



# Forest Leaves

Volume 31, Number 1 • Summer 2021



Join a walk near you on Sunday, October 3 as we celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Walk in Penn's Woods. See story on page 2.

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## Preparing for High Gypsy Moth Densities

By Sarah Wurzbacher, Forestry Extension Educator, Penn State Extension

*Periodic gypsy moth outbreaks cause defoliation stress to many tree species. Landowners should know what to expect and what management options to consider when an outbreak occurs. Here are excerpts from an article on the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/preparing-for-high-gypsy-moth-densities>.*

After accidental introduction to New England in the late 1800s, gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) has become a significant insect pest affecting trees and shrubs. Here in Pennsylvania, gypsy moth populations persist at a variety of densities but periodically erupt every 5-10 years. An episode of relatively high population density is occurring in 2021.

### About the Insect

Fuzzy, felt-like, tan egg masses laid by females during the prior adult mating season contain hundreds of eggs per mass and are often found attached to tree trunks, in sheltered branch locations, and on many other outdoor structures. Larvae hatch from early April to late May, usually climbing the same tree where their egg mass is located to feed or blowing on silk strands to neighboring stands of trees. Caterpillars feed on foliage and molt several times as they mature. Mature caterpillars are distinctive in appearance, with five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of red spots running down the body. In late June or early July, caterpillars pupate, emerging as winged adults a few weeks later.

Depending on where you are in Pennsylvania, you may confuse gypsy moth with a few other insects. Read the complete article at the link above to learn identifying information about other insects that may be mistaken for gypsy moth.

### Plant Hosts and Damage

It is during the seven-week larval life stage in spring and early summer when gypsy moth caterpillars feed on the foliage of plant hosts. If you live in the Northeast, you likely associate gypsy moth with damage to oak trees. Certainly, oaks are a plentiful and preferred host in this region, suffering significant impacts when gypsy moth populations are high. However, larvae feed on a wide range of tree hosts. Other preferred hosts include apple, alder, basswood, hawthorn, poplars, and willows. Less preferred hosts include elm, black gum, black cherry, hickories, maples, and sassafras. When larval populations are high, feeding is also observed on beech, hemlock, white cedar, pines, and spruce. Rarely are gypsy moth larvae observed feeding on ash, balsam fir, butternut, black walnut, catalpa, red cedar, dogwood, holly, locust, sycamore, or tulip poplar.

Defoliation due to caterpillar feeding occurs in spring and early summer, tapering off in July. This defoliation stress is the primary damage mechanism associated with gypsy moth pressure. Risk of tree death as a result of this feeding pressure depends on how severely a tree is defoliated and what other stressors have previously or will subsequently affect the tree within a few years of the defoliation event.

**Gypsy Moth, continued on page 2**



**PennState**  
College of Agricultural Sciences

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## Plans Underway for 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk in Penn's Woods

Across the state, Pennsylvanians of all ages are invited to get out and join a walk in the woods during the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Walk in Penn's Woods on Sunday, October 3.

Pennsylvania's woods bring us a wide array of benefits—some values we see clearly; others are a little more hidden. The trees and ground cover provide nutrients for the soil, food and homes for wildlife, clean air and water, wood products that we use in our daily lives, and peace and tranquility for us to enjoy. Walk in Penn's Woods raises awareness about the importance of forests to our lives and the effort that goes into caring for them.

Since 2017, the first Sunday in October has been set aside for the public to join hosted walks to learn more about Penn's Woods and gain easy access to expert forestry, wildlife, and natural resources professionals. While guided walks weren't able to happen last year, public parks around the state had an abundance of visitors as we threw open the entire month of October to celebrate Walk in Penn's Woods. But for 2021, guided walks are back! Some walks will have children's activities; others will highlight managed wildlife habitat or watersheds; you may see the results of harvesting activities or

plantings of native trees and shrubs; still others may demonstrate the effects of urban tree cover or riparian buffers. Walk in Penn's Woods also features a growing number of sites that are wheelchair and stroller accessible. For individual walk locations, times, descriptions, and more, go to [www.walkinpennswoods.org](http://www.walkinpennswoods.org). The website is regularly updated as new walks are added, so keep checking through late summer and into September!

### Hosting a Walk

Interested in hosting a walk? Find information at [www.walkinpennswoods.org](http://www.walkinpennswoods.org) on how to register your walk. Consider partnering in your community with woodland owners associations, environmental education centers, state- or municipal-owned land, or other landowners to make a walk happen. And if you have potential locations that will allow for greater accessibility, consider partnering to add some "roll." We want to get multitudes of people out to learn about and love the woods.

### Walk in Penn's Woods Partners

The 2021 Walk in Penn's Woods partnership includes the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, Penn State Forestry



and Wildlife Extension, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Forest Stewards, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters, the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. These partners invite you to participate by volunteering at a venue, being a mentor, demonstrating a skill, showcasing your stewardship, contributing, and sharing posts on social media to help get the word out! And don't forget to put Sunday, October 3 on your calendar and join a Walk in Penn's Woods near you!

Find out more about Walk in Penn's Woods at:

- Website: [www.walkinpennswoods.org](http://www.walkinpennswoods.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/walkinpennswoods](https://www.facebook.com/walkinpennswoods)

### Gypsy Moth, continued from page 1

#### Management – Woodlots and Larger Forested Areas

*Effective gypsy moth control predominantly targets caterpillars (the larval life stage), not flying moths. Depending on the setting and scale, a variety of options exist.*

#### Option: Insecticides

The most effective active interventions for gypsy moth at a large scale and in closed forest canopies involve aerial spray applications of chemical and biological insecticides in high-risk areas. In Pennsylvania, the DCNR Division of Forest Health launched a significant suppression program in May involving over 200,000 acres in 19 counties, predominantly on public land. While it is too late for aerial spraying in 2021, it may be beneficial to monitor damage, populations, and egg masses, and form a plan for next year if necessary.

#### Option: No Intervention, Monitor Natural Controls, Plan Ahead

Two notable controls exist in the landscape and act as a significant source

of gypsy moth mortality. Nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) kills caterpillars over a short period of time, causing them to liquefy and disintegrate rapidly. Caterpillars killed by NPV typically hang limply from a tree in an upside down V-shape. Control from NPV particularly occurs when gypsy moth densities are high and insects are stressed by high competition. The fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* is another key pathogen that kills gypsy moth even when gypsy moth populations are low, but only if weather conditions are favorable. A cool, wet spring aids the establishment of the fungus.

#### Management – Homeowners

*Homeowners have a few more options to take action at a smaller scale in which more intensive interventions may be more feasible. It is often a good idea to combine multiple approaches in one season to be more successful. In most cases the practical homeowner mitigation goal is not to achieve complete control but rather to keep defoliation events below 50% loss of foliage.*

#### Option: Chemical or Biological Insecticides

A number of insecticides are registered and labeled for use in controlling gypsy moth, but not all are available "over-the-counter" to homeowners. As with any pesticide application, if you are considering this approach, you should read all labels carefully. Look at active ingredients, understand the mode of operation of the active agent (systemic vs. foliar spray, etc.), consider any potential off-target effects, and weigh all pros and cons of any application to make an informed decision about what is best for your property. Properly applied insecticides can be very effective in limiting defoliation damage during heavy infestations, but understand that you will not achieve complete control or shorten the infestation period. As stated above, insecticides are most effective during the prime caterpillar feeding period and before major defoliation occurs; the window of time to act this year will have closed by the time you read this.

Gypsy Moth, continued on page 4



## Part 5: Foresters, Loggers, and Trees

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 seven educational displays, all pertaining to how implementing sustainable forestry practices and the use of hardwood products can help reduce one's carbon footprint. Below is the fifth in a six-part series on the themes that were displayed.

The forest products industry begins in the forest with foresters and loggers. Foresters help forest landowners implement practices that lead to healthy, well-managed, sustainable forests. It is the loggers' job to harvest the trees the foresters indicated should be cut. Loggers are an essential link in helping to enhance the health of our forests, improve wildlife habitat, and provide the industry with raw material.

Pennsylvania's professional timber harvesting workforce serves an essential role in ensuring the sustainability of our state's forest resources. Each day they operate as the boots on the ground, carrying out critical management activities that supply our forest products industries with the raw material necessary to produce wood products. There is no other link in the wood fiber supply chain that has as much of a direct impact on the management of our state's forests. As such, timber harvesters in Pennsylvania are vital stewards of our forestlands.

The Commonwealth's forest products industry has a \$21.6 billion direct eco-



Photo by Dave Jackson

Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation named for its forests. In Latin, Pennsylvania translates to "Penn's Woods." Roughly 740,000 people own nearly 70% of the state's forests.

nomic impact to the state's economy. The industry has over 2,100 companies that employ more than 66,000 Pennsylvanians. Of those, just under 3,000 are foresters and loggers. The industry depends on foresters and loggers to provide the wood resource that keeps the industry working.

To help landowners make wise and informed decisions on how to manage their forests, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry has service foresters assigned to each county. Contact information for county service foresters can be found at <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/ManagingYourWoods/Pages/default.aspx>. Besides service foresters, there are also private consult-

ing foresters who work across the state. The Bureau of Forestry maintains a list of consulting foresters that can be found by going to the PA DCNR's Managing Your Woods page at the previous link and clicking on **Consulting Foresters List** under **Additional Information** at the right side of the page. Penn State Extension and the Center for Private Forests are also great resources for landowners; they provide various publications, trainings, webinars, and workshops on forest management. Find them at <https://extension.psu.edu/forests-and-wildlife/forest-management> and <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests>. With the proper instruction, tools, and technical assistance, landowners can manage their land in ways that enhance the production of wood, wildlife, water, and recreation.



Photo by Dave Jackson

Since harvested wood can store carbon for hundreds of years in products from furniture to flooring, logging, when done properly, enhances the health of our environment.

## The Age of Wood: A Most Fascinating Read

By Paul Shogren, Penn State Forestry, Class of 1951

This may be a redundant message about a most fascinating book about wood, but since repetition is a form of education, I will proceed.

I am referring to *The Age of Wood: Our Most Useful Material and the Construction of Civilization* (2020), by Roland Ennos. The book is part of a trilogy, which includes *Trees* and *Plant Life* which I have not read.

To give you an idea of the length and depth of the book, here are some chapter titles:

- Our Arboreal Inheritance
- Supporting Our Pretensions
- Losing Our Hair
- Replacing Firewood and Charcoal
- Tooling Up
- Melting and Smelting

- Supplying Life's Luxuries
- Wood in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Modern World
- Mending Our Strained Relationships

The book explains how, from ships to furniture and much more, the use of wood changed civilization, covering urban forestry, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> impact, the calming effects of both wood and woods, and some remedial solutions for some of our "wooden" mistakes. You just have to read this book.

I close with a special message from *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess:

"UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."



Photo by Jon Geyer

When foresters manage forests in a healthy, sustainable way, they sequester carbon, thus reducing air pollution.

# Pennsylvania Forestry Association Activities and Upcoming Events

By Mark Ott, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) has been busy with continued planning for the Annual Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 9 at the Toftrees Golf Resort in State College. The Nominating Committee has been busy working up a list of candidates for Board and officer positions. Election results will be announced at the Symposium. Tree Farm is busy updating the Tree Farm Manual which guides the activities of the committee that oversees the Tree Farm program in Pennsylvania. They are also looking at strategic

planning to guide them through the next five years. PFA itself will be doing the same soon. The Forest Heritage Committee has re-opened the Discovery Center in Caledonia with a person who will be staffing the venue this summer. Hours of operation will be available on the PFA website soon. The third video in the series being produced to highlight the various displays in the Discovery Center has been posted to YouTube, this one on the Civilian Conservation Corps. The video production team from the Ned Smith Center for Nature and

Art has been a great asset as these videos are made and posted. Be sure to look for and enjoy them. Other dates to keep in mind are the Log a Load Clay Shoot being held Friday, October 1 and the Annual Conservation Dinner scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022, hopefully live and in person. Save the dates!

For more information about PFA, visit the website at [www.paforestry.org](http://www.paforestry.org) or call 800-835-8065.

## Gypsy Moth, continued from page 2

### Option: Tree Banding During Larval Stage

On a small scale (a few trees in a backyard, for example), some homeowners may wish to employ trap/burlap banding or sticky banding to capture caterpillars as they crawl daily up and down the stem. Trap or burlap banding involves a large width of burlap (about 18 inches) encircling the tree at about chest height. Tie the center of the burlap band tightly to the tree and allow the upper portion of the band to hang over the tie. The upper fold provides a shelter where caterpillars rest and where you can physically remove and destroy these caterpillars by smashing them or scraping them into soapy water. Burlap banding requires frequent checking (every few days), and burlap bands should be removed after July. Sticky banding similarly traps caterpillars on an adhesive material wrapped around the stem of a tree; make sure the adhesive won't harm birds, squirrels, etc. Some people experience skin irritation when handling gypsy moths; be careful and wear gloves when managing bands. Banding techniques have some limitations. Persistence is necessary to make an impact, with repeated attention through early July or when male gypsy moths begin to fly.

### Option: Target Egg Masses

After gypsy moth females lay egg masses, a longer window of time (mid-October through April) is available for homeowners to target this life stage. Egg masses can be destroyed through mechanical scraping, being careful not to damage the tree beneath. Scraped egg masses should be soaked in soapy water for a few days before disposing of them. Simply smashing egg masses will not effectively render the eggs nonviable, and any parts of the egg mass left on the tree after scraping



Photo by Jim Altemus

*Gypsy moth densities are high in many places in the Commonwealth this year.*

may still contain viable eggs (one egg mass can contain hundreds of eggs).

A horticultural oil that is labeled for gypsy moth egg masses, often available at lawn and garden centers, also works to reduce hatch rates the following season. Always follow label instructions.

There are obvious access limitations to strategies targeting egg masses; many egg masses are out of reach for scraping and horticultural oil applications. However, in a backyard setting and in conjunction with other interventions like banding, these more intensive strategies can certainly be effective in mitigating damage.

### Management – Strategies to Skip

Attractant pheromones are used mainly in monitoring efforts, not control strategies. Mating disruption techniques using sex attractant pheromones are not often employed by homeowners and managers, and where they are, they tend to be effective only when gypsy moth populations are very low. Penn State Extension cautions strongly against home remedies for pest control (including using household items such as dish soap, vinegar, salt, boric acid, chili peppers, etc.). Many of these suggestions are untested, have the potential to harm humans, pets,

and plants, do not come with precise directions, may not be effective, and their use in off-label activities can sometimes violate federal law. Approved pesticides and other control products have specific labels designating safe use conditions. Labels must always be followed.

### Aftermath Monitoring – Secondary Stressors, Staying Calm

Trees that are already under stress are more susceptible to other, additional damaging agents. As a single issue, full recovery, even from a complete defoliation, is likely to occur with time. However, survival becomes more uncertain when multiple, successive years of defoliation occur, when defoliation occurs amid other stressors (recent drought, another insect pest in the same year, etc.), or when the effects of existing stressors ramp up in response to the primary stress from defoliation.

Heavy defoliations are visually dramatic. It is understandable for forest landowners to feel a rise of panic in this situation as they wonder whether their trees will recover. Try to remain patient and calm. Watch your trees and see how they recover. Trees may put on new leaves later in the season or show signs of life next spring.

Be careful about timber buyers who offer to "salvage" defoliated trees. If warranted at all based on your goals and the forest's condition, any potential salvage harvest (like any other harvest activity) should be carefully considered with the advice of a consulting forester who understands the ecology of your forest, helps you weigh pros and cons, places a harvest activity in the larger context of the goals you have for your land and the health of your forest, prescribes a sustainable cutting practice, and guides a competitive bid and contract process.



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## Ellen Shultzabarger Elected to SFI Board of Directors

By Chuck Coup, PA SFI Implementation Committee Program Manager

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) recently announced the election of Ellen Shultzabarger, Pennsylvania State Forester and Director of the Bureau of Forestry, to the SFI Board of Directors.

“While working closely with SFI over the years, I have enjoyed seeing and being part of the great progress they have made in sustainable forestry, conservation, and education. I am excited to provide a forestry agency perspective to the board and look forward to being part of SFI’s strategic direction,” Shultzabarger said.

SFI Inc. is governed by the 18-member SFI board, which sets SFI’s strategic direction and is responsible for overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program and SFI Standards. The board’s three chambers represent

environmental, social, and economic sectors equally. SFI board members include executive-level representatives of conservation organizations, academic institutions, aboriginal/tribal entities, family forest owners, public officials, labor, and the forest products industry. This diversity reflects the variety of interests in the forestry community. Shultzabarger will serve a three-year term.

Pennsylvania state forests are certified by Scientific Certification Systems under the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards.

For more information about the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, visit the website at [www.sfiopa.org](http://www.sfiopa.org) or call 888-734-9366.



*Ellen Shultzabarger, Director,  
PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry*

## Pennsylvania Tree Farm: The Importance of Vernal Pools in the Forest Ecosystem

By John Hoover, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

It is well known how important vernal pools are to salamanders, frogs, and other aquatic invertebrates in forested settings. It is truly surprising how quickly recently-constructed shallow pools are inhabited by numerous small aquatic creatures and underwater insects such as water scorpions and water boatmen. The two clusters of seven vernal pools about a half-mile apart on the Bald Eagle Mountain were constructed in 2016 and 2017. Previously, there never were any nearby wet areas other than temporary spring seeps that quickly dried up after rains. The 7-degree slope of the mountain where the pools were constructed had previously been a dry slope not capable of retaining water. The only water came from a combination of rain and snowmelt. So, it surprised me to see the abundance of spring peepers, tree frogs, and various species of salamanders migrate from other equally dry parts of the mountain to inhabit these pools. It also was equally surprising to see how each pool was selectively colonized by different species. The spring peepers selected their own pool and don’t seem to be present in others. All of this life was below the surface of the water at some point in their lifespan, which of course was the purpose of constructing them. However, there was more to come.

Last year was a dry year in Central Pennsylvania. It became noticeable from the tracks in the muddy perimeters of the pools that other wildlife was visiting the vernal pools for access to a water source. The pools were built as shallow basins in clay soils present in this area. Since they were constructed, they have not completely dried up, even though there is no supply of water to them other than periodic rainfall. So, ducks frequently visiting some of the pools is not surprising. Numerous dragonflies and damselflies patrol the surfaces of the pools and effectively control the mosquito populations. But much larger animals also visit the pools. The game cameras have photographed deer, raccoons, mink, fishers, bear, and a variety of forest birds. Some photographs show as many as a dozen deer at one time. Recently a Red-tailed Hawk also visited.

These shallow water sources are used by many types of wildlife, and their presence enhances the habitat to aid in supporting their abundance on the Tree Farm, which is one of the forest management objectives. Last month a wildlife biologist familiar with the property and its recent forest habitat history, placed autonomous monitoring units (called AMUs) on the property to attempt record-

ing the Eastern Whip-poor-will. While on the property, in two hours he identified 45 different woodland birds attracted by the early successional habitat areas.

If you are interested in seeing more on these vernal pools, a recent set of videos about the Tree Farm were recorded by ClearWater Conservancy last fall. The fourth video on the list covers the shallow water vernal pools. This video and six more on additional forest management subjects on the Tree Farm that may also be of interest can be found at: [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/forest-tour](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/forest-tour).

For more information about the PA Tree Farm program, visit our webpage at [www.paforestry.org/treefarm](http://www.paforestry.org/treefarm).



Photo by John Hoover

*This buck was captured on camera visiting a vernal pool on the Tree Farm.*

# At the Center: Research at the Intersection of People and Forests

By Allyson Muth, Center for Private Forests Director

One of the hallmarks of the Center for Private Forests' work involves conducting applied research at the intersection of people and forests. This research guides the creation of resources to assist woodland owners, informs partners in their outreach efforts, and determines where to focus future efforts toward attaining a healthy and productive forested landscape.

In this quarter, Master's student Abby Jamison successfully completed and defended her work to better understand the relationship between "novice" landowners and those who advise them. She learned that landowners value the creation of trusting, respectful, and reciprocal relationships with professionals—knowing they have someone to turn to and who can help increase their understanding to care well for their woods. This work raises important opportunities for engaging young and practicing foresters and to create profession-wide cohesive messaging and practice focused on long-term forest care and health.



*In her research, Abby Jamison (left) uncovered important components in relationships between landowners and their advisors.*



## THE CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

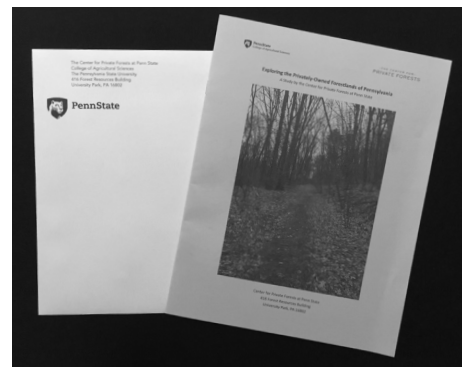
At the beginning of June, we mailed the 2021 Pennsylvania Forest Landowner Survey to 6,600 landowners owning one or more acres of forests. This survey was last done in 2010 and we are eager to learn if and how behaviors, attitudes, and practices have changed over time, how landowners view their land and its management, and to determine the number of private forest landowners in the state (i.e., did the population change?). If you are one of the lucky(!), randomly chosen participants, please complete the survey and send it back. We value your contribution.

At the end of the spring semester, the Center also supported the research of Master's student Alex Curtze, supervised by Dr. Laura Leites, Associate Research Professor of Quantitative Forest Ecology with the Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science & Management. His research created a model that differentiates forests high graded in the past from those that have had silviculturally-defined management—for example, the first-stage harvest under a shelterwood treatment to start establishing regeneration. Using this model, the Center wants to create a tool that will help landowners and professionals assess their recent forest treatment history (for example, helping a landowner understand

the cutting history on their woodlands), which they can use to guide developing management prescriptions to move their forest to a healthier place.

The Center also undertook a survey of Pennsylvania's land trusts and conservancies to understand how they approach forest management activities on lands under easement. While many of these organizations allow forest management, justifications and allowed practices do vary. We hope to start a conversation about the importance of engaging adaptive management practices to maintain the conservation values the easement was created to uphold. Resources and trainings for these organizations will follow.

The Center is striving to provide new perspectives on forest care through research and partnerships. If you have questions or would want to support our work, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.



*The Forest Landowner Survey, sent to 6,600 landowners across the state, will guide future applied research and outreach strategies.*

## Save the Date: Forest Landowners Conference Set for March 25-26, 2023

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State is excited to announce that the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Forest Landowners Conference is set for March 25-26, 2023. Recently, we have seen substantial progress regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and a return to normalcy. We are very optimistic; however, we recognize that it will still take quite a while to recover to the extent to offer the conference as we have been able to in the past. After much discussion, attempts to reschedule, and the difficult decisions to postpone because of remaining uncertainties, we can't wait to host a full two-day conference experience for hundreds of forest landowners, the forestry professional community, and our partners, back at the

Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA.

As in past years, the highlights of the conference will include opportunities for woodland owners, natural resources professionals, and others to interact, learn from one another, and add new ideas and resources to their forest stewardship "toolbox." With a broad range of presentation topics, the conference aims to meet the needs and interests of woodland owners of varying experiences and interests. And there will be tours and workshops, exhibits, keynote speakers, and plenty of good food, so mark your calendars for March 25-26, 2023—we look forward to seeing you there!



*Plan to join us March 25 and 26, 2023 for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Forest Landowners Conference for landowners, professionals, and citizens across the state and beyond.*



## Forest Leaves Calendar



The *Forest Leaves* calendar will return in full in the Autumn issue as more events for the public are planned and submitted. You can check the Center for Private Forests website at [ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests](https://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests) and follow our Facebook page at [facebook.com/privateforests](https://facebook.com/privateforests) for the latest list of summer events submitted from organizations around the state.

**Sunday, October 3.** Walk in Penn's Woods. Walks will happen across the state. Find a walk near you at [www.walkinpennswoods.org](https://www.walkinpennswoods.org).

### PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER

[ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/outreach/pa-forests-web-seminar-center](https://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.

## 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.

### Preparing for High Gypsy Moth Densities in 2021

Gypsy moth outbreaks in Pennsylvania are stressing many plant species. This article tells about this pest, management strategies, and monitoring affected plants and trees for recovery.

### Maintaining Forest Property Lines

Property line maintenance is one of the most important aspects of land ownership. Well-marked boundaries can help ensure your assets are protected. This article and associated video teaches you how to maintain and mark your property lines.

### Timber Sales: A Guide to Selling Timber

This publication is intended to help landowners understand some of the complex decisions around timber harvesting and ensure a successful timber sale.

### The Effect of Coyotes on Pennsylvania's Deer Herd

This article examines and dispels the myth that coyotes keep deer populations low, and addresses the effect of predation on deer populations in Pennsylvania.

### Pennsylvania Timber Market Report: 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### The Woods in Your Backyard

This manual will guide small-acreage owners through the process of implementing proper forestry and wildlife habitat improvement practices to enhance a property's natural resources.

### What's Going on with Dimensional Lumber Prices?

This article describes why dimensional lumber prices are high.

### Connecting Children with Nature

This video presents the importance of adults helping young children enjoy and appreciate nature. Three tips are presented on how to guide the process of connecting kids to nature and the outdoors.

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## FOREST LEAVES Summer 2021

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

September 1, 2021

### Forest Leaves Publication Partners include:

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- The Center for Private Forests at Penn State [ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests](https://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests)
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## Forest Leaves

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## Summer 2021

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NEXT DEADLINE:  
September 1, 2021

## Penn State Extension Timber Sales Publication Serves as a Guide for Forest Landowners

Timber harvesting is an important management tool. When conducted with care and planning, it allows owners to manage forests to meet multiple objectives. Landowners choose to conduct timber sales for a variety of reasons. The decision to harvest may be recommended in a management plan or it may be unexpected.

Regardless of the reason, a successful timber harvest that meets landowner goals begins with a forest resources professional developing a plan. Timber harvesting is a time when landowners can improve their woods for what they value—such as enhancing wildlife habitat—or cause real damage from which the woods might not recover for generations.

A new publication from Penn State Extension titled, “Timber Sales: A Guide to Selling Timber,” is available to help landowners understand how timber sales are conducted. This 12-page publication outlines a seven-step process. “It will assist

forest landowners in understanding how a timber sale is conducted and how to retain the services of a forestry professional,” said Dave Jackson, forestry educator and publication co-author. “It is not a definitive how-to guide, as much of the process will depend on each specific situation.”

Timber harvesting is not a process to be entered into lightly. Harvests involve complex decisions across many issues, including ecology, forest operations, business, law, taxes, marketing, and negotiation. Harvests have both short- and long-term consequences for the landowner and the forest. This publication is a first step in helping landowners understand some of these consequences and how they can ensure a successful outcome.

Selling timber is complicated and requires substantial investments in time and a thorough understanding of the industry. Timber sales have the potential to impact site productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics, income, taxes, estate

planning—the list goes on. Those lacking the proper level of experience should use this publication as a reference to understand how foresters can help and what they strive to accomplish on the landowner’s behalf.

A satisfactory harvest experience is no accident; it is the result of thoughtful planning and hard work. Planning is critical to ensuring a positive outcome, one that meets landowner objectives and sustainability guidelines. To ensure a successful timber sale, landowners must have a clear understanding of the process. This new Extension publication can help.

“Timber Sales: A Guide to Selling Timber” is available as a free downloadable PDF; printed copies are available for purchase. To view the full publication, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/timber-sales-a-guide-to-selling-timber> or call 877-345-0691.