



Forest Leaves

Volume 32, Number 1 • Autumn 2022

Seeking: Healthy Ash

By Anna Funk, Science Writer, and Rachel Kappler, Forest Health Coordinator, Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative

The Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative is searching for healthy ash trees in Pennsylvania—do you have any?

Forest health researchers from across the Great Lakes Basin are teaming up to fight back against the pests ravaging our forests. The new group, the Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative (GLBFHC), isn't just made up of scientists—any and all conservation professionals and interested citizens are invited to join in the efforts!

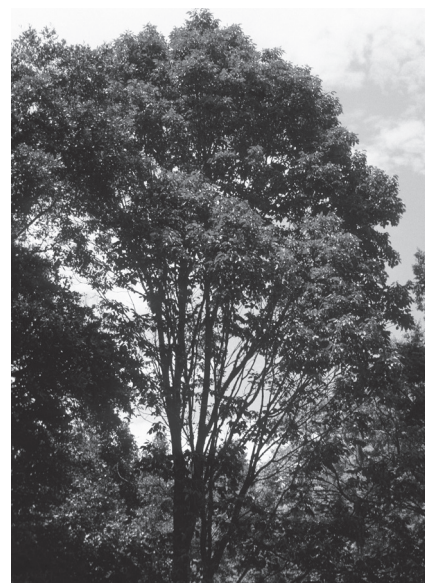
This fall, the group is focused on finding what are called **lingering ash**. These are healthy, mature ash trees growing in natural forests (not cultivars planted in yards) where the emerald ash borer has already invaded and caused widespread mortality. Whenever and wherever these trees are found, they're flagged for study—they may be resistant to emerald ash borer and are prime candidates for breeding and restoration efforts.

If you have (or think you might have) a lingering ash on your forested property, please report it! Please include coordinates (or address) of the tree, photos, and tree diameter (if possible) with your message. Or, log your tree observations using the citizen science app *TreeSnap*—it's free to download on your smartphone and provides instructions for what information and photos to log with your observation.

GLBFHC is taking on more than just ash; they're also making moves to protect and restore eastern hemlock and American beech populations. If your area has a high prevalence of hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, or beech leaf disease, you can report healthy hemlock and beech trees on your property, too.

With your help, we can learn more about what keeps trees healthy in the face of invasive pests like the emerald ash borer. The resistant trees on your property could provide critical material for breeding ash trees that can be replanted, bringing this key species back and sustaining our forests for years to come.

For more information or to report lingering ash, please reach out to Forest Health Coordinator Rachel Kappler at rkappler@holdenfg.org. Want to stay up to date on the latest forest health news and research? Subscribe to the Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative email newsletter at <https://holdenfg.org/great-lakes-basin-forest-health-collaborative>.



John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Lingering ash—healthy, mature ash trees found in forest settings where the emerald ash borer has caused widespread mortality—are being sought for study.



The PA Forest Stewards volunteer program has trained nearly 800 volunteers since 1991. Read more about this statewide network of peer volunteers in At the Center on page 6.

Inside this issue...

- SFI's New Publication Marks a Decade of Conservation Impact Success 2
- Wild Mushrooms: A Seasonal Delicacy and Pastime for the Region 3
- Center for Private Forests at Penn State Renamed to Honor Founder Jim Finley 4
- Pennsylvania Forestry Association: November 5 Symposium Focuses on Carbon 5
- Save the Date! 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference March 24-25, 2023 5
- At the Center: Peer Volunteer Network—the PA Forest Stewards Volunteers 6
- Upcoming PA Forests Webinars 7
- Woods and Wildlife News and Notes: The Latest News from the Forestry and Wildlife Extension Team* 7
- Tree Farm News: Seeking Your Opinion about Certification vs. Recognition; Dealing with the Current Spongy Moth Outbreak 8



PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences

Forest Leaves is published by the James C. Finley 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

SFI's New Publication Marks a Decade of Conservation Impact Success

By Chuck Coup, PA SFI Implementation Committee Program Manager

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) recently released a new publication summarizing the results of SFI's Conservation Impact work over the past 10 years. SFI's *Conservation Impact: A Decade of Success* illustrates how the science behind well-managed forests and sustainable supply chains supports conservation goals.

Formally announced at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in September 2016, the SFI Conservation Impact Project actually consists of numerous smaller projects generated by partnerships within the academics, conservationists, researchers, and SFI-certified organizations. It advances understanding of the issues related to climate change, biodiversity, and water on lands influenced by the SFI Forest Management Standard and the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. The SFI Conservation Impact Project also plays a key role in helping conservationists understand the values associated with sustainable forest management.

"Identifying positive conservation outcomes, key learnings, and opportunities for improvement on SFI certified lands is a critical component of the SFI standards. SFI's *Conservation Impact: A Decade of Success* is a testament to the dedication and collaboration we see across the SFI network when it comes to advancing forest science and sustainable solutions," says Kathy Abusow, CEO and President of SFI.

SFI is the only forestry standard that requires certified organizations to support forest and conservation research. In total, SFI-certified organizations invest over \$60 million per year in forest and conservation research and have invested over \$1.8 billion cumulatively since 1995. This research, driven in part by requirements in the SFI standard, generates robust results with lasting benefits for the forest and conservation sector. SFI's Conservation Impact work supports research over and above these investments by SFI-certified organizations.

SFI's Conservation Impact work supports research that tests, evaluates, and validates the value and outcomes resulting from SFI Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing certification. Since Conservation Impact research is generated by SFI rather than SFI-certified organizations, Conservation Impact investments of SFI are

SFI'S CONSERVATION IMPACT A DECADE OF SUCCESS



above and beyond the \$60 million annual investments noted previously.

Innovative conservation research is critical to ensuring continued improvement in sustainable forestry. With over 350 million acres (140 million hectares) certified to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard in North America, and tens of millions more positively influenced by the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI and SFI-certified organizations have the scale and reach to generate meaningful results which advance sustainability in North America.

Readers of SFI's *Conservation Impact: A Decade of Success* will learn about 17 different conservation research projects that SFI has supported and participated in with numerous partners across its three main focus areas: climate change, biodiversity, and water quality and quantity.

Three Research Project Highlights

Climate Change:

SFI collaborated with American Forests to develop an approach to include soils in forest carbon calculations because soils can account for a sizeable, at times unconsidered, amount of carbon storage. This allows for better understanding of whole-ecosystem carbon dynamics. One Conservation Impact study area showed that, when the cumulative harvest—including long-lived wood products—was added to the greenhouse gas balance, SFI-certified forests acted as carbon sinks.

Biodiversity:

SFI collaborated with the American Bird Conservancy to examine the needs of a wide variety of bird species in decline, and their presence on select SFI-certified

pilot areas, to help build understanding of broader ecosystem health and sustainable forest management. Many of the focal species were more abundant within SFI certified forests, including Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Wood Thrush (learn more at <https://bit.ly/3P8aud2>).

Water Quality and Quantity:

SFI collaborated with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to develop two management decision support tools to help plan activities around waterways to ensure protection of water quality and quantity. The Active River Area project helps identify riparian areas and freshwater conservation and restoration strategies and actions (learn more at <https://bit.ly/3JBAXzh>). Such management decision tools matter because of the reach and scale of water resources flowing from SFI-certified forestlands. A collaborative project of SFI and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement determined that waterways on SFI-certified forestlands are collectively long enough to reach around the world 50 times, underscoring the importance of these forests to water supplies throughout North America (learn more at <https://tabsoft.co/3St0fTP>).

SFI's *Conservation Impact: A Decade of Success* is available for download at <https://forests.org/wp-content/uploads/SFIs-Conservation-Impact-A-Decade-of-Success.pdf>.

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

Wild Mushrooms: A Seasonal Delicacy and Pastime for the Region

By Eric Burkhart, Program Director, Appalachian Botany and Ethnobotany, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center; Rebecca Bliege Bird, Professor of Anthropology; and Amy Wrobleski, Ph.D. Graduate Student in Ecology, Penn State University

Pennsylvania is a state known for its commercial mushroom production, especially in the Kennett Square region in the Southeast. However, there is a long and proud tradition of harvesting and appreciating wild mushrooms throughout the state. Wild mushroom season normally starts in early spring, with the emergence of morels, and wraps up in the mid or late fall, with the first hard frost. However, mushrooms such as winter oysters and a few other species can be found even in the dead of winter, making mushroom hunting a year-round pastime. Mushroom events, forays, and festivals tend to be held in the spring with the emergence of morels, or in the fall as the colors change.

While mushrooms are often appreciated on forestlands for their striking beauty and interesting forms, people also have many uses for wild mushrooms. Some species of mushrooms are edible (e.g., morels, chanterelles, chicken-of-the-woods) and bring unusual and tasty flavors to all sorts of foods. Other mushrooms in the region are known for their medicinal properties (e.g., Ganoderma,

turkey-tail). These mushrooms can be cooked and prepared in a variety of ways—as familiar as a pasta sauce or side, to being smoked in a smoker or infused in a tincture.

Mushroom hunting is a tradition that is passed through families, between friends, within mushroom clubs, and more recently, over social media. With funding from the Pennsylvania State University Huck Institute Flower grant, our current research seeks to understand which mushrooms people like to hunt in the mid-Atlantic and how they learn about mushroom hunting. We are also interested in how COVID-19 might have changed how people learn about mushrooms. You can learn more about the study and take the survey (or request a paper copy) at <https://acw208.wixsite.com/mushroom-hunting-in>.

Whether you simply admire mushrooms on hikes or walks with your dog, enjoy the thrill of the hunt for choice edibles, or like to grow mushrooms yourself, we would appreciate your assistance in this research.

Learning to Hunt for Mushrooms

We are surveying mushroom harvesters in the mid-Atlantic region and want to include forest landowners who take a hobby or commercial interest in mushrooms. If you or someone you know identifies, harvests, grows, or sells wild mushrooms and would like to participate in this study, please contact us or share the survey with them.

Mushroom Events

There are a variety of local mushroom-based events held around Pennsylvania. These can range from hikes and walks to special dinners or workshops. We are looking to connect with these events in the region. If you know of any local events in your region that involve wild mushrooms, please share information about these with us.

If you have any questions or are willing to assist us with any of these research efforts, please email Amy Wrobleski at acw208@psu.edu or call (832) 647-7701.



Hand-made chanterelle and morel art prints that are gifts for completing the mushroom hunter survey.

Art prints by Cathryn Pugh

Center for Private Forests at Penn State Renamed to Honor Founder Jim Finley

By Jeff Mulhollem, Public Relations Specialist/Science Writer, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State

Penn State and its College of Agricultural Sciences have renamed the Center for Private Forests at Penn State in honor of its founder, the late James C. (Jim) Finley, an outstanding academic scholar and teacher whose pioneering work at the interface of people and forests reached hundreds of thousands of people.

Finley's scholarship and service were national in scope but drew their inspiration from the 740,000-plus private woodland owners in Pennsylvania, stewardship of the 12 million acres of forest they own, and the forestry and natural resource professionals supporting private land stewardship. The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests puts Penn State at the forefront of private forestry research, teaching, and practice nationwide.

"Honoring members of the Penn State community who are dedicated to excellence in research, teaching and service is a longstanding tradition of the University," said former Penn State President Eric J. Barron. "Professor Finley exemplified all of these values while serving on the faculty and generously giving of his expertise within and outside of Penn State following his retirement in 2017. With this naming, the University hopes to recognize Professor Finley's work and to ensure that the innovative research methods and the stewardship values and practices he espoused will endure."

Finley's career had a broad scope, encompassing forestry practice and the connections between people and the natural world. From his beginning as an extension educator in Sullivan County through his service as the Ibberson Chair of Private Forest Management and professor emeritus of private forest management and human dimensions and natural resources, Finley was always innovating, learning and teaching. He touched the lives of hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom became lifetime friends and colleagues. And he touched the lives of thousands of private landowners and natural resource professionals, inspiring all to be better stewards of private forests.

With colleagues, Finley produced foundational scholarship that recognized the personal, value-driven relationships that many private landowners have with the forests they own. He worked hard to



Photo by Penn State. Creative Commons

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State has been renamed in honor of its founder, the late James C. (Jim) Finley, professor emeritus of private forest management and human dimensions and natural resources.

help forestry and natural resource professionals recognize these relationships to better understand the needs of private forest landowners and help them achieve their stewardship goals. He also was committed to helping landowners, professionals and communities understand that forests, if managed sustainably, could both thrive and provide a host of benefits for people, wildlife and broader society.

Finley received national recognition as the co-chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's National Roundtable on Sustainable Forestry and as a fellow in the Society of American Foresters, whose national Technology Transfer Award he received in 2000. His ideas and practice influenced both scholarship and outreach to forest landowners around the country and beyond. Finley was a Penn State graduate, earning his bachelor's degree in forest science, a master's degree in forest resources, and a doctoral degree in extension education from the University.

In 2011, with colleagues from the newly created Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and others across the University, Finley established the Center for Private Forests at Penn State to ensure the continuation of this critically important work. Since its founding, the Center has drawn on decades of transdisciplinary research by Finley and colleagues. This pioneering work included characterizing private forestlands and landowners and exploring innovative ways to provide landowners with the inspiration, skills and advice needed for effective stewardship.

"Jim's pioneering academic scholarship has been instrumental in expanding understanding of forestry practice and identifying ways of fostering connections between individuals and communities and the natural world that surrounds them," said Rick Roush, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. "Over the course of his career, he inspired and shaped the

Finley Center, continued on page 5

Pennsylvania Forestry Association: November 5 Symposium Focuses on Carbon

By Randy White, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association's 136th Annual Symposium, "Penn's Woods Carbon: Growing Green," will be held Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Toftrees Resort in State College, PA. Forest carbon markets quickly expanded in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the pandemic. This Symposium addresses the interests of foresters, landowners, county leaders, and anyone else

seeking information about entering the forest carbon market.

Join us and connect with other forestry-minded attendees as we explore answers to questions such as, "What is forest carbon?" "Can I still harvest timber on my property?" "What are the costs to me?" "What are my responsibilities as a landowner?" "If my property is also enrolled in a carbon program will I receive payment?"

"What will happen if my property is sold?" Find the agenda and more information at <http://paforestry.org/events>. Go to <https://pfa.memberclicks.net/2022symposium> to register; in-person registration includes lunch.

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

Finley Center, *continued from page 4*

work of innumerable students, professionals, fellow academic scientists and forest landowners who shared his interest in stewardship of natural resources."

It was truly an honor and privilege to have known Finley, Roush said, adding that it is clear he touched the lives of many people through his work. Roush noted that he learned a great deal from Finley personally and is thankful for his efforts as co-founder of the Center for Private Forests.

"His passion for teaching, research and service, both for others and the forests he loved, was always evident," Roush said. "I look forward to seeing the Center continue to thrive and for Jim's legacy to inspire all those who knew him and to motivate future generations. This naming of the Center in Jim's honor reflects the importance of both his work and continuing the distinctive vision and values he modeled."

Under Finley's guidance as the Center's first director and later in an advisory capacity, the Center has become a trusted leader in studying private forest landowners and their land. In the decade since its founding, the Center has already made a number of significant contributions to the field of forest stewardship. These include conducting novel research to address landowner and professional values, attitudes and behaviors; leading the storied Pennsylvania Forest Stewards volunteer program, a forest stewardship-focused peer volunteer network that just celebrated its 32nd anniversary; cultivating stewardship across boundary lines; creating trainings and landowner resources for legacy planning; and developing training programs for financial professionals

to better assist forest landowners. The Center also has built an engaged community dedicated to improving forest health, resilience and vitality.

Despite officially retiring in 2017, Finley continued to work tirelessly on behalf of the Center, serving as its volunteer council chair, working on applied research projects, and writing about what it meant to be a steward of the woods. Tragically, he was killed in an accident while tending the Finley family woodland in October 2021.

Allyson Muth, director of the Center, praised the decision to name the facility in Finley's honor.

"The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State will build on Jim's life's work; his vision for helping the owners and managers of private forests of the commonwealth, the region and nation care well for the land; and his legacy of stewardship, serving those who own and manage the forest resource," she said. "The naming and the honor it represents will continue to inspire the Center's staff, council, volunteers and stakeholders as we work to advance the work of our colleague, mentor and friend."

To learn more about Finley and the Center for Private Forests visit the Center's website at ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests.

SAVE THE DATE!

5th Biennial

Forest Landowners Conference



March 24-25, 2023

at the Penn Stater Hotel
and Conference Center
State College, PA

Join hundreds of woodland
owners and the professionals
who serve them.

Early Bird registration opens soon!

Find out more at ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference

At the Center: Peer Volunteer Network—the PA Forest Stewards Volunteers

By Allyson Muth, James C. Finley Center for Private Forests Director

For 32 years, a key resource for education and messages around good forest stewardship has been Pennsylvania's forest stewardship peer volunteer network, the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards volunteers. Begun in 1991 with support from the Farm Bill and in partnership with Penn State Extension, the USDA Forest Service, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, these trained volunteers were the hallmark of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship program. Now, under the umbrella of the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests, nearly 800 volunteers have been trained, with a new class joining us in the fall of each year.

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards are individuals who care about the woods and encourage practices that promote the health and productivity of our forests. They embrace a stewardship ethic and understand forests' ecological function and role in the larger ecosystem. PA Forest Stewards are committed to demonstrating this ethic by deepening their own forest and ecosystem education, by sharing that knowledge with the larger community, and by acting responsibly to conserve forests for generations to come.



THE JAMES C. FINLEY
CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

To become volunteers, individuals—primarily forest landowners—attend a long weekend training of in-depth information on good forest stewardship. Upon graduation, they then are tasked with sharing what they've learned, in a form or fashion matching their skills and interests, reaching fellow landowners and members of the public with a message of caring well for the woods. Their impact is tremendous; in one year's time volunteers give the equivalent of seven full-time employees and reach over 250,000 fellow landowners, youth, and interested stakeholders.

These volunteers also serve as foundational resources for the applied research and work of the Finley Center. Their knowledge and connection to other landowners ensure that the questions researched and problems solved are truly serving the forest landowner cohort. A true measure of the success of the Finley Center and the forest stewardship program is the commitment these volunteers make to also engaging with us, supporting research and graduate students, engaging undergraduate students, and giving of their time and energy to advise the larger body of work. We are grateful for their support.

If you might be interested in learning more about the PA Forest Stewards volunteers, and perhaps joining in the learning and engagement, we invite you to contact us at the Finley Center or check out our website at <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests>.

End-of-Year Giving to the Finley Center

For those interested in supporting the Finley Center financially, the Center has a well-established endowment and gratefully accepts financial contributions. You can visit the Center's donation website at <https://raise.psu.edu/FinleyCenterNews> or scan the QR code below to take you there. We thank you for your support.



Above: The 29 members of the class of 2022 bring the total number of PA Forest Stewards trained since 1991 to nearly 800 volunteers across the state. Left: Participants receive a mix of hands-on field work and classroom training during their long weekend together.



Upcoming PA Forests Webinars



PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER

<https://extension.psu.edu/pennsylvania-forest-online-seminar-series-to-begin-september-13-2022>

The Pennsylvania Forests 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.

Upcoming webinar topics:

November 8, 2022: Dormant Season Invasive Plant Management in Forests

December 13, 2022: The History of Pennsylvania's Forests

January 10, 2023: Future Climate Smart Seed Sourcing

February 14, 2023: Why Care About Trees

March 15, 2023: Update on PA Forest Landowner Survey

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 want to check out any of these articles, it's easy! Go to <https://extension.psu.edu> and type the article title in the search bar.

Non-Lead Ammo for Deer Hunting

The unintended impacts of lead bullet fragments and a non-lead solution are examined in this video.

Autumn Phenology Notes

This article is a collection of phenology notes specifically focused on October, November, and December.

Woodland Wisdom Part 3: Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

This video provides basics about wildlife habitat enhancement. It covers plant diversity, forest structure, food and water for wildlife, and sources of professional assistance.

Penn State Extension Seeking Forestry Educators

Penn State Extension is looking for talented professionals to join its nationally recognized Forestry and Wildlife Team.

Woodland Wisdom, Part 4: Three Pitfalls for Forest Landowners

This video cautions viewers about three pitfalls that forest landowners

should avoid when managing their property. These include: 1) the lack of a plan, 2) the do-it-yourself timber sale, and 3) the letting Mother Nature rule.

Pennsylvania Timber Market Report, Second Quarter, 2022

Stumpage prices as reported by Pennsylvania timber and logging companies, forestry consultants, and state land management agencies to analysts at the Pennsylvania State University.

Protected Species in Pennsylvania: Northern Flying Squirrel

This article describes the conservation needs of the endangered Northern Flying Squirrel and provides recommendations for its protection.

Pennsylvania Forest Online Seminar Series Kicks Off September 13, 2022

The Pennsylvania Forest Online Web Seminar series started its 15th year September 13. The webinar series is held once a month from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month.

Requesting the *Woods and Wildlife News and Notes* 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/forestry-team-sign-up>), and select any of the "Forest and Wildlife" topic areas of interest.

FOREST LEAVES Autumn 2022

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, 2022

Forest Leaves Publication Partners include:

- The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program 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 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: aa@psu.edu, Tel 814-863-0471.

Forest Leaves

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

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

Autumn 2022

This publication brought to you by:



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

NEXT DEADLINE:
December 1, 2022

Tree Farm News: Seeking Your Opinion about Certification vs. Recognition; Dealing with the Current Spongy Moth Outbreak

By John Hoover, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

Certification versus Recognition

If you are a certified Tree Farmer, you recently received a letter from me to ask your opinion on Pennsylvania remaining a certification state or shifting to a recognition state. If you've not already responded to the survey, please do so as soon as you can. If you're a certified Tree Farmer and don't remember getting the letter, please contact the Pennsylvania Forestry Association office at 1-800-835-8065. We will be making a decision on Pennsylvania's near future with Tree Farm this month.

Battle Against Spongy Moth Continues

In May of this year, I noticed some very small larvae collecting on seedlings being planted on my Centre County tree farm. At first it was difficult to identify them, but it didn't take long to recognize them as spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth) caterpillars. I had noticed very few egg masses in my forested areas and had not been overly concerned about this

pest. These had blown in on a silk thread from some distant location and ended up defoliating not only the seedlings, but also the oaks and many other hardwoods nearby, except on a neighboring property that had been aerial sprayed with a chemical called Mimic 2LV. I saved many of my seedlings from total defoliation using pesticide in a handheld sprayer. Both spraying efforts were effective. Unsprayed trees had a "winter like" appearance, although later many grew new leaves. Unfortunately, there is evidence that some of the larger hardwood trees, especially those lacking leaves in the crown, may not survive. A second defoliation next year will result in even higher tree mortality. While the state has a spray program on state lands, landowners like me have to figure out how to go it alone. The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) provides details on locations of egg masses and locations where spray-

ing was completed earlier this year at <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx>.

In past years, moth damage was proportional to the quantity of nearby tan egg masses. Now those are visible on my trees and other locations. So next year, some decisions will be needed. If spring weather conditions are damp, a fungus may devastate the population. One limited control method is to scrape any visible egg masses and soak them in soapy water. While this is insignificant considering the magnitude of the problem, it might make you feel better knowing you eliminated nearly 600 spongy moth larvae per egg mass. Read more at extension.psu.edu/spongy-moth-summer-2022-update.

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