
All in a Nutshell

Volume 15, Issue 2

Summer 2010



Jake Scheib, service forester, explains the merits of proper woodlot management during the spring woods walk held at the Walt Fayocavitz property on March 13, 2010. Despite heavy winds, deep snow and rain, 14 dedicated forest landowners braved the elements to learn more about good forest management practices. Many of the attendees were delayed or rerouted by fallen trees in the roadways. Following the walk, a scrumptious lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, salads and homemade pies was served by the ladies at the N. Jackson Methodist church.

President's Message

I had my tree shears in hand. As I headed to the field to continue with my evening shearing, I spotted the back of a deer in the tall grass. I was able to duck behind a chest-high blue spruce and walk half the distance to her. She never saw me until I stood up behind the tree. I watched to see if she had any fawns with her, but not tonight. Eventually, when the wind shifted, she ran off alone.

So what does a Christmas tree grower have in common with other forest landowners? LOTS! Things I have seen recently include a coyote pouncing on mice, (he mostly came up empty). I found a tiny wild turkey chick in the recently mowed grass. After 30 seconds of finding other chicks, "Big Momma" turkey came up out of the tall grass about six feet away and landed in a tree just behind me. I got the downdraft of those huge wings as she flew just past my head. I usually find my first fawn of the season while I'm shearing trees.

Besides wildlife, I like to watch trees grow. To the average person in town, they think that is about as exciting as watching paint dry. But to a person who has planted a tree, he knows that most of a tree's growth is in about thirty days in late May/early June. How many of your trees have had the terminal shoot broken off by a fat robin or a crow who has landed on the succulent tender growth?

Forest landowners wonder if they are going to have any insect or disease problems. Christmas tree growers know they will have some problems in that monoculture system. Will his spray program be effective on each species of tree he has planted?

Will there be enough rain, or too much rain? Will there be snow damage in the winter? What other surprises will the weatherman have in store for you? Will the trees recover from the frost damage last month?

The bottom line is that we are all able to enjoy nature and all aspects of our environment. We live in the most beautiful place in the country. We are all very thankful for what we have. It is a beautiful day in northeast Pennsylvania!

Annual Summer Picnic

The Susquehanna County Forest Landowner's Association will be holding its summer picnic in the pavilion at Salt Springs State Park on June 27, 2010. Lunch begins at 12:00 noon. The Association will be providing burgers, sausages, rolls and beverages. Attendees should bring a covered dish to pass. In addition to the splendid views, hiking trails and natural ambience of the park, a forester will be presenting a program on the status of a blight resistant American chestnut strain.

The American Chestnut

The American chestnut, once the dominant tree in many areas of Northeast PA, was essentially eradicated when the Asian chestnut blight swept through the area early in the twentieth century. Although remnants of that tree still exist as root sprouts and small scattered saplings, there are no longer any stands of that once noble tree.

As a staple of early settlers, chestnut trees provided rot-resistant lumber and fence posts. The nuts were readily consumed, and the wood also provided fuel. Its mast crop was dependable year after year and provided a highly nutritious source of food for bear, deer, grouse, turkeys, squirrels and other small mammals. The loss of this valuable resource was devastating to the wildlife, economy and ecology of the northern PA forests.

For many years, the American Chestnut Foundation has pursued a breeding program to develop a blight-resistant chestnut strain. Their goal was to introduce the blight resistance of a Chinese chestnut while preserving the genetic heritage of the indigenous American species.

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Emerald Ash Borer

A complicated series involving 5 backcrosses of the offspring from a Chinese and American chestnut F₁ cross has resulted in a 15/16 American chestnut tree. The intercrossing of these trees will hopefully produce blight-resistant trees with a high level of American chestnut genes.

The development of a blight-resistant American chestnut tree will be the topic of a presentation following lunch at the SCFLOA picnic to be held at Salt Springs State Park on June 27. Robin Wildermuth, a forest consultant and land manager for the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club, will make a presentation regarding the progress of a blight-resistant Chestnut cultivar and the status of his Chestnut orchard in Pike County.



American chestnut leaves

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL PICNIC

At Salt Springs Park Pavilion

June 27, 2010, Noon

Robin Wildermuth will present a program on the development of disease resistant American chestnut trees

HARFORD FAIR BOOTH

August 16 thru August 20, 2010

Identification of invasive plants

Volunteers to staff the booth are needed.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING

October 2, 2010 10 am-2 pm

Brian Severcool property, Springville, PA

FALL FOLIAGE BUS TOUR

October 9, 2010

Tour of the State Lumberman's Museum At Coudersport, PA; view the PA Grand Canyon

ANNUAL MEETING

November 19, 2010

Site, agenda and speaker

Still being planned

Of grave concern to PA forest landowners is the advance of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). In the US and Canada, millions of ash trees have been destroyed by this pest. Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation include upper crown dieback, epicormic branching (branching from the base), bark splits, and bark flaking. Exterior trunk damage, resulting from woodpecker activity, is also symptomatic of a possible EAB infestation. The recent discovery of their presence in Bedford County brings the total of infested PA counties to 12, all located in the western portion of the state. The state and federal quarantines imposed on these areas prohibit the movement of all ash products, including firewood of all species, from these counties.

First detected in Butler County during the summer of 2007, these invasive beetles typically will kill an ash tree within three years of infestation. Emerald ash borers have a one- or two-year life cycle, with the larva and prepupa overwintering in the outer sapwood or beneath the outer bark. The pupae can appear in mid-April, with adults beginning to emerge in late May. Peak emergence occurs from early to mid June. The shiny green beetles feed on ash foliage for several weeks before depositing their eggs in bark crevices or between the bark layers. Upon hatching, the young larvae bore directly into the cambium and phloem, where they feed, forming meandering galleries under the bark. There, the destructive larvae spend the rest of their life cycle, until they emerge as shiny green adult beetles, leaving eighth inch wide "D"-shaped holes in the tree's bark. These adult beetles are active from early May to late September.

Researchers from the PA Dept. of Ag. have hung nearly 6000 purple panel traps in ash trees throughout 21 counties. These are baited with pheromones to attract and hence detect the spreading presence of the beetles. The traps will be removed by the end of August. As of June 7, 2010, the PA Dept. of Ag website indicates negative presence for 11 trap sites in Susquehanna County. Early detection of the EAB's presence could save many trees. Other than destroying the infested trees, there is no known practical control for this dreaded pest. Anyone suspecting the presence of the EAB should immediately contact the local state forester.

For more information do an internet search or check out the following website :

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/fpm_invasives_EAB.a_spx



Emerald Ash Borer adult beetle

**OTHER EVENTS OF
INTEREST TO SCFLOA
MEMBERS**

***Wayne/Lackawanna Forest
Landowner's Association***

September 11th, 2010 @ 9am - 4pm

Sugar and 'sang: maple and ginseng husbandry on your forestlands. A morning lecture at Saint Rose Academy School Auditorium, Mayfield. An afternoon woods walk/planting demonstration. Reservations required. \$25 members, \$35 non members: includes lunch and ginseng planting stock. *Contact Bev Bernoske (570) 254-9790*

The Florence Shelly Wetlands Preserve

*Stack Rd parking lot, 1 mile north of Thompson, PA rt171
All walks are free, contact 727-3362 for more info*

July 11th, 2010 @ 2pm

Herb ID and use
Len and Gerri Janus

August 8th, 2010 @2pm

General nature walk
Stuart W. Slocum

September 12, 2010 @2pm

Wetland Conservation
Matt Purdy

October 3, 2010 @2pm

Fall foliage and tree ID
Hank Hartman



Exit hole of an emerging Emerald Ash Borer beetle

Chainsaw Safety Training

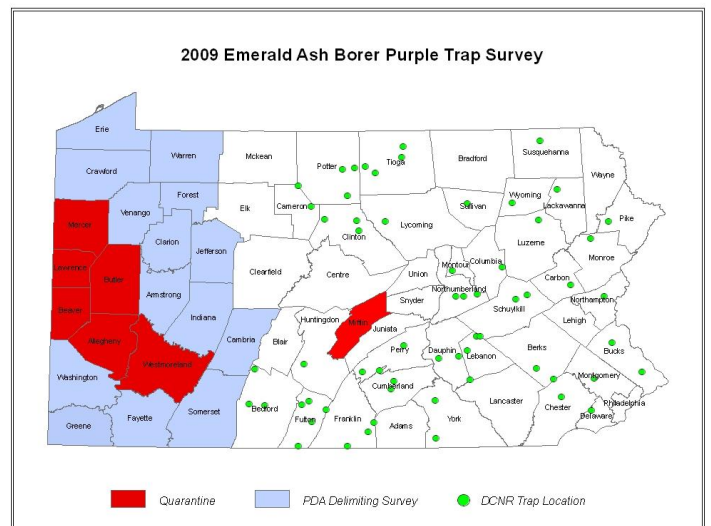


On Saturday, October 2, 2010, Jake Scheib will present a workshop on chainsaw safety. Jake is the PA state service forester for Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. This activity will be held on the lands of Brian Severcool near Springville, PA. Due to the nature of this workshop, attendance will be limited to the first 20 reservations. Those interested in attending should contact Jake Schreib at:

**Bureau of Forestry
Forest District #11
RR1 Box 230
Dalton, PA 18414
jscheib@state.pa.us
570 945-7133**

Although this will not be a “hands-on” program for participants, Jake will discuss and demonstrate proper chainsaw maintenance, falling and bucking of trees and use of safety equipment. The program is scheduled to run from 10 to 2. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Lunch is on your own.

More EAB Information



PA distribution of the Emerald Ash Borer as determined by the 2009 trap survey

When you check the SCFLOA activities calendar, notice that the theme for our Harford Fair display is "invasive" plants. In planning this event, the Board of Directors re-discovered some of the difficulties involved in pinning down satisfactory definitions for the words 'weed', 'invasive plant' and 'noxious plant'. Personal opinion, as well as numerous government pronouncements, has created a variety of understandings. For the sake of clarity, we offer some definitions posted on the DCNR website.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/problem.htm>

"The term **weed** is a subjective word used to describe any plant considered to be "out of place." In other words, weeds can include native and non-native plants alike, growing wherever someone wishes they weren't. Invasive exotic plants of natural ecosystems are often referred to as natural area weeds."

"**Noxious Weed** is a *legal designation* used specifically for plant species that have been determined to be major pests of agricultural ecosystems and are subject, by law, to certain restrictions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates noxious weeds and defines them as plants or plant products that can directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public health, or the environment. Plants can also be designated as "noxious weeds" by states and counties, usually through "noxious weed boards". Pennsylvania has such a "board." Many noxious weeds designated for their impacts to agriculture also threaten natural areas.

"An "**invasive species**" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health."

Not sure if you still owe 2010 dues? If there is an addressed envelope enclosed with this newsletter then you still owe!

I wish to pay my 2010 SCFLOA dues.

__ \$20 -10 acres or more __ \$16- < 10 acres

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

*Please return in enclosed envelope, with remittance to:
Helga Walz, SCFLOA treasurer.*

Please send any updates in email or home addresses to **Helga Walz**

wienerwalz@yahoo.com.

3056 Valley Rd,
Friendsville, PA 18818

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED