



# Forest Leaves

Volume 34, Number 2 • Autumn 2024

## A Look at the 2021 Forest Landowner Survey Results

### Who Are Pennsylvania’s Woodland Owners?

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



Brush piles and snags provide abundant benefits to wildlife (see page 3). Photo by Barb Sellers.

#### Inside this issue...

- Enhancing Wildlife Habitat:  
Brush Piles and Snags.....3
- PA SFI® Implementation Committee:  
Inconsistent Practices Program.....4
- Pennsylvania Woodland Owners:  
Preparing Now for Spangy Moth  
Emergence in 2025.....4
- A Note from the Pennsylvania  
Forestry Association .....5
- PA Tree Farm: Quarterly ATFS Meeting  
Recap; PA Tree Farm Report .....5
- At the Finley Center: Make Plans for  
Learning and Support.....6
- Upcoming PA Forests Webinars.....7
- Woods and Wildlife News and Notes:*  
The Latest News from the Forestry  
and Wildlife Extension Team .....7
- Be on the Lookout for  
Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses! .....8
- Calendar of Events.....8

In our world, woodland owners are a well-studied group of people. From the National Woodland Owners Survey that happens every five years to Penn State surveys that occurred in 2006, 2008, 2010, and, most recently, 2021, there are many attempts to understand landowner values, attitudes, and behaviors with regard to their privately owned land. With a majority of our state forested (59%) and a majority of that forest in private ownership (70% of which 54% are families and individuals—who are our primary interest), there are numerous decision-makers influencing the care and well-being of Penn’s Woods. And with hundreds of thousands of woodland owners, understanding their needs and goals helps organizations and agencies frame out better ways to assist.

Our most recent survey in 2021 was undertaken a slightly different way than usual. We wanted to understand how landowners of various-sized properties approached their ownership. Our random sampling methodology separated out the owners of forested properties of 10 acres and fewer and drew a quarter of our sample from that group, and then evenly distributed the remaining ownerships across three groups based on property size, each from which we drew a quarter of our sample. We wanted to ensure that we saw representation across all property sizes. With all Pennsylvania counties having digitized their parcel data, we were able to pull our sample from the full spectrum of ownership. While we see some gaps in the parcel data, we remain close to previous estimates of approximately 700,000 woodland owners in the state—about 450,000 woodland owners own properties

of 10 acres or less; and about 250,000 own properties larger than 10 acres.

The majority of our landowners own their property in partnership with their spouse. With the primary decision-maker being asked to fill out the survey, our respondents were 74% male, but we did see variation across property sizes. Properties of 10 and fewer acres had women making up 33% of the decision-makers; while the largest properties over 50 acres had men comprising 84% of the decision-makers.

Like much of rural Pennsylvania, the woodland owners in the state are predominantly white (88%). Prior iterations of the

Woodland Owners, continued on page 2



Pennsylvania’s 700,000 forest landowners own their land for solitude, hunting, general enjoyment, and to enjoy wildlife. Photo by Barb Sellers.



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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](https://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/news)

## Woodland Owners, *continued from page 1*

survey didn't include race and ethnicity questions, so we are unsure about changes in trends of owners of diverse backgrounds, but we do see diverse ownership backgrounds of all property sizes.

Average age of our woodland owners in this survey iteration was 66 and held across all property sizes. We compare that to an average age of 59 in 2010, which may mean that more owners are holding on to their properties for longer than past generations, and this is reflected in their tenure of ownership—a majority (72%) have owned their land for longer than 10 years across all property sizes. Associated with that average age, we now see a plurality of landowners are retired (46%) with 38% working full time. This is a flip from 2010 where we had the plurality working full time. 65% of woodland owners have completed some level of education post-high school. The majority of owners live on their forestland, with this being a stronger trend for owners of smaller properties.

Pennsylvania woodland owners own their land for solitude, hunting, general enjoyment, and to enjoy wildlife. They spend their time in hunting and non-hunting recreational pursuits, undertake practices to enhance wildlife habitat, and conduct non-herbicide vegetation management (lots of mowing?).

46% of owners say they are willing or very willing to harvest trees. 62% have cut firewood off their properties. 32% have had a timber sale that produced income—this was more likely on larger properties—with the majority of those harvests occurring in the past 10 years.

Reasons for harvesting include to improve forest health (lots of salvage harvests have been occurring in the last decade-plus), improve forest conditions, and for income. Harvesting landowners are generally happy with the outcomes of the harvest. However, of those harvesting, less than 25% are engaging a forester to assist with their harvests. And across the whole population, only 8% have written management plans.

Owners of larger properties are more likely to have sought advice from professionals or science-based information sources, like Penn State Extension, and more likely to have used a professional, such as a consulting forester, in managing their land. Across all ownerships, we see peers (friends, family, neighbors, and other woodland owners) acting as a big influence on landowner decisions.

With the 2021 survey, we wanted to delve more deeply into how people get help in caring for their woods and understand what might prevent them from getting help. New in this version were some questions about the trustworthiness of various organizations in supporting landowners stewarding their land. In those questions, we found that local organizations such as county conservation districts and woodland owners associations rate highly. Organizations with regulatory responsibilities such as the Department of Environmental Protection and the PA Game Commission rank lower. However, from this and other studies, we see there is a lot of skepticism at times toward the whole of the larger forestry community.

In addition to skepticism, other barriers are preventing landowners from getting help to care well for their woods—the bureaucracy involved in getting help or accessing resources can be a large deterrent and is often shared with us by landowners. Locating resources and navigating red tape can turn people off. The amount and extent of personal investment, such as time or financial resources, may prevent some from getting assistance. Sometimes landowners don't feel their land needs assistance, and some landowners don't feel that their land is worth the investment by the professionals to get help—a situation that is never true.

Additional research is ongoing that addresses the challenges professionals may have in helping woodland owners. Barriers, such as overcoming the large skepticism toward the whole of the community, prevent all of us from engaging fully with woodland owners—we have to prove ourselves trustworthy. For those working in state-funded organizations, there are real limitations in directly linking landowners and professionals. As well, the professionals are often brought in to respond to a threat or challenge and don't have the opportunity to help a landowner be proactive in their planning.

Our studies have helped us answer some questions about the landowner population, but they've also raised new questions and considerations for the community available to help landowners care well for their land. Our job is now to take that understanding and create resources and opportunities that better assist members of the landowner community.

Forestry professionals balance decisions about managing a private resource—that has tremendous public benefit—with the current condition of the woods, the owners' goals, values, and hopes for the land, and expectations of keeping the forest intact and functional through sustainable practices, while recognizing that the forest is also an economic resource and may be an important source of income for owners. Each landowner approaches their ownership from a different lens, and the importance of the relationship between the owner and advice givers cannot be overstated. But we all own and help owners care for the land from the same lens—a place of connection and stewardship. This is abundantly clear in all of the work we do.



*The Finley Center's research has shown that peers can influence fellow landowner decisions, while skepticism and other barriers can prevent landowners from engaging the larger forestry community for assistance. Photos by Barb Sellers (left) and Nancy Baker (right).*

# Enhancing Wildlife Habitat: Brush Piles and Snags

Adapted from Penn State Extension publication *Management Practices for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat\** by Margaret Brittingham, Professor Emerita of Wildlife Resources

By enhancing wildlife habitat on your property, you can improve the habitat quality for wildlife while increasing wildlife viewing and recreational opportunities. The most common habitat management practices for wildlife are described below. The descriptions are brief and general. For more details about which practices are appropriate for your property, consult a wildlife management specialist.

## Creating Brush Piles

Brush piles are piles of brush that are assembled to provide resting/escape cover and den sites for wildlife. Brush piles are used for cover by eastern cottontails and other small mammals. Songbirds may use brush piles for perch sites, especially if the piles are located near feeding or nest sites. Also, if brush piles are adjacent to a water source, amphibians and reptiles may use them for breeding, feeding, or resting.

The best brush piles for wildlife start with the largest materials (pole-sized logs) at the bottom and end with the smallest materials (small limbs or shrubs) at the top of the pile. The materials are arranged so that the brush pile is raised slightly above the ground. This makes it easier for animals to get under the brush pile and into cover. Placing the largest materials on the bottom of the pile also slows the brush pile's rate of decay.

Brush piles are generally placed near food sources and in places where low cover for wildlife may be sparse or absent.



Brush piles can provide den sites, cover for small mammals, and may be used for breeding, feeding, and resting.

Photo by Laura Jackson, PA Forest Steward.

Forest openings, forest edges, and timbered areas are good places to build brush piles because many types of wildlife feed in openings and along forest edges, often benefiting from the additional cover provided by the piles.

## Creating Snags

Snags are dead or partially dead standing trees that provide a number of important benefits to a variety of wildlife (see Table 1 below). Snags provide cavities for nesting and resting, perches for hunting and displaying, and an abundant supply of food for insect eaters. In Pennsylvania, there are over 35 species of birds and 20 species of mammals that use snags at some point in their life cycles. In addition, many species of reptiles and amphibians also use the cavities in snags.

Different species of wildlife prefer different types and sizes of snags in a variety of habitats. Some species prefer hard snags (dead or partially dead trees with fairly sound wood and some limbs remaining) while others prefer soft snags (also called “punk,” in advanced stages of decay, and rarely with limbs). Some species, like Wood Ducks and Barred Owls, require large snags simply because they need large cavities in which to nest. Other species, such as the Tufted Titmouse, will forage and nest in cavities inside smaller snags. To accommodate a variety of species, many landowners try to maintain several types and sizes of snags.

The best method to provide snags for wildlife is to retain existing snags in places where they will not create a dangerous situation for people using the nearby area for outdoor activities like hiking or cutting firewood. There are a number of guidelines suggested for the types, sizes, and numbers of snags that are best for wildlife. Details about snags can be found in Pennsylvania Woodlands series publication *Dead Wood for Wildlife*; you can request a copy by emailing [PrivateForests@psu.edu](mailto:PrivateForests@psu.edu) or calling 814-863-0401 (please leave your name and mailing address). When the abundance or distribution of snags is inadequate or if particular types of snags are desired, snags can also be “created.” Creating snags involves deadening trees so that they remain standing. Success depends on the method used for the tree species you are trying to deaden, the current health of the individual tree, and the specific site characteristics such as the presence of forest pests that may accelerate the tree's death.

Retaining or creating snags is often incorporated into other habitat management practices. For instance, if a clearing or a forest-edge cutting is planned to create an opening or release trees and shrubs, some of the trees that would be removed could instead be deadened and left standing.

\*Read the entire publication at <https://extension.psu.edu/management-practices-for-enhancing-wildlife-habitat>.

Table 1 – Some of the Benefits Provided for Wildlife by Snags

Cavities	Excavated in snags by primary cavity excavators like woodpeckers. Used by woodpeckers for shelter and nesting cover. Used for nest sites by secondary cavity nesters (i.e., those species unable to excavate their own cavities) like the Wood Duck, Eastern Bluebird, and gray squirrel.
Loose bark	Begins to loosen as a tree dies and forms “bark cavities.” Bark cavities are used for cover, as roost sites for forest dwelling bats, and as nest sites for brown creepers.
Insects	Become abundant in the decaying wood of snags. Provide a valuable food source for insect eaters like woodpeckers and nuthatches.
Perch Sites	Perch sites are provided for many birds including songbirds like the Indigo Bunting (singing perch), raptors like American Kestrel (hunting perch), and kingfishers like the Belted Kingfisher (fishing perch).

# PA SFI® Implementation Committee: Inconsistent Practices Program

By Chuck Coup, PA SFI Implementation Committee Program Manager

Did you know that the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) offers a program to address public concerns regarding the management practices of SFI-certified organizations? The SFI Inconsistent Practices Program allows individuals and organizations to bring forward questions and concerns about the management and practices of SFI-certified organizations, or other entities engaged with the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, that appear to deviate from the SFI standards' principles and objectives. By identifying and addressing these deviations, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) aims to ensure that companies adhere to sustainable forestry practices, promoting responsible and environmentally appropriate forest management.

Certified organizations can be contacted directly at any time to report any activity that does not appear to comply with the SFI standards. Alternatively, an Inconsistent Practices Report can be submitted to the Pennsylvania SIC, which will forward legitimate complaints to the appropriate certified organization(s) or other entity/entities engaged with the Pennsylvania SIC for follow-up and a response. A complaint is considered to be legitimate if it is supported by evidence (e.g., photos), violates the SFI standards, and involves one or more certified organizations or an entity they do business with, an SIC

partner or supporter, or an individual who holds a valid SFI Qualified Logging Professional status.

- SFI-Certified Organizations are those that have been certified by an accredited certification body to be in conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard, and/or the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. For a listing of certified organizations, visit <https://sfidatabase.org>.
- SIC Partners and Supporters provide financial support to the Pennsylvania SIC but are not certified to the SFI standards. For a listing of Pennsylvania SIC partners, visit [www.sfiopa.org/program\\_partners.php](http://www.sfiopa.org/program_partners.php). For a listing of Pennsylvania SIC supporters, visit [www.sfiopa.org/program\\_supporters.php](http://www.sfiopa.org/program_supporters.php).
- Pennsylvania SFI-Qualified Logging Professionals are individuals who have successfully completed the core and continuing education requirements of the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program. For a complete listing, visit [www.sfiopa.org/search](http://www.sfiopa.org/search).

A complaint must present specific claims of inconsistent management or practices in writing, using the Pennsylvania SFI Inconsistent Practices Reporting form. The form is available online at [www.sfiopa.org/inconsistent](http://www.sfiopa.org/inconsistent). The Pennsylvania SIC is not an enforcement agency. In cases where a violation of law

is alleged, the complainant should report the incident directly to the appropriate regulatory or law enforcement authority.

Once a report is received, the Pennsylvania SIC will send a letter of acknowledgment to the filer. The Implementation Committee will then assess the evidence provided in the report and determine the most appropriate course of action, based on an established protocol. The complaint will be handled according to the specific circumstances of the report and the entities involved. Some issues, like disputes that arise from inadequate contracts or pollution from non-forestry activities, may fall outside the scope of the Inconsistent Practices Program. Additionally, the Implementation Committee may not be able to address issues that do not involve one or more of the previously mentioned entities associated with SFI certification or the Pennsylvania SIC.

The SFI Inconsistent Practices Program demonstrates SFI's expectation that certified organizations and the entities involved with the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee are operating at the highest level of conformance with SFI standards and policies.

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

## Pennsylvania Woodland Owners: Preparing Now for Spongy Moth Emergence in 2025

With the current spongy moth outbreak expected to continue, many of Pennsylvania's forest landowners are preparing for the 2025 season.

Last spring, many trees and forests were defoliated by spongy moths. Repeated defoliation will impact tree health, leading to tree death, costly tree removals, and loss of ecosystem services provided by trees and forests.

Penn State Extension, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, local communities, organizations, and others are currently hosting public meetings and providing information and resources to help landowners make informed decisions in preparation for the spring 2025 spongy moth caterpillar emergence. Check now

for a meeting near you—waiting until the weather warms to take action can be too late to treat. Your county's DCNR Bureau of Forestry service forester or Penn State Extension office may have information about upcoming meetings. Penn State Extension (<https://extension.psu.edu>, type "spongy moth" in the search bar) and the PA DCNR (<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx>) have a host of information and resources to assist forest landowners.

In our Winter 2024 issue of *Forest Leaves*, we featured excerpts from a Penn State Extension article on counting egg masses during the fall and winter months to determine if conditions warrant consideration of aerial spraying. Read

the full article here: <https://extension.psu.edu/guide-to-spongy-moth-egg-mass-surveying>.



Determining the density of spongy moth egg masses on your property can aid in making informed control decisions.

*Spongy moth laying eggs. Photo credit: Hannes Lemme, Bugwood.org* Photo by Penn State Extension.

# A Note from the Pennsylvania Forestry Association

By Matt Sampson, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

This summer I was taken to reflection. It was early in June 1984 that I loaded my '78 Subaru wagon and drove to the Idaho panhandle for my very first forestry job. Today, 40 years later, I find myself looking back on what has proven to be a wonderful career working with forests and the community of unique individuals that tend them. What I couldn't appreciate back then is how much would change in the practice of forestry during that time.

In 40 "short" years, we have redefined silvicultural systems to manage forests by acre and by species. Fire has been reintroduced to the hardwood forest as a management tool. Chainsaws and cable skidders are replaced with feller-bunchers, grapple skidders, and forwarders. Sponge moth, Japanese knotweed, spotted lanternfly, barberry, buckthorn, and stiltgrass are just a few of the ever-increasing list of invasive species. And we are faced with the potential loss of key species, includ-

ing hemlock, ash, and butternut. Climate change mitigation and the forest's role in carbon sequestration have international implications, and forest certification systems have evolved, documenting the good work the forestry community has completed all these years. Through it all, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) has been engaged.

Forest change is eminent, and we can only imagine what forest management in the next 40 years will look like. As it has done for over the last 100 years, the practice of forestry will evolve. PFA's goal of addressing the ever-changing needs of our forests and forest community cannot be met without your help. Whether you are a forest landowner, casual forest visitor, or a practicing forester, your engagement and input on managing through the coming changes add value to the broader forest community. I hope you feel free to reach out to PFA with the forestry-related ideas,

interests, and concerns that mean the most to you. You reach out, we will listen and address—that's been our mission for over 135 years!

**Children's Hospital: Log-A-Load for Kids Benefit**—The PFA charity sporting clays event has passed; however, PFA is expanding the charity effort to include general donations. Contributions are easier than ever: just go to the PFA website and navigate to the Log-A-Load for Kids event. At the top-right of the page you can click the "DONATE" button; donations are accepted in any amount. Or you can type this into your browser: <https://paforestry.org/events/2023/log-a-load-for-kids-sporting-clays-shoot>. This is a PFA membership effort to help Pennsylvania children in need. I hope you will consider a general donation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Fall is fast upon us! I wish you all beautiful fall colors, hot apple cider, and a wonderful hunting season.

Please be safe and take care,



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

*A record 28 shooters turned out for PFA's Log-A-Load for Kids event on October 4.*

Logo credit: Children's Miracle Network Hospital, used with permission.



## PA Tree Farm: Quarterly ATFS Meeting Recap; PA Tree Farm Report

By Susan Benedict, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

The Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee's September 5<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting featured a report on the American Tree Farm System's Quarterly Leadership Zoom meeting. These topics were of note and discussed with the committee:

1. Tree Farm properties in the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) database are required to have latitude and longitude coordinates; this has been the case for some time.

2. Non-contiguous parcels being under the same Tree Farm number is a major non-conformity for the certification audit. We must identify and issue new Tree Farm numbers for these parcels. If you have a non-contiguous parcel, please contact me at [ssb4295@gmail.com](mailto:ssb4295@gmail.com) for directions to correct the issue. Tree Farm inspectors are urgently requested to bring to the Chair's attention any non-contiguous parcels for correction.

3. ATFS is developing an Alternative Monitoring Model for recognition pro-

grams to focus more on landowner goals and stewardship. This is a welcome development, and we look forward to the new model.

4. From the Family Forest Carbon Program call, we learned that ATFS has received a 35 million dollar grant for the program to be administered through the US Department of Agriculture. There is a premium of 20% additional payments for the life of the contract because each farm must register with the Farm Service Agency and complete a host of additional paperwork. Personally, I believe every Tree Farm should register with the Farm Service Agency. In my case, it has led to lower farm insurance rates on equipment and outbuildings, and I was able to insure a dump truck as a farm vehicle, saving \$300 per year in license fees and an additional amount on auto insurance because of the lower declared mileage.

Regarding PA Tree Farm goals for the year, I can report the following:

1. Identifying a PA Tree Farmer of the Year—we have two excellent candidates and will meet with each one in the next few weeks to determine the winner.

2. Identifying a Tree Farm Inspector of the Year—we have a winner!

3. Continuing to complete all required Tree Farm inspections and improve on our goal to inspect each Tree Farm every five years—we are on track to complete more inspections this year than ever before.

4. Seeking out a Vice Chair for the committee—committee member Mike Powell is now our Vice Chair.

Our next meeting is scheduled in-person on Wednesday, December 11, time and place to be announced. We welcome participation. If you want to join us, please email me at [ssb4295@gmail.com](mailto:ssb4295@gmail.com) and I will see that you get time and location information.

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

# At the Finley Center: Make Plans for Learning and Support

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

## Forest Landowners Conference

We are excited to share with you about the upcoming 2025 Forest Landowners Conference on March 7 and 8! Planning is well underway and some changes to the structure of the event will hopefully make participation easier.

New this year, the Landowners Conference is occurring the day after Penn State Extension's Forest Health Briefing on March 6. This full-day overview of forest health challenges and management strategies has always welcomed landowners, but we've seen relatively few, and we'd like to see more interested landowners participate in this informative event. Topics for this year's Briefing include: remote sensing for forest health, native defoliators, impacts of deer on forest vegetation, how nematodes (sources of several tree diseases) move in the landscape, and the annual forest insect and disease update from the Bureau of Forestry. Our hope is that many of our engaged woodland owners would enjoy attending the Briefing and expand their education around forest health, and that many of the professionals attending the Briefing will stay on and join us for the Landowners Conference the next day. A reception that late afternoon will bridge the two events.

Friday, March 7 will be the bulk of the Forest Landowners Conference. With a full day of 66 presentation opportunities, a lunchtime keynote address from Ethan Tapper, consulting forester and author from Vermont, and exhibit hall where attendees can find service providers and resources to enact projects or address concerns learned about in the sessions,



THE JAMES C. FINLEY  
CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

participants have a wealth of learning available to them. Presentation topics included thus far are as diverse as medicinal benefits of forests, wood identification, assessing deer impacts on the woods, using drones to survey boundary lines, forest management practices for wildlife, resources for working with foresters, and on and on. An optional Friday keynote banquet will welcome internationally renowned tropical forest ecologist and National Geographic Explorer, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni.

Saturday, March 8 will offer half-day in-depth tours and workshops for participants wanting to delve a little deeper into specific subjects. On-site, workshops on macroscopic and microscopic wood identification, invasive species identification and control, dyeing materials with black walnut, and getting started with the woods in your backyard will be offered. Off-site tour options include a visit to the Penn State Deer Research Center, winter tree identification, small equipment operation for the woodland owner, a visit to Scotia Gamelands to see management practices to enhance wildlife habitat, and a few more that are in the works. Also on Saturday, we'll hold an open house for families and community members to

interact with exhibitors and activities to encourage families to learn more about Penn's Woods.

Make plans to join us for some or all of the events in March! The registration site will open in mid-November. This link takes you to a site with more information and will take you registration once it goes live: <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference>. We hope to see you in March!

## End-of-Year Giving

For the second time, the Finley Center is participating in Penn State's GivingTuesday campaign. On the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving (this year December 3), non-profit organizations around the nation participate in campaigns to ask interested members of the public to give of their time, resources, or voices to support efforts people believe in. Follow our social media (@finleyprivateforests on Facebook and Instagram) to know when crowdfunding goes live. Via fundraising, we seek to cultivate people and resources to broaden our impact to cultivate undergraduate and graduate experiences focused on private woodlands, undertake research and scholarship, expand the forest stewardship community, inspire caring well for the woods, strengthen connections across members of the stewardship community, both professionals and landowners alike, and create a sustainable program that carries this work into the future.

For those interested in supporting the Finley Center financially outside of GivingTuesday, 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.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Forest Landowners Conference will feature six presentation sessions, lunch keynote, Friday evening banquet and keynote, exhibits, and Saturday morning tours, workshops, and family-friendly activities. Photos by Megan Whitmer (left) and Laura Kirt (right).





## Upcoming PA Forests Webinars



**PA FORESTS WEB SEMINAR CENTER**  
<https://extension.psu.edu>

The Pennsylvania Forests Online Web Seminar series is held September through June on the second Tuesday of each month, at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. Webinar topics are geared toward private forest landowners as well as the general public. Webinars are free; registration is required.

### Upcoming webinar topics:

**November 12, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.:**  
Opportunities in Forest Carbon Markets (<https://extension.psu.edu/pennsylvania-forest-seminar-opportunities-in-forest-carbon-markets>)

**December 10, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.:**  
Invasive Toolkit for Landowners (<https://extension.psu.edu/pennsylvania-forest-seminar-invasive-toolkit-for-landowners>)

**January 14, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.:**  
Brook Trout in Our Native Waters (<https://extension.psu.edu/pennsylvania-forest-seminar-brook-trout-in-our-native-waters>)

## 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 select articles and videos with you each quarter.

If you want to check out any of these articles and videos, it’s easy! Go to <https://extension.psu.edu> and type the title listed below in the search bar.

### This issue’s articles:

#### Forest Snapshot September 2024

This bi-monthly article is a collection of forest health observations, plant and animal phenology, important upcoming dates, and hunting season changes.

#### Factors That Influence Timber Prices

Timber prices can fluctuate from year to year, month to month, and even week to week. This article will explain some of the factors that can influence the price that is paid for timber at any given time.

#### Pennsylvania Timber Market Report, Second Quarter, 2024

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

#### Preparing for High Spangy Moth Densities

Periodic *Lymantria dispar*, or spangy moth (formerly “gypsy moth”), outbreaks cause defoliation stress to many plant species. Know what to expect and what

management options to consider when an outbreak occurs.

### This issue’s videos:

#### Non-Lead Ammo for Deer Hunting

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

#### Team Jackson’s Mountain Meadows Tree Farm

Teamwork is a powerful force in the stewardship of private forestland property. Learn about one couple’s efforts to restore the wildlife habitat and sustainability of their inheritance.

#### The Forestry Musician

There are many ways to teach and share knowledge. Van Wagner teaches people about forests and wildlife through his extraordinary songs.

#### Forestland Dream Business

The forest landowner featured in this video cares for and manages his property in the realization of his dream.

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 2024

### Editors:

Allyson Brownlee Muth  
Jeff Osborne  
Barb Sellers

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

December 6, 2024

### 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](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/about/Pages/Forestry.aspx)
- The PA Tree Farm® Program [www.paforestry.org/treefarm](http://www.paforestry.org/treefarm)
- The PA Forestry Association [www.paforestry.org](http://www.paforestry.org)
- The PA SFI Implementation Committee [www.sfiopa.org](http://www.sfiopa.org)
- Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences
- The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests [ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests](http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests)
- Penn State Extension [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences is implied.

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Please visit [extension.psu.edu/alternate-format-request](https://extension.psu.edu/alternate-format-request) to request this publication in an alternative format accommodation due to a disability.

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UBR AGR 24-332

## Forest Leaves

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## Autumn 2024

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

NEXT DEADLINE:  
December 6, 2024

## Be on the Lookout for Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses!

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) egg masses are laid in late summer into early winter, with the majority of egg mass deposition occurring in October. These egg masses survive winter and hatch into SLF nymphs in the spring. Each egg mass contains an average of 30-50 eggs, and an individual female can lay at least two egg masses. If you find egg masses on your property from September to May, you can scrape them off using a plastic card or putty knife. Scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer and keep them in this solution permanently. Egg masses that are scraped to the ground can still hatch, so it is important to follow all steps! Egg masses can also be smashed, but be sure to apply even and forceful pressure to the entire egg mass. A properly smashed egg will burst open. Find out more at <https://extension.psu.edu/what-should-you-do-with-spotted-lanternfly-egg-masses>.



## Forest Leaves Calendar of Events



**Saturday, November 16, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.** Pennsylvania Forestry Association: 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and Business Meeting. Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA. To register: <https://paforestry.org/events/2024/pfa-138th-annual-symposium-and-business-meeting>

**Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 – 1:00 PM.** Advice from the Woods: Ask Our Experts (a Penn State Forestry and Wildlife Team online webinar). Registration to open soon; to register, go to <https://extension.psu.edu> and type “Advice from the Woods” in the search bar.

**Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30 PM, January 15 – March 12.** Woods in Your Backyard Webinar Series. Geared toward (but not limited to) landowners with smaller woodlots, this series of online webinars will guide participants through the process of developing and implementing projects to enhance their

land's natural resources. For information and to register, go to <https://extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard-series>.

**Thursday, March 6 through Saturday, March 8: 3 Days. 2 Events. 1 Venue.** Three days of events geared toward Pennsylvania's woodland owners and the forestry professional community. Penn State Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA. **Thursday, March 6:** Forest Health, Insect, and Disease Briefing. **Friday & Saturday, March 7 & 8:** 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Forest Landowners Conference. For more information, visit <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference>

For the most up-to-date listing and to learn more about events listed here, visit:

<https://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/events>

If you have an event to share, send information to Jeff Osborne at [jao5194@psu.edu](mailto:jao5194@psu.edu).