foster a shared vision and understanding of stewardship among private forest landowners, professionals, and academic faculty necessary for effective collaboration on private forest stewardship.

Expand the Stewardship Community—Broaden the range of stewardship

professionals and organizations advising private forest landowners on the stewardship of their land.

Inform Policy—Convey knowledge and insights to aid development and implementation of policies and practices that impact private forest landowners and their land.

Build infrastructure—Build the Center organization, partnering, and financial capacity to impact forest health and vitality.

The Center's 2022-2026 strategic plan provides an important framework for advancing our work in support of forest stewardship. Using the six key aims, the Center Council will adopt an annual plan of work to guide and focus our efforts. If you wish to learn more about the strategic plan, please visit the Center's website at <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests> and click on "Strategic Plan and Reports" on the right-hand navigation panel.

The Center looks forward to collaborating within Penn State and with other partners to advance understanding of private forest landowners and stewardship of private forests. And as always, we thank you for your interest and support of the work, and we welcome any questions or comments.

Ten years ago this December, the provost of the Pennsylvania State University signed the Center for Private Forest at Penn State into being. In the last decade, the Center has hosted four successful forest landowners conferences, expanded understanding about private forest landowners and their lands through applied research projects, trained several graduate students, interned undergraduate students, supported forest stewardship peer learning networks, and continued to advance knowledge and engagement at the intersection of people and forests.

In the last year, a subcommittee of the Center for Private Forests Council has worked to create a strategic plan to enhance our strengths, better define our work, and lay the course for the next five years. In July 2021, the Center Council, comprised of landowners and natural resources professionals, approved the plan and is pleased to share the revised vision and mission statements and the strategic aims for the Center's work in the next half-decade.

Center for Private Forests Vision:

A world where stewardship practices sustain healthy and resilient private forests which contribute to the social, ecological, and economic well-being of society.

Many Take to Pennsylvania's Forests for the 5th Annual Walk in Penn's Woods

Across the state of Pennsylvania, hundreds of people welcomed the changing leaves and cooling air by taking a Walk in Penn's Woods on the first weekend in October! Sunday, October 3 marked the official 5th installment of Walk in Penn's Woods, and hosted walks welcomed folks of all ages to learn, enjoy, and get engaged with forests and natural resources. Some walks involved bird watching, some taught about tree identification, others pointed to artistic representations of our forests, and some were about getting communities and friends together to enjoy time with one another. People also took to the woods in their own way, hiking trails and traversing their own land, and reported about their woodland adventure to receive stickers and Penn's

Pennsylvanians walked, biked, and rolled in wheelchairs and strollers as they learned about our natural resources at hosted walks across the state on Sunday, October 3.

Woods learning resources. We are excited about the stories and adventures Walk in Penn's Woods has created over the last five years and we look forward to a future of many more. Thank you to all of our hosts, partners, and sponsors who make this special event happen each year. Mark your calendars for next year and plan to take a Walk in Penn's Woods on Sunday, October 2, 2022!





Forest Leaves Calendar



Check out the Center for Private Forests website at ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests and follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/privateforests for the latest list of events submitted from organizations around the state.

PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER

ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/outreach/pa-forests-web-seminar-center

The Pennsylvania Forest Online Web Seminar series is held September through June on the second Tuesday of

each month. Webinar topics are geared toward private forest landowners as well as the general public. Webinars are free; registration is required.

You can also view previously-recorded webinars at the website above.

Upcoming webinar topics:

November 9, 2021: Timber Sales: A Guide to Selling Timber

December 14, 2021: A Review of the Forest Carbon Market Assessment and Planning Tool

January 11, 2022: Pests and Diseases of Conifers in Pennsylvania

Woods and Wildlife News and Notes: The Latest News from the Forestry and Wildlife Extension Team

Penn State Extension's team of Forestry and Wildlife experts publishes an e-newsletter, *Woods and Wildlife News and Notes*, containing the most recent information, events, demonstrations, partnerships, and activities coming from the team. *Forest Leaves* shares the titles and thumbnails of these articles with you each quarter.

If you're interested in checking out any of these articles, it's easy! Just visit <https://extension.psu.edu> and type the article title in the search bar.

Announcing New Invasive Plant Identification Video Series

To assist practitioners and landowners in combating invasive plants in woodlands, Penn State Extension has released a new set of instructional videos to help with identification and control.

Timber Harvesting Essentials

Three key things people should know about timber harvesting are managing competing and invasive plants, decreasing deer impacts, and getting light to the forest floor.

Pennsylvania Forest Online Seminar Series Set to Begin in September

The Pennsylvania Forest Online Web Seminar series started its 14th year on September 14, 2021. This webinar series is held once a month, September through June, on the second Tuesday of each month.

Pennsylvania Timber Market Report—2nd Quarter, 2021

A quarterly report of timber stumpage prices as reported by Pennsylvania

timber and logging companies, forestry consultants, and state land management agencies to analysts at the Pennsylvania State University.

Using iMapInvasives to Help Control Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an invasive insect that is killing eastern hemlocks across Pennsylvania. People interested in helping control HWA can use iMapInvasives to assist in identifying infestations.

What is Selling Forest Carbon Like? Three Landowners' Experiences

This article describes the experiences that three Pennsylvania forest landowners had selling carbon.

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease caused by prions that affects all members of the Cervidae (deer) family. At this time, it is unknown if humans can be infected with CWD.

Requesting this newsletter's delivery to your personal inbox involves the same opt-in process you may have already used to communicate your areas of interest among the full suite of Penn State Extension offerings. To make sure you are on the distribution list, visit the Penn State Extension website to manage your email preferences (<https://extension.psu.edu/extevents/newsletter>), and select any of the "Forest and Wildlife" topic areas of interest.

FOREST LEAVES Autumn 2021

Editors:

Allyson Brownlee Muth
Barb Sellers

Copyrighted art is used with the permission of the illustrator/photographer. Individuals or organizations other than the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences may not reproduce said art without the consent of the artist.

Calendar contributions and news items are welcome. Submissions for the next hardcopy issue of *Forest Leaves* are due:

December 1, 2021

Forest Leaves Publication Partners include:

- **The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program** is administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry in conjunction with the Center for Private Forests and Penn State Forestry and Wildlife Extension.
- **PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry** www.dcnr.pa.gov/about/Pages/Forestry.aspx
- **The PA Tree Farm® Program** www.paforestry.org/treefarm
- **The PA Forestry Association** www.paforestry.org
- **The PA SFI Implementation Committee** www.sfiopa.org
- **Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences** research and cooperative extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the US Department of Agriculture.
- **The Center for Private Forests at Penn State** ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests
- **Penn State Extension** extension.psu.edu

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact us in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: ao@psu.edu, Tel 814-863-0471.

Forest Leaves

c/o The Center for Private Forests at Penn State
Department of Ecosystem Sciences and Management
The Pennsylvania State University
416 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 1

Autumn 2021

This publication brought to you by:



We welcome your letters, ideas,
and contributions! Send them to
the address shown above.

NEXT DEADLINE:
December 1, 2021

October is Riparian Buffer Month!

Riparian buffers, or stream-side forests, are one of the best ways to protect and improve our local streams. They prevent erosion, reduce flooding, provide habitat for wildlife in and near the water, create recreational opportunities, and filter pollutants. They deserve to be celebrated!

Penn State Extension is joining the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, who declared October as Riparian Buffer Month, as an opportunity to build awareness and familiarity of forested riparian buffers while sharing the applicability of these sustainable practices in a variety of settings. Everyone is encouraged to take part in some way and participate in this month-long, focused effort to spread the word about the importance of trees planted along streams.



Riparian buffers protect and improve the quality of creeks, streams, and rivers by preventing erosion, reducing flooding, providing wildlife habitat, creating recreational opportunities, and filtering pollutants.

What you can do:

- Look for #BufferBanter and #RiparianBufferMonth posts from your favorite conservation organizations on social media. Like, Share, Comment, etc. Visit the Riparian Buffer Month website at www.chesapeakelandscape.org/riparian-buffer-month.
- Donate to organizations that are planting and maintaining riparian buffers in your area like your local watershed association
- Attend a buffer focused volunteer planting, maintenance day, or educational event
- If you have a stream, think about planting or improving the buffer on your property.

Check out some great resources from Penn State on riparian buffers and learn all you can at <https://extension.psu.edu/october-is-riparian-buffer-month>. Share what you learn with family and friends!