



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Roots & Branches

WOMEN AND THEIR WOODS

Feeling Overwhelmed?

A Few Tips for Getting Started With Invasive Plant Management

By Leslie Horner, Forest Stewardship Program Associate, Center for Private Forests at Penn State

As long as light and other resources are available to invasive plants, they will continue to out-compete native plants and spread. What can landowners do to control these invaders?

You may already have some ideas and objectives for your land like doing some thinning to improve a stand of trees or planning a harvest to encourage the growth of new trees. As any service forester or consulting forester will tell you, to be successful at these objectives, any invasive plants must be controlled, so they don't take over the growing space and resources made available by the removal of trees.

"Invasive plants" are so-named because they invade and gradually overtake areas occupied by native plants. Frequently, they are fast growers, have longer growing seasons, and grow in areas far from the animals and other plants that would limit their growth in their natural range.

Their abundance in an area actually degrades that habitat, as native plants and animals



Management of invasive plants requires ongoing effort, typically over multiple seasons or years.

are displaced. Invasive plant species do not provide the same food value to wildlife as native plants do. Without active efforts to control their spread, invasive grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees can have lasting effects on forest composition and vitality.

Where to Start

Invasive plant experts recommend prioritizing the smallest populations of invasive plants for management. The rationale: first, prevent spread and maintain

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DelawareHighlands.org/watw

The Women and Their Woods program is administered by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Center for Private Forests at Penn State with support from the US Forest Service at Grey Towers, Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, and the William Penn Foundation.

For additional information, please contact:

Amanda Subjin
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
(570) 226-3164 x2
amanda@delawarehighlands.org

Allyson Muth
Center for Private Forests
at Penn State
(814) 865-3208
abm173@psu.edu



Women and Their Woods

Throughout our region, women are increasingly responsible for the stewardship of private forestlands. To be good forest stewards, landowners require accurate information and relevant knowledge about available options for managing their properties.

The Women and Their Woods initiative provides landowners with the support, knowledge, and confidence to effectively care for their lands with an emphasis on conservation and the value of intact forestlands. In addition to receiving resources such as this newsletter, participants are invited to become a part of this peer-learning network by attending field tours, hands-on workshops and the popular biennial Educational Retreat.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with other landowners. If you have a story to share about your forest, a resource that has helped you or suggestions for future information or workshops, please let us know!

Learn more and join the mailing list at DelawareHighlands.org/watw.



We Need Your Email Address!

As conservation-centered organizations, we want to conserve resources by communicating with you through email.

Please send your email to amanda@delawarehighlands.org and specify if you would like to receive our mailings electronically or continue to receive hard copies in the mail.

Push, Pull, Kick, Attack...

OR, NEVER START A BORE CUT WITH THE KICKBACK CORNER

By Jenna Wayne Mauder

With the support of twelve women behind me and a veteran logger in front of me, I fell a 70' tree on target. Talk about pick-up-a-car, stop-a-moving-train, wrestle-an-alligator adrenaline!

Entering a chainsaw safety class, having never held a gas powered chainsaw in my life, was terrifying. Thank goodness the first half of the day was all about the saw and safety. By lunch, we could point to all of the safety features of the saw and identify the points of the blade (push, pull, kick, attack). Our instructor gave us a demonstration on how to maintain your saw and sharpen your chain. More importantly, Kevin shared the reality of chainsaw use with personal stories. He reminded us that this is one of the most powerful machines you will ever put into your hands.

This thorough, four-level training course called the Game of Logging is a must-do for anyone that wants to be a self-sufficient, sustainable landowner. For me, it means I can comfortably fall structure-threatening trees, confidently clear away storm damage, protect my home, and improve the health of our woods.

One class certainly hasn't made me think of a career in logging. It has empowered me to continue learning and practicing. I'm ready for level two!

The chainsaw safety class was sponsored by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and hosted by the Northern Tier Hardwood Association. For a schedule of upcoming trainings, visit www.nthardwoods.org.



Save the Date!

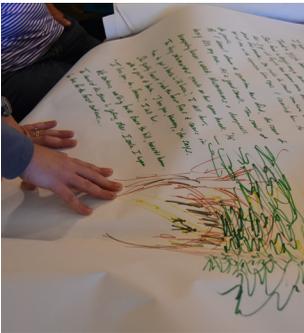
Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat

SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2018

Highlights Workshop Facility, Boyds Mills, PA

The Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat is an in-depth, fun, engaging, and thought-provoking workshop on caring for your woodlands now and into the future. No matter the size of your woodlands or if you're not yet an owner, join us for four days and three nights of learning, networking, and applying new knowledge about good forest stewardship.

The Highlights Workshop Facility provides a spectacular 1300-acre wooded campus complete with historic buildings, streams and hiking trails, comfortable accommodations and five-star meals. Our planning staff provide expert presenters, resources and learning opportunities. Retreat applications and more information about the event can be found online at DelawareHighlands.org/watw. Invite your friends, family and register now to secure your space!



Attendees explore and envision goals for their properties.



Indoor and outdoor classroom time provides opportunities for hands-on learning and experience.



The retreat facility is a beautiful place for learning, making connections, and reflecting.



Replanting Conifers Where Hemlocks Are Lost

Many landowners are currently struggling to decide what to do about hemlock stands infested with hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA). Though reforestation of HWA-resistant eastern hemlock is an ideal goal, planting and promoting other conifers could help replace the shady, cooling effect hemlocks have on our creeks and rivers. Here is a summary of PA DCNR's list of potential replacement species:

Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) - Shade tolerant. Not preferred deer browse. Lacks some thermal characteristics of hemlock.

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) - Intermediate shade tolerance. Not preferred deer browse. Considered hardy and retains its lower limbs.

Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) - Shade tolerant. Not preferred deer browse. Not large at maturity, retains lower limbs.

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) - Very shade tolerant. Some deer browse occurs. Requires abundant moisture and retains lower limbs.

Northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) - Shade tolerant. Preferred deer browse. Grows bush-like appearance and may lose lower limbs in forested areas.

Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) - Intermediate shade tolerance. Preferred deer browse. Grows rapidly and lacks some thermal characteristics of hemlock.



Conifers can help replace the shady, cooling effect hemlocks had on creeks and rivers.

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) - Shade tolerant. Not preferred deer browse. Widely used in reforestation programs and useful for maintaining shade in riparian areas.

Landowners can view this lists' details and other management information at: www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20030071.pdf

For Pennsylvania landowners interested in riparian plantings to replace HWA infested hemlocks, DCNR offers a Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program that provides financial assistance to design, establish, monitor, and maintain buffers. The minimum grant award is \$50,000 and requires a 50/50 match.

Please let us know if you would like to partner with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to apply for this opportunity. The application deadline is December 20, 2017. More information can be found at: <https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/Dashboard/RBGGrants>

Growing Support for Women Landowners

In October, leaders from our Women and Their Woods initiative attended the first Workshop on Effective Engagement of Women Woodland Owners in Briarcliff Manor, New York.

The event was hosted by the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Women Owning Woodlands project.

The workshop brought together natural resource professionals from across the country who currently offer or plan to create educational programs or resources for women forest landowners. In addition to presentations from leaders of existing programs focused on women forest landowner education, the event explored topics such as the current research data about female-owned forests and how to communicate with diverse types of landowners.

The existence of this workshop continues to highlight the growing influence that women landowners have on natural lands. We are so excited to bring home what we've learned and share it with our own Women and Their Woods network.



Women and Their Woods Coordinator Amanda Subjin led a Woods Walk discussion during the workshop. Photo by Amanda Mahaffey.



Leaders from across the country at the workshop. Photo by Kevin Dennehy.



WomenOwningWoodlands.net

You told us your favorite part is reading stories from other landowners... Check it out... there are new stories!

You'll also find information applicable to your forest landownership and connect through nearby events for women landowners.



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areas of low impact from invasive plants; second, rescue native plant communities that are currently in battle with invasive plants; and third, take on the toughest job, to restore an area dominated by invasives to a more diverse and native woodland plant community.



For example, if you have just a few bush honeysuckle shrubs, it is physically easier, cost-, and ecologically efficient to kill these few shrubs now. Prompt action allows the area to be maintained as invasive free by preventing the further spread of bush honeysuckle on the site. This maintenance is a priority since it is critical to prevent the establishment of new populations of invasive plants that would be highly competitive with native woodland shrubs and herbs.

Some areas in and around your woodland may have larger groupings of invasive plants, but with a number of native plants still surviving. These areas should be second on the list in prioritizing your control efforts.

Last on the list of areas to prioritize invasive plant control efforts are the areas that are already completely occupied with invasives. These areas are so dominated by invasive plant species that they may need to be replanted after the invasive plants are under control. Of the prioritized areas, this type of invader requires more effort and will take the longest, because the need has gone from “rescue” to “restoration.”

First Steps

Print an aerial map of your property from Google Maps, GoogleEarth, or other map sites. You can then make notes and label areas in which to work.

When you’re in your woods, carry some brightly colored flagging to mark individual invasive plants or small populations as you encounter them. The color of the flagging might provide a visual reminder that areas with few invasives are priority areas that need to be addressed first. Use a different color for each priority level described here.

Reach out to your local PA DCNR Service Forester to have a walk and talk in your woods. He or she can help brainstorm a timeline of activities, and point you to more resources for learning.

Research the species that you’re dealing with, noting the season that is most recommended for treatment.

Research some optional tools for your toolbox: You can find reviews of actual tools for you to do the work yourself at: <https://www.invasive.org/gist/tools.html>.

When you’ve determined the priority level for taking action on groups of invasive plants around your property, and after you’ve assessed the best timing for controlling the species you have, you can have greater confidence that your actions will be effective.

For help identifying invasive plants on your property, check out this field guide: <https://www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/cindy/InvasiveSpeciesFieldGuide.pdf>.

Reprinted and edited for length; read the full article on <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/news/2017/feeling-overwhelmed-2014a-few-tips-for-getting-started-with-nvasive-plant-management>.

Save the Dates!

January 21: Children’s Day at the Upper Delaware Visitor Center

Hosted by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the National Park Service
Upper Delaware Visitor Center, Lackawaxen, PA

Join the Conservancy and the National Park Service for a day of fun for the whole family. Learn about eagles and their habitat, participate in a scavenger hunt, and make a craft to take home. Visit [www. DelawareHighlands.org](http://www.DelawareHighlands.org) for details.

September 6-9: Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat



In a friendly, peer-learning environment, women forest landowners learn from forestry professionals and their peers, and gain the tools they need to steward their forestlands. Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/watw for details.

FOREST LANDOWNER PERSPECTIVE

This newsletter is YOUR space!

Share your connections to the forest with other WaTW newsletter readers. Send an email to amanda@delawarehighlands.org with your photos, journal entries, drawings, other artwork, or stories, and we’ll share it here. **We’re looking forward to hearing from you!**

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

- Upcoming Educational Retreat
- Women Owning Woodlands Conference
- Adelgid
- Replanting After Hemlock Woolly
- Getting Started With Invasive Plant Management

INSIDE

PO Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

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