



Terminal Buds

by Tim Pierson



Today, the first week in May, the terminal buds and flower buds are opening to start the growing season in earnest within our beautiful Northern Hardwood forests. The first trees in a full bloom of crisp white flowers on an otherwise grey background are the June Berries or Service Berries. They always provide that initial flush of bloom in Northern PA. I have already noticed the presence of Eastern Tent Caterpillars in a few crotches of small edge Black Cherry trees with caterpillars already stirring. I expect they will continue to occur annually at normal levels. Thankfully, it appears as though Forest Tent Caterpillar infestations have run their course in most of our region and will have less impact.

I'm sure most have realized we have had record precipitation this spring and this makes tree planting with planting bars easier; erosion and sedimentation control on our roads more difficult and fungal diseases more prevalent. However, a dry period is expected to follow.

I strongly suggest that all of you take an hour or more to just go sit quietly and walk slowly in your woods and enjoy the reawaking of the forest in May. Those of you that do this regularly, know what I mean. The spring wildflowers are popping out everywhere. Songbirds are active with mating, singing, nest-building and tending. I observed 14 different species of songbirds in less than 15 minutes yesterday morning. So, put down your pruners, shovels, planters and chainsaws periodically and enjoy your woods and the fruits of your labors!

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF)

has worked with state legislators and introduced House Bill 1235 in the House of the General Assembly to amend the Engineer, Land Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Act to include Foresters. The NCFLA supported the PCPF in its initial unsuccessful legislative attempt to license Foresters to help forest landowners, foresters and promote sustainable forest management. Our association provided strong support. Foresters being licensed like surveyors and engineers will certainly increase professionalism in their ranks and provide private forest landowners with additional confidence when working with foresters. The NCFLA Board of Directors will review and take appropriate action on this new approach.

Special thanks to Ken Comstock, (Licensed Surveyor, Forester and NCFLA Board Member) for providing an "Understanding Your Deed as a Forest Landowner" meeting on Thursday evening, March 10 at the Coudersport Elementary School. The program was well received and helped many better understand their deed descriptions and property boundaries.

Finally, we are providing a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan Workshop on Saturday, June 18 at the Moose in Port Allegany. This is an opportunity to develop your own and /or revise your present forest and wildlife management plan. Research has shown that having a forest management plan based on your objectives and revisiting your plan annually have proven to be the most successful and rewarding practice a forest landowner can do.

Please share this info with a friend! Remember- Enjoy Your Woods!



Spring Beauties

Caterpillar Update

By: Marc Popchak Forester/Insect and Disease Coordinator
DCNR/Bureau of Forestry, Coudersport



Eastern Tent Caterpillar



Forest Tent Caterpillar

In the last six months, many areas in Potter and McKean counties have been studied to get an idea of the number of tent caterpillars we will be dealing with this coming spring. Through this effort, headed by the Bureau of Forestry's Pest Management division and with the help of Stan Hess (Potter/McKean Service Forester), we have completed numerous plots counting both forest tent and eastern tent egg masses. These counts allow us to predict the severity of defoliation caused by the caterpillars in the coming spring. Although egg mass counts on both the forest and eastern tent caterpillars were counted, the main focus was directed toward the forest tent caterpillar since this pest caused most of the defoliation the last few years.

Although some areas are still being assessed, the data collected thus far points to an overall collapse of forest tent caterpillar. Defoliation for much of Potter County is predicted to be low with some areas seeing moderate patchy defoliation. Areas that may see moderate to heavy defoliation should be limited to those areas that had low populations last year.

For the eastern tent caterpillar, a major reduction in population also occurred. However, it appears that there are enough egg masses for it to relegate to its usual annual presence on roadside and fence row black cherry and as of May 1 some tent have been observed.



(Forest tent egg masses encircle small twigs: normally found on Sugar Maple for forest tent and Black cherry for eastern tent)

Its preferred food source are trees/shrubs in the rose family including cherry species, plum, apple, hawthorn, crabapple and Juneberry.

Why are we predicting an overall collapse and

what may have caused this? There are a number of explanations that contribute to the collapse of outbreaks of the tent caterpillars experienced in the northern region the last two years. Weather, parasites, viruses, fungal diseases, and insecticides can help control outbreaks of these pests. Although some private land owners in Potter and McKean counties elected to spray (insecticide) for these pests last year, no state forest land was treated in an attempt to control the caterpillars. Why don't we spray? One reason spray control programs are not performed on State Forest Land is that both the forest tent and eastern tent caterpillars are native pests and have native parasites and diseases that help to control outbreaks naturally. The other answer is funding.

With the general absence of moths seen last year it led us to believe that a number of these native controls listed above took hold. Along with this observation and the egg mass counts this past fall and winter, we are hopeful that this spring will once again be enjoyable without the webs and flies.



(*Sarcophaga aldrichi* or the Friendly Fly: deposit maggots on cocoons; these maggots penetrate the pupae killing them.)

Although the outbreak of forest and eastern tent caterpillars the last few years has required a lot of attention, there are a number of other insect and disease pests we are keeping an eye on:

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, Sirex Wood Wasp and a number of plant diseases, just to name a few. One important note should be made on the Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer here in Pennsylvania. Effective April 15 the entire state of Pennsylvania will be included in the Quarantine for this pest. This means that the transportation of fire wood is no longer limited within state boundaries. Along with this, the transportation of Ash logs is permitted within state boundaries. Out of state transportation of these products will require you to check that states policy and requires approval from APHIS.

If you have any questions or concerns related to Insects and Disease please contact me @ (814-274-3600) or visit our website <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/foresthealth.aspx>

2011 DMAP Landowner Applications

are due **JUNE 1, 2011**

What is DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program)?

DMAP is a Pennsylvania State Game Commission (PGC) program that provides an additional means for landowners to manage deer to meet their land-use goals. It also provides additional opportunities to the hunters who participate in the program.

- *Who is eligible?*

All public landowners, private landowners or lessees where no fee is charged for hunting, and any defined hunting club are eligible to enroll in DMAP. Qualified landowners are issued DMAP coupons at a rate of up to one coupon for every five acres of cultivated land, or one coupon for every 50 acres of non-cultivated land which includes woodland.

- *How does a landowner obtain the DMAP coupons?*

The landowner must enroll in the program by getting a DMAP application, filling it out and mailing it to the local PGC office. The address of the local PGC office is included in the detailed instructions for completing the application. DMAP applications and detailed instructions for completing the applications are available online or by phone, (listed at the bottom of this page). Upon approval of the application, coupons are mailed to the landowner within a couple of months.

- *What does the landowner do with the coupons?*

There are two ways for the landowner to distribute the coupons: Let the PGC do it or take possession of the coupons and give them to your hunters of your choice. If you choose not to take possession of the coupons, the hunter will be able to choose where he wants to hunt based on information supplied by the PGC.

- *What are the landowner's responsibilities?*

Landowners enrolled in DMAP are responsible for providing hunters with information about DMAP harvest permits for their property. The

landowner must provide each hunter with a map of the landowners property that shows the property boundaries and safety zones. The landowner can issue a maximum of 2 coupons to each Hunter (including himself).

- *How do the hunters get a harvest permit (deer tag) with the DMAP coupons?*

Hunters can get DMAP harvest permits two ways. First, if a hunter receives a coupon, or coupons, from a landowner, the hunter will take the coupon(s) to any license-issuing agent (or visit The Outdoor Shop at the PGC web site) to purchase a DMAP harvest permit. Second, to obtain a DMAP harvest permit for properties where landowners choose not to hand out coupons, hunters can go to any license-issuing agent (or The Outdoors Shop) to purchase a DMAP harvest permit. Hunters utilizing this second option will need to contact the landowner (or the PGC website) to get the DMAP unit number for the area they want to hunt.

Two DMAP harvest permits per property are available to hunters, with the landowner coupons. These permits must be purchased from a license-issuing agent or through The Outdoors Shop. A DMAP harvest permit costs \$10.70 for a resident and \$35.70 for a nonresident. Each DMAP harvest permit is good for taking one antlerless deer on the property for which the DMAP harvest permit was issued. Under no circumstances may an antlered deer be taken with a DMAP permit.

Hunters are responsible for acquiring the landowner information needed to participate in (DMAP). Neither the Game Commission, nor license-issuing agents, can provide additional landowner information other than the details available in the Participating Landowners Section.

For more detailed information and access to The Outdoor Shop, go to the PGC website at <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=622401&mode=2> or call the local PGC office for Potter County area at 570-398-4744.



I want your seedlings

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

During last fall, the education program committee prepared a questionnaire to gauge the interests of fellow NCFLA members. This information will be used to plan future programs such as woodwalks, workshops and other education programs.

Presented below is a summary of the results of the survey from the 50 completed questionnaires that were returned:

- 54% of the membership have management plans
- 47% are members of the Forest Stewardship Program
- 23% participate in the Tree Farm Program
- 84% have shared information and/or practices you have learned at an NCFLA, DCNR, Penn State Cooperative Extension educational program?
- Marcellus Shale, 75% own the mineral rights on their property, 83% have been approached by OMG interests, 47% have signed a lease, and 83 would like more information on Marcellus Shale topics.
- Following is the list of highest interests for educational programs for NCFLA:
 1. Taxation issues
 2. Clean and Green
 3. Land owner Liability
 4. Marcellus Shale OMG Leasing, Development and Production
 5. Forest regeneration
 6. Invasive species, identification and control
 7. Forest insect / disease problems
 8. Wildlife food plots
 9. Timber stand improvement
 10. Understanding soils importance / use

The topics that scored the lowest were:

1. Maple Syrup Production
2. Christmas Tree Production
3. Sawmill Operation
4. Using prescribed forest fires
5. Artificial planting / seeding
6. Non-timber forest products
7. Tractors, skidders and ATV's

NCFLA Calendar

June 18, *Developing/Revisiting your Forest and Wildlife Management Plan Workshop* by *Tim Pierson & Stan Hess*. Port Allegany Moose Lodge, 35 Pearl Street, Port Allegany, PA. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Register by June 14. \$20 per person. Includes lunch. Call 814-887-5613.

June, Woodwalk at Lynda Pontzer's property

July 9, Summer Picnic, *Understanding Soil Types and Soil Testing*, by *Dr. Bill Waltman*. Ken & Jane Cogan's, 234 White Hollow Rd. Crosby, PA Noon - 4pm

August 27, Pennsylvania Elk - Viewing and Management, Elk County Visitors Center, 134 Homestead Dr., Benezette, PA John Dzemyan, Game Comm., 1pm - 4pm

September 1, Nomination forms for officers must be returned

September 18, Woodwalk on Jim Herzog's property. 1pm to 4pm

Tuesday, September 20, Board of Directors meeting, DCNR office, Emporium, PA. 9am - noon

October 24, Election ballots must be returned

November 6th, Annual banquet, *Wind Energy and Its Impact on the Forest*, by *Michael Barton, consulting forester*, Emporium Fire Hall, 419 N, Broad Street 12pm - 4pm

December 13, Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00am to 12:00pm, McKean County Extension Office, Smethport, PA.

Published by **Walt and Marie Petrick**, 171 Allard Drive, Roulette, Pa 16746 <waltpetrick@hotmail.com>

Officers:

President & Advisor: Tim Pierson, PhD
Vice President: Walt Petrick
Secretary: Verda Weder Knowlton
Treasurer: Marie Petrick

Board Members:

McKean County: Rick Smith
Cameron County: Dave Lombardo
Potter County: Ken Comstock
Elk County: Lynda Pontzer

Service Foresters:

McKean, Potter: Stan Hess
Elk, Cameron: Toby Herzing
Editor and Web Service: Walt Petrick
Newsletter layout: Marie Petrick