

UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 28** **Foods of the Delaware Highlands Gala Dinner**
Hawley, PA
- MAY 12** **Forestry Walk at Lemons Brook Farm**
Bethel, NY, 1pm-4pm
- MAY 19** **Native Plants Walk**
Milford, PA, 9am-12pm
- JUNE 2** **Money Grows on Trees**
Lacawac Sanctuary, Lake Ariel, PA, 9am-12pm
- JULY 8** **Birding Walk**
Bethel, NY, 8am-10am
- SEP 6-9** **Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat**
Boyd's Mill, PA
- SEP 15** **Firefly Picnic for our Members and Friends**
Bethel, NY, 4pm-7pm

Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org, or call 570-226-3164/845-583-1010 to learn more.

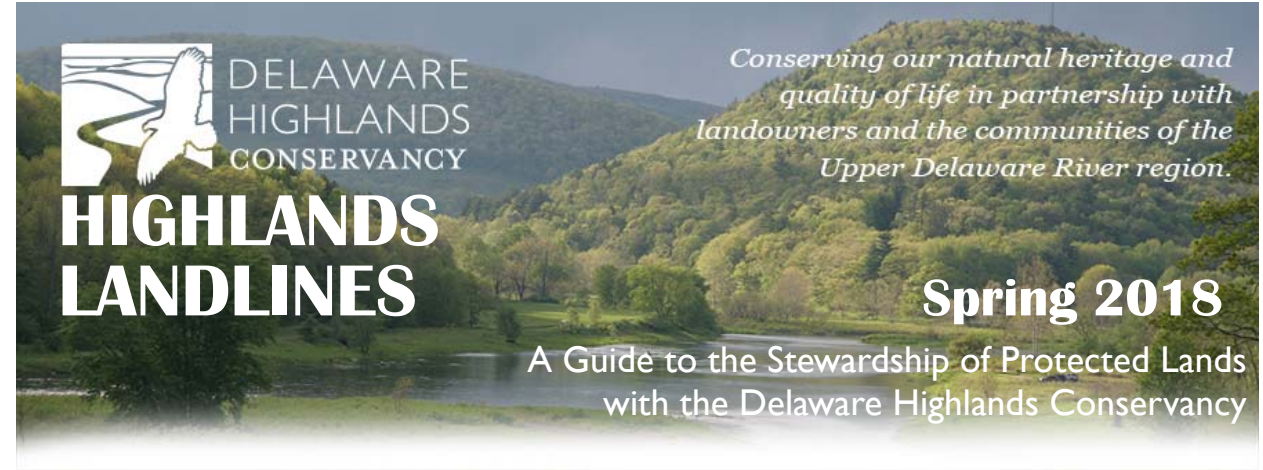
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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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- **INSIDE**
- **My Ash Trees are Dying—What Do I Do?**
- **Forest Taxation**
- **Celebrating 25 Years in 2019**
- **Spotted Lanternfly: Best Management Practices**
- **Annual Property Visit Questionnaire**



My Ash Trees are Dying—What Do I Do?

Tens of millions of ash trees have been killed by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the Midwestern and Eastern states. Consequently, this leaves homeowners wondering what to do with the ash trees in their yards and woodlots. Studies have shown that there is 99% mortality of ash trees within 3-4 years of emerald ash borer infestation.

EAB has been confirmed in most of Pennsylvania, with only the far eastern counties yet to be confirmed. However, it is only a matter of time before this destructive insect is found throughout the entire state and northeastern United States. There are several options for landowners to consider when dealing with dead or dying ash trees: (1) cut it, (2) treat it, or (3) leave it alone. *(Note: This article has been edited for length and only includes information on option [1], cutting your ash. The website address to the full article is on page 5.)*



Harvest for Lumber:

Selling timber can be a complicated business. Forestry practices, regulations, and market prices are always changing, so it's best to get guidance from a variety of forestry professionals before making plans for your ash trees. Professional foresters and loggers, as well as sawmill staff and timber consultants, can all provide valuable advice.

Professional foresters can also consider other forest management options at the same time as the ash harvest, ensuring that you get the most value out of all your timber. These could improve the overall forest health, wildlife habitat, or feasibility of regeneration, as well as threats of other invasive species impacting your region's forests. They will help make sure your goals are met and the project is completed safely using best management practices.

(Continued on page 5)

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to conserving our natural heritage and quality of life in partnership with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware River region.

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Highlands LandLines is a semi-annual newsletter for landowners who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy. This publication is also available electronically.



What is Highlands LandLines?

You already receive the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's regular newsletter, *Highlands Journal*. Our newsletter is distributed to all of our landowners, members, and other like-minded folks who are interested in the Conservancy's activities, accomplishments, and conservation goals.

This publication, *Highlands LandLines*, comes to you twice a year and is dedicated to landowners. *LandLines* provides you, the landowner, with useful information and tips for the stewardship of your land and conservation easement.

Participate in LandLines!

We are interested in your ideas for future articles and features, or your comments on the publication in general.

We'd love to know what you think!



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for these exciting events coming up in 2018—and visit www.DelawareHighlands.org to view our full calendar and register!

May 19—Native Plants Walk

Milford Experimental Forest, Milford, PA

September 15—Firefly Picnic

Conservancy Office, Bethel, NY

Annual Property Visit Questionnaire

Please help the Conservancy prepare for our annual property visits by completing the below survey and mailing to:

Delaware Highlands Conservancy Attn: Cindy Taylor
PO Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428
Or email: cindy@delawarehighlands.org

You may also complete the survey online at
<https://delawarehighlands.org/landowner/caring-for-your-land/monitoring-form>

Contact: _____ Email: _____

Annual property visits allow the Conservancy to uphold the terms of the conservation easement for each property. These visits allow the Conservancy to determine whether the conservation values outlined in the conservation easement are intact. In addition, the visit is a fundamental part of relationship building between the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, its members, and landowners.

- Would you like to attend the property visit? Yes No
- Do you have plans to sell, subdivide or lease the property?..... Yes No
- Have any structures (houses, sheds, barns, gazebos, garage, pole barn) been built or replaced within the boundaries of the conservation easement?..... Yes No
- Has there been any land disturbance as a result of road/trail construction, digging/filling, planting, fencing or other construction?..... Yes No
- In the last year, has the protected property been affected by any of the following:
 - Insect damage..... Yes No
 - Storm damage..... Yes No
 - Fire..... Yes No
 - Vandalism; trespassing, dumping, abusive use of ATVs or other vehicles.... Yes No
 - Property line violations from neighboring parcels..... Yes No
- Has there been any timber harvesting on the property?..... Yes No
- If so, was the harvest a result of a recommendation by a current Forest Management Plan?..... Yes No
- Have you noticed any of the following affecting wetlands or waterways on the property?
 - Encroachment of invasive vegetation or animals..... Yes No
 - Change in flow, quality or quantity of water Yes No
 - Livestock in or near waterways or wetlands..... Yes No
 - Erosion along banks or channels..... Yes No
- Have you signed a lease for use of the land? (ie. gas lease, agricultural)..... Yes No
- Have you noticed new populations or an increase in existing populations of invasive vegetation?..... Yes No

Celebrating 25 Years in 2019

Thank you for supporting us to help further the Conservancy's mission to conserve our natural heritage and quality of life!

As we look ahead to our 25-year anniversary in 2019, we invite you to participate in our year-long **celebration** and help us **showcase** your conserved properties. Here is a list of ways you can contribute to planning these special events:

- Does your land have easy access and available parking? If so, please consider inviting the Conservancy to host a forest walk on your conserved property. You provide the land, we provide the program.
- Do you need help conducting a stewardship task? The Conservancy can coordinate a group to help you plant trees, pull invasive species, or other activities.
- Is there a place on your property that you find exceptionally special? Share your photos or a story about what you value.
- Would you be willing to speak about your experience obtaining a conservation easement? The Conservancy can provide refreshments and a relaxed setting for you to share your experience with a small group of landowners.



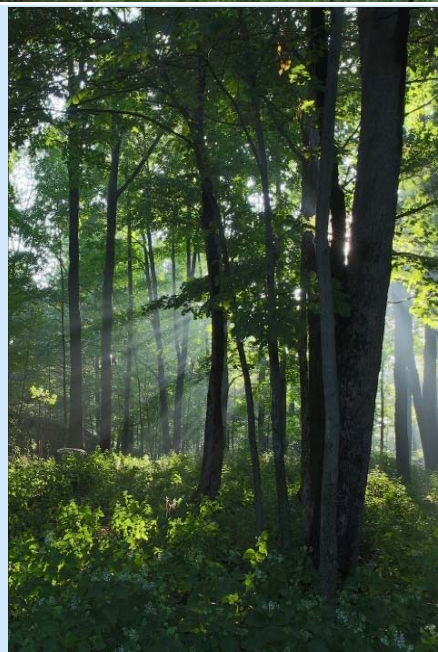
MONEY GROWS ON TREES: Protecting Land, Planning for the Future

June 2nd, 10am-12pm

Lacawac Sanctuary
Lake Ariel, PA

At this **free workshop**, join us as we hike with Lacawac Sanctuary's consulting forester, Josh Flad, and the Conservancy's Stewardship Associate, Cindy Taylor. We will visit a recent timber harvest at the Sanctuary and learn about how you can manage your woodlot for ecological and financial benefits. After the hike, enjoy light refreshments and learn about funding opportunities for land management and conservation.

Wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. This program is hosted in partnership with Lacawac Sanctuary. To register, call Lacawac at 570-689-9494.



Invasive Species Corner

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive planthopper native to China. It is approximately one inch long with grey and black-spotted forewings, and distinct red and black hind wings. While tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is its preferred host, SLF egg masses can be found on any smooth surface, including tree bark, vehicles, and outdoor furniture. The egg masses are one to two inches long and gray-brown in color. Eggs hatch in the spring, and after three instars, adults start to appear in early summer.

SLF uses piercing mouthparts to suck the sap from stems, leaves, and trunks of a wide variety of trees and shrubs, as many as 70 different plants. This feeding can cause extensive plant damage and death, threatening industries that rely on grapes, hops, apples and forest products.

If you see a SLF, you should try to kill it by swatting or crushing it. Egg masses should be scraped off and thrown away in a double bag or placed in alcohol to kill them. Further information on best management practices for forest landowners is shared on page 4.

If you find SLF in a municipality where it is not known to exist:

Pennsylvania: Report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) by emailing badbug@pa.gov or call the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-253-7189.

New York: Contact your location Cornell Cooperative Extension office.



Egg cases of the SLF can be found on tree bark, rocks, outdoor furniture, and other structures.

Native Species Spotlight

Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Mountain laurel is a shade-tolerant, broadleaf evergreen shrub. It typically grows five to eight feet tall and creates dense coverage in low, wet areas. It has glossy, elliptical shaped leaves with pointed tips, about two to five inches long. The flowers can range from white to pink and usually bloom from May to June.

Native to the eastern United States, mountain laurel flowers were first recorded by colonial travelers in 1624, and it has since become the Official State Flower for Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The flowers, twigs, pollen grains, and green plant parts of mountain laurel are toxic, but the amount of plant ingested to show symptoms varies between mammal species. Though not used as a commercial crop, the wood from mountain laurel has been used for wreaths, furniture, spoons, or other household items.

Sources:

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

<http://research.vet.upenn.edu/PoisonousPlantsofPA/Kalmialatifolia/tabid/5452/Default.aspx>

<https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-or-officially-designated-item/pennsylvania/state-flower/mountain-laurel>



Recommended Forestry Best Management Practices Related to Spotted Lanternfly

The forest products industry is committed to doing everything possible to minimize the threat and reduce the risk of spreading Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). To that end, all members of the forest products industry are strongly encouraged to voluntarily comply with the following best management practices (BMPs), within and outside the quarantine areas.

Note: These BMP recommendations will no doubt be modified and adapted as more information is learned and conditions change.

Best Management Practices for Forest Landowners

- Monitor information about SLF in your county and neighboring counties, especially if your property is in the quarantine area.
- Learn to identify SLF and egg masses and watch for potential egg masses on smooth bark trees, rusty metal, outdoor furniture and covers, recreational vehicles, lawn tractor and mowers, mower decks, grills and covers, tarps, mobile homes, tile, stone, siding, pool liners and covers, play equipment, deck boards, or anything stored outside, etc. If found, remove all egg masses if possible.
- If you are in a quarantine county, do not move firewood off your property unless you check each piece of firewood for egg masses. Do not move firewood (or anything) from properties with active high populations. The risk of moving adults is too great.
- Remove female Ailanthus trees (Tree of Heaven) from property using herbicide treatments. They are easy to identify in the late summer when the seed clusters can be easily seen clinging to the female trees. These trees are generally located along the tree line of forested areas or highway right of ways where the soil has been disturbed.
- Monitor male Ailanthus trees for early signs of SLF. Treatment information for herbicide and insecticide applications may also be found here: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.
- You may want to band Ailanthus trees or other high risk trees (Maple, Walnut, Apple) with adhesive tree bands – May to August. This will also help in identifying if SLF is present, and can kill all walking life stages in infested areas.
- Park in areas away from the tree line if possible and always leave windows up. Kill any SLF that you find in your car before leaving the area.



(Reprinted and edited for length with permission from David Jackson, Forest Resources Educator at Penn State Extension-Centre County. Read the full article at: <http://centralpaforest.blogspot.com/2018/02/recommended-forestry-best-management.html>)

Do you plan on walking your property boundary this summer? Let us know if you need new signs!

We have 4x4" boundary signs or 9x12" no trespassing signs available for you.

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(Continued from page 1)

[Please remember conservation easements require timber harvests to follow an approved Forest Management Plan. If your property has a current Plan (less than ten years old) your consulting forester may be able to create a simple update to include the ash salvage harvest. Please notify the Conservancy and provide an updated FMP prior to conducting this type of disturbance. Contact your Stewardship Associate, Cindy (cindy@delawarehighlands.org, 570-226-3164 x4) for the Conservancy's Forest Management Plan Guidelines.]

Harvest for Firewood

CAUTION: CUTTING ASH TREES YOURSELF IS VERY DANGEROUS

The first sign of EAB is dead and dying tops. EAB infests and feeds on the top of the tree first. Tops that are dead are known as "widow makers" because they can break and fall unexpectedly when cut. Declining and dead ash is VERY dangerous to cut for this reason.

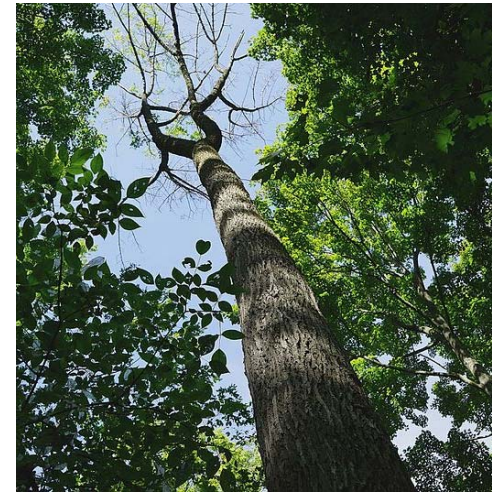
Ash is an excellent firewood, but please use caution when cutting. To help slow the spread of EAB, don't move firewood. Buy it local and burn it where you buy it. It is illegal to move firewood into Pennsylvania from another state without proper certification. Due to EAB and the threat of other invasive pests, some counties in PA have quarantines that prohibit moving firewood out of the county or quarantine area. Check state and federal regulations before moving any EAB regulated materials including firewood.

If you only have a few hazard trees to remove around the yard, hire a reliable, insured, licensed arborist/tree service company. Consider joining with your neighbors to hire a single company for a large group of tree removals to cut costs.

Ultimately, the decisions regarding your ash trees are yours as a landowner. You can cut trees, treat them, or leave them alone as wildlife habitat. A combination of the three may be the best tool for managing your landscape.

(This article was reprinted and edited for length with permission from the Northern Tier Hardwood Association. Read the full article at http://northandwoods.org/post/_docs/ASH_BROCHURE_FINAL_2016.pdf)

Forest Taxation To help private forest landowners, foresters, loggers and timber businesses with their 2017 tax return filings and planning for the new tax law changes in 2018, the US Forest Service hosted a one-hour free webinar to explain the income tax reporting rules as well as the major new law changes affecting timber transactions. You can watch a recording of that webinar here: <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/timber-tax-filing-for-the-2017-tax-year>. For more information and tips, visit the US Forest Service's Forest Taxation website: <https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>



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