

audit committee of Jane Cogan, Walt Petrick, and Marie Petrick .

A service award was presented to Ken Cogan for his 9 years of service as a member of the Board of Directors and for his many personal contributions to the NCFLA including being a member of the founding committee. Jane accepted the award on his behalf and said that Ken is very proud of his service and has enjoyed every meeting.

Larry thanked everyone for the donated door prizes. This year's big prizes were a donated framed wildlife print by John Sidelinger and a donated print of the Clarion River by Lynda Pontzer. The Petricks won the wildlife print and the Comstocks won the Clarion River print.

The highlight of the afternoon was the program, "American Chestnuts Returning to Pennsylvania's Forests". Everyone enjoyed the talk by Sara Fitzsimmons, Tree Breeding Coordinator, PA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

Unwelcome Visitors *Asian Lady Beetle - Friend or Foe*

Jeanie Wambaugh, District Forester, Emporium
Excerpt from a press release

Asian Lady Beetles, or lady bugs, as they are most commonly called are here in great numbers this fall (editors note: and warm days this winter) . The Bureau of Forestry receives numerous calls daily as to why we are dropping them from airplanes, helicopters or releasing them from 18-wheeled trucks. The Bureau of Forestry is **not** releasing these non-native beetles. There is a good web page <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/beetle> that explains how they arrived, their life cycles, benefits, problems, controls, and much more.

More on the Asian Lady Beetle

Stan Hess, Service Forester with

Picture and excerpts from the PSU fact sheet [Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle](#)

As members of this organization, I hope that you can spread the truth about this insect. Let's start with the question,

Where did they come from?

"A native of eastern Asia, the multicolored Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis*, was introduced into the United States by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a biological control agent. This tree dwelling beetle, of the family *Coccinellidae*, is an important predator of aphids and scale insects. It was originally released in Pennsylvania in 1978 and 1981, but the first over wintering beetles were not recorded until 1993. This beetle's recent population increase in Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and other northern states may not have resulted from the earlier USDA releases. Instead, they are thought to be from a new source that was accidentally introduced in New Orleans from an Asian freighter". *Source:* PSU Department of Entomology, [Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle](#)

Editor comments: They are a problem all over the east coast and inland to the Midwest. They are especially abundant in areas like ours with forests and open space combined. As ladybugs feed on smaller insects, the abundance of the beech scale insect, *Cryptococcus fagisuga*, provides an unlimited

food source. Some of the other favorite food sources include more scales, aphids, thrips, lice, leafhoppers, and mealybugs.



(they like it best) and has lots of entry ways to the attic and to the downstairs. I use a Shop-vac because normal vacuum cleaners chew the insects up creating an awful smell. The ground up insects also clog and ruin regular vacuums. I would never use insecticide in my house---for our own safety and the fact that more will just come in. Sealing entry points is the key. The Penn State fact sheet recommends a black light trap for indoors. Some people use a repellent or insecticide outside around the doors or windows or other entry points.

The PSU fact sheet can be found at:
http://www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/multc_asian_ladybeetle

December 11 Board Meeting

Old business items: Annual banquet, election of officers, incorporation discussion.

New business: 2008 schedule of events planning; discussion on liability insurance; and request from West Branch of Susquehanna Restoration Coalition that NCFLA be a signatory to restoration efforts in the West Branch Watershed. Board approved to be a supporter of the effort. A large part of our region is located in the West Branch Watershed.

Other business: Toby Herzing, Service Forester for Elk and Cameron Counties, reported that the hemlock wooly adelgid has been found in Wycoff Run and nearby along Route 120, Cameron County. A committee of Walt Petrick, Marie Petrick, and Verda Weder was formed to explore the pros and cons of the NCFLA creating a website.

Other Events Of Interest

Tree ID Walk: Sunday April 27-2pm-Shinglehouse Park-Shinglehouse Shade Tree Commission and Bureau of Forestry

Forest Habitat Bus Tour - Sunday April 27-Bureau of Forestry office on Denton Hill - Call for reservations and more information at (814) 274-3600

The North Central Forest Landowners Association

President - Larry Schultz (717)484-2239 *Advisor:* Tim Pierson, PhD,
Penn State Extension (814)887- 5613

Vice-Pres - John Snyder (814)274-9559

Secretary - Verda Weder Knowlton
(814)544-7353

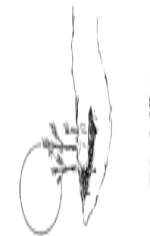
Treasurer - Jean Culver (814)642-7083

Board

Rick Smith - McKean Co. - (814)642-2250
David Lombardo -Cameron Co.-(814)735-1110 & Newsletter editor
Ken Comstock-Potter Co. (814)544-7776
Linda Pontzer-Elk Co. (814)834-2090

Did you know the bird on the first page? It is a scarlet tanager- photo by Mike Stone, Cross Fork.

North Central Forest Landowners
Association
P.O. Box 141
Port Allegany, PA 16743



January 2008

What is this bird? See back page



215 MEMBERS
234,000+ ACRES

North Central Forest Landowners Association

Cameron, Elk, McKean, & Potter Counties

Calendar

Thursday February 21
Evening meeting "Woody Biomass and Bioenergy, A Growing Opportunity" and short business meeting
Courtyard Family Restaurant, Smethport—6:30 to 8:30 pm

Saturday March 8—Central Region Forest Landowners Conference
9am to 4pm - School Forest Resources building, Penn State
Registrations \$30—deadline of February 29. Register with Tim Pierson at 814-887-5613

Sunday May 18—Woods Walk
Larry Schultz Property
What to see? Crop tree mgmt, pond mgmt, tree plantings, food plots

June or July—Woods Walk at Linda Pontzer's, Elk County

June or July—Forest Ecology and Silviculture Seminar at Kane Experimental Forest—more to come

July 12 or 19—Annual Picnic at Ken and Jane Cogan's property

Sat August 9—Tree Identification and Tree Measurements at
Sizerville State Park

Sat. September 20—Woods Walk at
Walt and Marie Petrick's, Potter County—View spring CREP tree and shrub plantings.

Sun. November 2—Annual Banquet in
Potter County

Deer can have a significant effect on forest regeneration. In order to control deer numbers most forest owners allow hunting and some participate in the DMAP program. A lot of us would like to know how successful we are at this. We can get some idea of deer density by the number of deer we see, the amount of browsing on tree seedlings, and by how heavily trails are used, but a more scientific method would be better. Things like the aerial infrared survey are prohibitively expensive and impractical for the small forest owner. The best tool we have is the pellet group count deer density method. Basically this method uses transect lines one mile in length spaced 1000' apart. At 100' intervals along these lines the number of pellet groups in a four foot radius are counted. Studies of captive deer give the average number of groups deposited by a deer in 24 hours. To be visible the pellet group would have to have been deposited after last autumn's leaf fall so this sets a time frame for our calculations. Using these numbers we can get an estimate of deer per square mile.

The pellet group method is not perfect and there are some limitations and problems with it. It involves considerable time and a lot of walking, usually five transect lines are used although the number of transects and length can be reduced and still give reasonable accuracy. There is a limited time to do it in the spring after snow melt and before vegetation covers the forest floor. I think for consistent results it needs to be done close to the same time each year. Last year because of late snow cover I did it almost a month later than the previous year and all the pellet groups I found were well weathered, I would have found just as many groups earlier so this added days and reduced deer density. In spite of these problems I think the pellet group count survey can provide very useful information. If you are interested in doing this type of survey, Tim Pierson at the Smethport office of Penn State Cooperative Extension can give you the formulas and information. In past years they have conducted an all day workshop, and if available, is well worth attending.

NCFLA Officer Election Results

Walt Petrick
January 8, 2008

There were originally 13 nominees, which included all incumbents, presented for the 8 officer positions in the December 2007 NCFLA officers election. One nominee declined, resulting in 12 nominees. The positions for Secretary, Treasurer, Elk County Director, Cameron County Director and Potter County Director were unopposed.

In summary, there were 101 ballots cast out of the approximately 183 members and all incumbents won. The results are as follows with the winner's name listed first:

President: Larry Schultz 58, Tim Pierson 43
Vice President: John Snyder 43, Ken Cogan 39, Walt Petrick 19
Secretary: Verda Knowlton 99
Treasurer: Jean Culver 101

Directors:

Elk County: Linda Pontzer 89

Cameron County: Dave Lombardo 86

McKean County: Rick Smith 51, Jane Cogan 42

Potter County: Ken Comstock 93

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me, Al McCullough or Jane Cogan.

Woods Walk at Dave Erick's

Marie Petrick

Twenty five people gathered at Dave Erick's parking lot on Saturday, September 8th for a woods walk, to see the impressive oak regeneration. This meeting was sponsored by the North Central Landowners Association.



Oak regeneration has not happened in many years. Historically, the deer have eaten the acorns and seedlings. Now that the deer population is smaller than many other years, the oak trees have had a chance to grow. One explanation for the success was that in 1998 the oak trees produced masses of acorns that have remained in the soil. During a two or three year span, those acorns have grown the necessary long tap roots that are needed for new oak trees to form. When the root collar grows to the size of your thumb, it finally sends out a stem that later becomes an oak tree. That is what we are seeing this year, and in places, massive growth.

Tim Pearson and Ken Comstock led groups, explaining how to identify, measure diameter and height of trees, determine quality and estimate tree value based on Timber Market Report values. Using prescribed methods, the value of a standing tree can be estimated.

Though there are many trees in the woods with little or no value, acceptable growing stock has three important

features. Trees must be at least 12" in diameter and have a 16-18' log. The tree must last for another 15 years, and it



must be a valuable species. Often, the less desirable species fight for the available light, and will not allow the more valuable species to survive. These less valuable species should be removed to allow the more valuable species to mature. The tree with the dominant or co-dominant crown will be

the one that will grow tall and provide the best lumber. Though a species is desirable, it's population might contain undesirable trees such as those with damage on the trunks, those with damage from storms, double or triple trees that share the same root, etc. Those trees usually have much less value for lumber.

The North Central Landowners Association is open to new members who are interested in learning how to encourage regeneration of our hardwoods in Pennsylvania. This is an interesting, friendly and fun group of landowners that can provide valuable information about methods for proper management of your property.

NCFLA Annual Banquet

The annual banquet of the NCFLA was held at the Emporium fire hall on Sunday, November 4 with 54 members and guests attending. President, Larry Schultz, conducted a short business meeting with a report of the year's activities and led a discussion about incorporating the NCFLA. Tim Pierson also talked about the year's activities. Under old business minor revisions of the bylaws were passed. Al McCullough, chairman of the election committee, went over our election procedures and made a request for nominations. Dave Lombardo, chairman of the Property Tax committee, reported the committee will meet with each



Alvin Jackson and Verda Weder Knowlton enjoy talking to the guest speaker, Sara Fitzsimmons

county's new commissioner. Jean Culver, treasurer, reported that the ending balance in the checking account is \$2058.16 and that there is \$1221.50 in the savings account. Larry appointed