



Forest Leaves

Volume 32, Number 2 • Winter 2023

Plan Your Spring 2023 Tree Planting Now

By Jeff Osborne, Forest Stewardship Program Associate,
James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State



Spring is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. If you are thinking about planting this year, now is the time to start planning. The article here on page 1 provides some helpful tips for a successful outcome.

Photo by Scott Weikert, Penn State Extension

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Late April into early May is a great time to plant trees and shrubs for many reasons. You may have been cooped up all winter and feel the need for strenuous outdoor activity. Deciduous seedlings are dormant and evergreen seedlings are less active, decreasing the stress of transplanting and increasing survival. April, May, and June tend to have ample precipitation, increasing survivorship and reducing the need for supplemental waterings. A spring planting also affords you the opportunity to see the plants quickly break bud and put on growth. They may even flower if you are planting larger-sized stock. Many nurseries are set up for spring and fall sale and deliveries of large amounts of stock for immediate planting and smaller volumes of containerized stock throughout the year. So, the best time to set up a planting plan for a spring planting is not on Arbor Day—it’s a bit too late in the season. If you have not already started planning, the best time is now so you can get your saplings ordered.

Tree plantings fail every year due to predictable (not enough light, herbivory, poor species selection) and unpredictable events (weather events, insect, or disease outbreaks). Proper planning can help mitigate losses. Newly planted trees and shrubs should have sunlight most of the day so they can survive and quickly grow tall enough to be out of deer browse height and have a diameter sufficient to resist girdling by rodents. Once you have identified an area that has sufficient light, you can concentrate on the soil. If the area has a multitude of plant species already growing, the soil will probably be sufficient to grow your new plants. If there are only a few species growing, or you know

of past use—like strip mining—that makes the area less hospitable, soil testing is advised to determine the pH of the soil. Penn State offers soil testing, and many county conservation districts sell soil test kits. Soil pH will inform you which species are likely to grow better in the area. Soil texture will also influence which species you should choose. Dig around a bit in the area to be planted. If the soil is mostly clay, or very sandy or stony, you should choose species that will grow well in those types of soils. Soil moisture also needs to be considered.

Tree Planting, continued on page 3



This spring tree planting on a cold day in early April incorporated tree tubes to protect seedlings planted as a riparian buffer.



PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences

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Birds Need Nesting Sites—You Can Help

By Paul J. Solomon and Jeanne M. Riley

Birds! What would life be without them? They enrich our lives with their beauty and song. They are active in controlling insect pests, pollinating plants, spreading seeds, and removing carrion from our surroundings. Birds have the largest following of all wildlife in the U.S., with over 45 million people reporting they observe wild birds, per 2016 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

Many of the birds that populate our communities rely on tree cavities for nesting or roosting, cavities which are increasingly in short supply due to forest clearing and fragmentation carried out for agriculture, logging, and land development. Firewood cutting, fencerow removal, and the rising use of steel and plastic (versus wooden) fence posts also reduce the number of nesting cavities.

Of the 190 species of breeding birds in Pennsylvania, approximately 35 are cavity nesters. One-half of these are primary cavity nesters, such as woodpeckers, that excavate their own nests as part of their breeding behavior. Secondary cavity nesters—such as wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, American kestrels, Tufted Titmice, chickadees, Purple Martins, and Great-crested Flycatchers—rely on pre-existing holes as nest sites.

Cavities, both natural and manufactured, offer a number of benefits to birds. They provide protection from predators, extreme weather, and disease as well as space for food storage. Use of cavity nests has been shown to extend nesting time and success, with 60% to 80% of cavity nests supporting the birth of at least one young bird, versus 20% to 40% of open nests. Use of nesting cavities also enables birds to conserve energy in cold weather. Without nesting cavities, roosting birds such as robins can burn one-tenth of their body weight to stay alive in the winter. By maintaining snags and providing nesting boxes, landowners can attract and sustain the many species of birds that are vital contributors to the ecosystem on which we all depend.

Snags. Snags are dead or dying trees which contain cavities used as nesting sites by wildlife. Snags of both deciduous and conifer (evergreen) trees are used by wildlife. Hard snags, which are partially or recently dead trees, typically have their bark intact and feature solid or mostly undecayed wood. These kinds of snags are well-suited to cavity excavating birds such as woodpeckers. Other species prefer soft



Pileated Woodpecker. These primary cavity nesters excavate distinctive oblong nest holes about 3-1/2" long in dead or dying large trees. Photo© courtesy of Mike and Laura Jackson. Used with permission.

snags, which are in advanced stages of decay and generally do not have limbs. Dead or dying trees with large diameters, existing holes or cavities, wounds or scars, and a combination of decayed and sound wood are ideally suited for nesting. Landowners wishing to attract diverse species of birds should maintain snags of a variety of types and sizes. Potential future snags should be identified and saved when undertaking logging or forest management activities. However, for safety considerations, snags located near buildings,

particularly residential units, should be removed during logging operations.

Nesting Boxes. Nesting boxes can be built from plans or kits or can be purchased. Unfortunately, many commercially manufactured bird houses are designed to attract a buyer rather than a bird. Nesting boxes which are not properly designed do not adequately protect birds, and therefore should be avoided. Nesting boxes should be designed, constructed, and placed with a particular species of bird in mind. Eliminating predators' access to boxes is also important in creating nesting habitat.

Features to consider in choosing or constructing a nesting box and tools available to protect it from predators are described in the table below. Boxes with these characteristics protect nests from extreme temperatures, driving rains, and predators.

Perches on nesting boxes should be avoided. Birds that use nesting boxes have strong feet and do not require them, and perches can make it easy for predatory birds to access the box.

Common preferred nesting locations include open woods and edges (chickadee), wooded swamps and streams (Prothonotary Warbler), woodland edges

Nesting Sites, *continued on page 3*

Features to Consider in Nesting Box Design, Construction, Placement, and Protection

Design	Construction	Placement	Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Box dimensions specific to species of interest. Roof extended $\geq 2"$ over entrance hole. Exact size and shape of hole matched to species of interest.¹ Deep scoring on inside front panel of box below hole to serve as exit ladder. Ventilation holes near top for excess heat to escape. Floor containing 4 or more 3/8" holes for drainage. Floor which is recessed to prevent water infiltration. Side or front panel for easy human access. No perches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lumber which is untreated (e.g., plywood, cedar, or pine) at least 3/4" thick. Interior which is unstained/unpainted. Exterior which is unstained/unpainted or painted/stained in light earth tones to reflect sunlight and heat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place in field, wetland, woods, woods edge, or underbrush based on species of interest. Place at natural nesting height of species of interest. Avoid sites near livestock feeding areas and sites with significant human activity. Eliminate obstacles to birds' likely flight path to and from hole entrances. Avoid sites where pesticides are used. Avoid sites where cats can be found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attach predator baffles (aluminum or metal tubes or plates) to poles or trees on which nesting boxes or sites are located.² Consider adding hole extenders, 4"x4" wooden, open-ended squares that fit over entrance holes, to boxes.

Reference: Shalaway S. *Nest Box Basics*, in **A Guide to Bird Homes**. Bird Watcher's Digest Press, 2010.

¹For Eastern Bluebirds, popular cavity nesters, a round hole of 1-1/2 inches in diameter enables access while eliminating predators such as European starlings.

²See references for instructions.

Nesting Sites, continued from page 2

(Tufted Titmouse), old field and brush (Carolina Wren), open fields (Tree Swallow), and forest openings and edges (Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers).

Some cavity nesters, such as Eastern Bluebirds, prefer nesting boxes which already contain suitable nesting material. Nesting material may enhance the attractiveness of the box, provided it is free of parasite infestation. Investigate the preferences of the species of interest when installing the box.

New nesting boxes are best installed just before breeding season. They can be



Eastern Bluebird. This species was brought back from the edge of extinction when DDT was banned and volunteers across the U.S. built thousands of nesting boxes for this cavity nester. Photo© courtesy of Mike and Laura Jackson. Used with permission.

kept up all year long, as they can be very useful to birds for conserving heat in the colder months.

Birds may be hesitant to accept a new nesting box, so experts advise leaving the box in place for two to three years before modifying or moving it. Some species like used nests and so may be attracted to existing nesting boxes. Boxes should be inspected in late winter and maintained according to the needs of the species of interest.

Native bird populations play many essential roles within an ecosystem but are increasingly under threat. With thoughtful design, construction, placement, and protection of natural and manufactured nesting boxes, we can provide native bird populations with the welcoming homes they need to thrive and thereby ensure that they continue to enrich our natural world. Let's get to work!

Resources:

- Wilson AM, Brauning DW, and Mulvihill RS. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*. Penn State University Press, 2012.
- Barker MA, Wolfson ER, and National Audubon Society. *Audubon Birdhouse Book*, Revised Edition. Cool Springs Press, 2021.
- Brittingham MC. *Management Practices for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat*. Penn State Extension. April 15, 2016. (<https://extension.psu.edu>)
- Broder C. *Cavity Nesting Trails Program in Pennsylvania State Parks*. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. March 2020.
- Shalaway S. *A Guide to Bird Homes*. Bird Watcher's Digest Press. 2010.



Black-Capped Chickadee. Although these tiny birds will nest in existing cavities, they also will excavate their own nests in soft snags. Their persistence in building nesting cavities is amazing! Photo© courtesy of Mike and Laura Jackson. Used with permission.

- <http://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses> (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
- www.allaboutbirds.org (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
- Nesting Boxes and Kits. Howard Nursery. Pennsylvania Game Commission. (www.pgc.pa.gov)
- Woodcrafting for Wildlife Plans. PA Wild Resource Conservation Fund and Pennsylvania Game Commission. (www.pgc.pa.gov)

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Tree Planting, continued from page 1

Soil moisture is affected by soil texture, aspect, and terrain position. South-facing slopes tend to be drier during the growing season than northern slopes or flat areas. Ridge tops tend to be droughty. Some trees and shrubs cannot handle soils that are frequently saturated with water, which tends to happen in low-lying areas or near bodies of water.

Once you have an idea of the pH, texture, and moisture trends of your soil, you can follow species selection guides to choose species that will meet your objectives for the planting and more closely match the conditions of your site. Whether your objectives are cover for animals, a wind screen, wildlife food, increasing tree and shrubs species diversity, a combination of the above, or something else

entirely, you should plan to plant several different species. Choosing only one or two different species can leave your planting vulnerable to mass mortality events. Many pests and diseases only affect a limited number of species; having tightly spaced groups of only one or two species can lead to a pest spreading more readily. While it may be aesthetically pleasing to have nice straight rows of a single species like white spruce or arborvitae planted, a needle cast disease could wipe out most of your spruces or bag worms could kill groups of your arborvitae.

With your species selection in place, start looking for planting stock. In addition to selling soil test kits, many county conservation districts have spring tree sales and begin taking orders in the winter with delivery in April. Conservation districts re-sell commercial nursery stock.

Many commercial nurseries in Pennsylvania sell containerized stock, with fewer selling bare root seedlings. The PA Game Commission's Howard Nursery grows seedlings for wildlife habitat plantings on State Game Lands. Their excess stock has been on sale to the public since January 9, with distribution taking place in mid to late April. Bare root seedlings need to be kept cool and moist until planting, or they can dry out and die. After you order your seedlings, you may have a few months to wait until they are ready to pick up. This is a good time to think about site preparation, planting methods, and methods of protecting the new plants. If you are planning a larger scale tree planting, or are unsure about an aspect of the process, there are Bureau of Forestry Service Foresters covering each county who are available to assist.

2022 Scorecards Illustrate SFI's Commitment to Sustainability

By Chuck Coup, PA SFI Implementation Committee Program Manager

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) recently shared their annual "Scorecard" reports that highlight many successes over the last year in advancing forest sustainability and nature-positive outcomes in collaboration with a wide network of partners. Here are some of the key takeaways.

The new SFI 2022 Standards are being implemented at a large scale.

The new SFI 2022 standards are being effectively implemented across SFI's vast landscape of 354 million acres, meaning more SFI-certified forests than ever before are being managed to the new climate-smart and fire resiliency requirements, SFI-certified organizations are doing even more to respect Indigenous People's rights, traditional knowledge and relationship building, and companies certified to the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard are conducting landscape assessments of biodiversity and expanding screening requirements for controversial sources. In addition, 52 Indigenous com-

munities across North America are now certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, which is more than any other forestry certification standard.

Demand for the SFI label is increasing among organizations and consumers.

SFI's focus on sustainability and nature-positive outcomes is resonating with organizations and consumers alike. Seventy-eight percent of SFI-certified organizations reported steady or increased demand for SFI-certified products—more than any other forest certification standard—and more Fortune 100 companies are using the SFI label.

SFI's conservation and community impact continues to grow.

SFI continues to be the only forest certification standard with a research requirement. Since 1995, SFI-certified organizations have invested over \$1.9 billion dollars in forest research, with \$78 million invested in 2021 alone. Over 80% of this funding was directly linked to conserva-

tion objectives. SFI also awarded 34 new community, conservation, and education grants last year and engaged with 36 unique conservation organizations.

SFI is making a difference for diverse young people in their communities.

SFI continues to grow a lifetime of learning from children to young adults through Project Learning Tree (PLT) environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways programming. PLT trained more than 6,000 educators in 2022, resulting in an estimated 1.65 million students reached. SFI continues to be inspired to find new ways of collaborating with Indigenous, Black American, and underserved audiences through the creation of partnerships, tools, and resources.

To review the 2022 SFI Scorecards please visit <https://bit.ly/3ZnKNM5>.

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

Pennsylvania Tree Farm News: PA Tree Farm Committee Report

By Susan Benedict, PA Tree Farm Committee Chair

As I write this, I have just finished watching the beavers who live in the pond in front of our cabin work at repairing the damage to their dam from the latest flooding rainstorm. This is the fifth repair they have undertaken since moving in. It has been a joint effort, with us providing some of the materials they have used. I'm sure they are hoping this will be the last fix for a while, but somehow I doubt it. Yet, every time they repair it, the dam becomes secure and the water level more stable. I feel like our PA Tree Farm committee is somewhat like our dam.

On January 1, 2023, I stepped into the PA Tree Farm committee chair. I have been here before. My previous tenure saw the end of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Tree Farm Convention, with the last being hosted by our state committee in Pittsburgh, PA. After that convention, ATFS combined it with the annual National Leadership Convention. We were sad for this change but understood that two annual conventions put a strain on ATFS staff and financial resources that could be better used for core mission purposes. Then came the dreaded States Voice,

States Choice, where state committees were tasked with choosing from a menu of programs the state committee felt best suited their needs and developing the operating documents for their specific program while becoming more self-reliant financially. This was a huge undertaking

and not without angst and frankly some discord among the members. As with any change, there were differing viewpoints on how to proceed, and arriving at a consensus was difficult. The PA Tree Farm committee did arrive at a consensus and two things were decided. We would become a certification program—subject to third-party auditing to prove compliance with published standards—and we would re-engage with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association as a PFA standing committee to stabilize our finances and gain administrative support. I firmly supported both of these moves. In order to implement the new States Voice, States Choice certification program, we instituted dues for the first time. Each Tree Farm was required to be a PFA member and pay PFA annual dues, and a separate Tree Farm-specific assessment was added to offset Tree Farm program expenses. PFA was generous with its support, and we were able to keep the fees low. No one likes to pay fees, but it costs money to run a program and the Tree Farm committee needs to pay its way.



Owner Monte Kapec, right, receives the 2022 PA Tree Farm of the Year award for The Camp at Elk Tannery from 2022 PA Tree Farm Committee Chair John Hoover.

Tree Farm, continued on page 5

Pennsylvania Forestry Association: A Look Back and a Look Ahead

By Randy White, Pennsylvania Forestry Association President

PFA has had a great year and is looking forward to 2023

The winter issue of PFA's quarterly magazine, *Pennsylvania Forests*, focuses on the 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference taking place March 24-25 in State College, PA. Like many things, the 2021 conference was canceled due to COVID, and we welcome its return this year. This conference will provide you with the tools you need to improve the health and vitality of your forest. PFA is a proud sponsor of this excellent conference, and we hope to see our PFA members—and our *Forest Leaves* readers—there.

PFA President's 2022 summary of PFA's activities over the past year and some things that will be coming in 2023

2022 Recap:

January: PFA Farm Show Exhibit. The 2022 event was well attended; we are always looking for volunteers to staff our booth.

March: The 2022 Conservation Banquet, our only fundraiser, was held at the Ramada Inn in State College, PA.

Tree Farm, continued from page 4

When reorganized, our committee set a goal of inspecting each Tree Farm every five years. This was an ambitious goal. So far, we have not been able to attain it. There are many reasons for this which are outside the scope of this article. In addition, ATFS sends a list annually of required Tree Farm inspections to maintain the integrity of the program, and since we are a certification program, we have periodic audits. These audits are rigorous and require many hours of administrative time, most of it volunteer. As time has passed and the world has changed, especially with COVID, it has become increasingly difficult for the PA Tree Farm committee to assemble the hands to complete the audits. The audit in 2022 was especially difficult for committee members to complete. Realizing a change was needed, committee leadership began discussing moving to a recognition program. The program has the same plan and inspection requirements but does not have the audit component. After some initial discussion, the committee sent a survey to Tree Farm members asking their opinion on the change. The overwhelming response was to change to a recognition program.

April: Tree Planting Ramble at Sproul State Forest.

August: Ag Progress Days Exhibit. Every year we greet and talk to several hundred people during this three-day event that draws thousands to Penn State's Ag Progress Days grounds in Rock Springs, PA.

September: The Forest Heritage and Discovery Center at Caledonia State Park wrapped up its 2022 season on Labor Day; nearly 1600 visitors came through in 2022. If you are in the Chambersburg area this summer, plan a visit; the center is open weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day (check hours online).

October: PFA took the over the leadership role for the 2022 Walk in Penn's Woods event and, with our partners, hosted walks across the state during the remnants of hurricane Ian. Also, the Log a Load Clay Shoot held at Shenecoy Sportsman's Club in Huntingdon raised \$7,500 for children's hospitals in PA.

November: The 2022 Annual Symposium on "Forest Carbon: Growing Green"

I support this change. Certification may be important to some of our members. For those members, we will help research options for them, but for the vast majority of our members, recognition achieves the same goals of forest stewardship. It should be noted here that the current fee structure and required PFA membership will remain. Those fees support our normal inspection operations. We have worked to increase our inspector cadre and will be moving toward achieving our "every member inspected on a five-year schedule" goal. In addition, committee members are reaching out to ATFS to suggest some changes to make the program work better for PA Tree Farms. We will report more on this effort as we make progress.

Like the beavers in my pond, I hope this is the last major "repair" we need to make to the PA Tree Farm committee's operations. I doubt it will be, but we will continue to work for our PA Tree Farmers to have a program that supports their valiant stewardship efforts to maintain Penn's Woods.

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

featured some great presentations and was well attended at Toftrees Resort in State College.

Upcoming 2023 Spring Events:

March: This year's Conservation Banquet will be held Saturday, March 4 at the Ramada Inn in State College, PA. Also, PFA is a major sponsor of the Forest Landowners Conference March 24-25 in State College, PA.

April: On April 23 we will conduct the 31st Tree Planting Ramble at Sproul State Forest.

If you are looking to become more involved with PFA, consider becoming a member of one of the following committees: Education and Communications – Outreach – Forest Heritage – Tree Farm – Conservation Banquet – Membership – Symposium Committee.

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



(L-R): Dr. Allyson Muth, Michael Powell, and Linda Finley.

Muth, Powell, Finley Named 2022 PFA Award Recipients

Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist of the Year: Dr. Allyson Muth, Director, James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State; Assistant Research Professor.

Sandy Cochran Award for Excellence in Natural Resources Education: Michael Powell, Penn State Extension Educator, Lycoming County.

Myra Lloyd Dock Outstanding Woman Conservationist: Linda Finley, Private Forest Landowner and James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State Council Chair Elect.

At the Center: Biennial Forest Landowners Conferences

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

For the fifth time, the Biennial Forest Landowners Conference is set to occur this March 2023. For each conference since the first in 2013, hundreds of landowners and forest stewardship professionals have gathered for learning and networking opportunities to care well for the woods.

Since the inception of the idea in early 2012, soon after the Center for Private Forests was founded, the goal was to bring people together to learn about and celebrate all things forest stewardship. While numerous organization-based events or professional events were common in our state, we wanted to create an event to which everyone felt comfortable coming. Celebration of the efforts of private forest landowners was central to our vision of the conference, combined with learning and access to resources to help others take care of their woods.

While the Center organized the event, its success was directly tied to the commitment and participation of dozens of partner organizations and hundreds of volunteers—both resource professionals and landowners—who shared the vision and wanted to help make it happen.

We crafted a full day and a half agenda with 99 concurrent session offerings over nine time slots, brought in renowned keynote speakers to inspire us, added in-



THE JAMES C. FINLEY CENTER FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

tensive learning events through field tours and workshops, and welcomed dozens of partner organizations and resource providers to be conduits for landowners, from learning to action.

The overall structure of the event hasn't changed since the first one. It remains a time of engagement and enthusiasm, a time of connection and celebration, a time of learning and listening. And every two years, hundreds of landowners, professionals, and interested members of the public have joined in.

Now, after a hiatus in 2021 due to COVID, the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State and its myriad partners are glad to be able to hold this event again. We're excited to once again invite you to join us for the 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference March 24 and 25, 2023 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College.

As in the previous four conferences, these two days are filled with learning

opportunities ranging from novice woodland owner topics of interest to more advanced, from learning about management strategies to improve forest health to creating habitat for small wildlife, from overstory removal to forest regeneration, and everything in between and off to the sides.

The biennial conferences were created to enhance your relationship with trees and forests and expand your network of resources and link you to a community that shares a connection to forests. Your deep connection to your woods, your love of your land, your pride in your accomplishments, and your collective efforts to confront challenges are the reasons for this gathering. Our goal is to help good things happen on those woods through informed decision-making and actions, with the result that we all have healthier, resilient, and more sustainable forests.

We hope you'll join us and hundreds of your fellow landowners to learn about and celebrate how and why we take care of the woods. Check out the back page and below for more information about this year's conference.

To find out more about the Finley Center, visit our website at ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forests.

You Are Invited to Join a PA Woodland Owners Association

Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Associations have been connecting and educating forest landowners and the public across the state for at least 34 years. These groups hold periodic indoor and outdoor meetings on various topics, pulling in many professionals to share their knowledge of their field. Woodland owners association meetings are a great place for forest landowners to meet others who are trying to manage their land in a similar way and seek their peer advice. Most groups meet in winter to set programs for the upcoming year. Contact information and upcoming events are available on the Finley Center's website under the "Resources for Woodland Owners" and "Events" tabs, respectively. Woodland owner groups are seeking more attendees and leaders, so reach out and connect today!



The 5th Biennial Forest Landowners Conference features keynote speakers, nearly 100 presentations, dozens of partner organizations in Exhibit Hall, pre-conference tours and workshops, and abundant opportunities to connect, share, and learn. For registration and hotel information, visit ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference.





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:

February 14: Why Care About Trees

March 15: Update on PA Forest Landowner Survey

April 11: How Berries of Exotic Shrubs Are Altering the Plumage Coloration of North American Birds

May 9: (Topic to be determined)

June 13: Wildlife Adaptations

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.

Winter Phenology Notes

This article is a collection of phenology notes specifically focused on the winter months: January, February, and March.

Young Forests are Great Wildlife Habitat

Forests are important habitat for wildlife, and young forests are particularly critical for many species. They provide food, shelter, and cover that is increasingly rare.

Service Forester Assistance for Forest Landowners

Forest landowners needing unbiased assistance managing their property can contact their county's Service Forester for help and advice. They work for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry and their help is free.

Chainsaw PPE Protects People

Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating a chainsaw is critical, and yet many people are unaware it exists. If you or a loved one uses a chainsaw, this video is a must watch.

Forestry Aesthetics and Nonprofessional Forestry

Forest aesthetics are contrasted with forestry aesthetics, and the impacts of professional versus nonprofessional forestry on aesthetics are illustrated in this video.

Pennsylvania Timber Market Report, Third 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.

Woodland Wisdom No. 5: Carbon Credits and Forestland Owners

Carbon credits and markets are two topics of interest to forest landowners. This video helps explain their role in promoting forest stewardship and generating income.

Protected Species in Pennsylvania: Long-eared Owl

This article discusses reasons for decline in the long-eared owl and opportunities for protection and recovery in Pennsylvania.

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 Winter 2023

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

April 15, 2023

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.sfiofpa.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

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