

An insecticide may be applied in spring or fall. The fall spray is preferred because the adelgid is vulnerable for a longer period of time. For specific chemical control recommendations please consult the PA Department of Agriculture recommendation, or contact the nearest Penn State Extension office.

#### Woodland Notes

Stan Hess

- \* Aspen trees are in the willow family. This genus of plants has been used forever as a pain reliever as the leaves and inner bark contain the chemical salicin. The body turns salicin into salicylic acid. Aspirin which is chemically related is acetylsalicylic acid.
- \* The inner bark of basswood makes good rope. The Native Americans of the eastern hardwood forests soaked the bark for weeks in a stream so the inner bark would become stringy.
- \* White ash is in the Olive family, *Oleaceae*.
- \* Plants with insect pollinated flowers (usually the pretty flowers) cannot cause hay fever but are blamed for it. Allergies from pollen are caused by wind-born pollen such as those from the oaks, conifers, grasses, ragweed, and willow family members to name some.

#### “Woody Biomass & Bioenergy: A Growing Opportunity”

Condensed from Verda Weder Knowlton's Notes

Approximately 30 people attended the NCFLA meeting held at the Courtyard Restaurant, Smethport, Pa., on Thursday evening, February 21, 2008. After a short business meeting, Dr. Charles Ray, Wood Products and Processing Specialist, Penn State University, presented a program on “Woody Biomass and Bioenergy. His website: <http://woodpro.cas.psu.edu>. Dr. Ray has visited Austria, Bulgaria, Finland and the United Kingdom for a first-hand look at the utilization of bio-mass fuels in those countries

#### NCFLA Website

Verda Weder Knowlton

Walt Petrick has developed a website and gave a demonstration at the March board meeting on his laptop PC. It is located on [www.orgsites.com](http://www.orgsites.com), a free site allowing us 10 pages. Everyone was impressed with the website and congratulated Walt, our new Webmaster, for a great job.

### Highlights - Board Meeting Minutes

3/11/2008 at Emporium

Verda Weder Knowlton, Secretary

- \* Annual meeting will be at the American Legion, Coudersport
- \* Incorporation: Larry reported that he, along with Verda and maybe Jean Culver, will be attending a 2:00 p.m. meeting this afternoon with Attorney Steve Minor regarding setting up the NCFLA as a 501(3)c non-profit corporation. The benefits: protecting the personal assets of officers and board members from suit; allowing people to give gifts to the NCFLA and obtain a tax write off; and avoiding inheritance taxes on any property given to the NCFLA. Larry polled the members present regarding the value of incorporating the Association—all were in favor. Motion made by Dave Lombardo, seconded by Rick Smith to incorporate the Association. Motion carried.
- \* Larry reported that he and Dave Lombardo attended the Penn State Property Tax Committee, and a handout at that meeting highlights the inequity in the Clean and Green values and differences from county-to-county. One year ago, the Committee got a graduate student intern, Andy Filipzack, to do research on “forest property taxes and how they are handled in other states.” Forest Stewardship funds were used to pay for research. Since about three years are needed to complete the project, they are applying for an additional two years of funding at \$50,000 a year. Support is being sought from other organizations including the various forest landowner groups. Dave Lombardo made the motion to donate \$203 (1\$ or each active member) towards the cost of the intern; seconded by Lynda Pontzer; motion carried.
- \* Larry said it is now time for the NCFLA Tax Committee (Jim Herzog and Dave Lombardo) to schedule a meeting with Senator Scarnatti regarding clarification of the in-lieu-of taxes and Mike Jacobson from Penn State would also attend the meeting.

#### North Central Forest Landowners Association

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

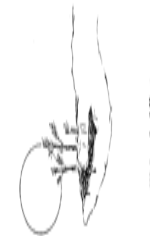
**Vice-Pres** – John Snyder (814)274-9559  
**Secretary** – Verda Weder Knowlton (814)544-7353  
**Service foresters:**

**Treasurer** – Marie Petrick (814)544-8883 Toby Herzog (814)486-3353, Elk & Cameron Counties  
Stan Hess, (814)274-3616, Potter & McKean Counties & Newsletter editor

**Board**  
Rick Smith – McKean Co.– (814)642-2250  
David Lombardo –Cameron Co.–(814)735-1110  
Ken Comstock-Potter Co. (814)544-7776  
Linda Pontzer-Elk Co. (814)834-2090  
**Webmaster:** Walt Petrick

Picture identification:- great blue heron - photo by Dave Haubrick

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



Summer 2008

What is this animal? See back page



215 MEMBERS  
234,000+ ACRES

# North Central Forest Landowners Association

Cameron, Elk, McKean, & Potter Counties

## View From The Top Of The Tree

Larry Schultz

Thanks to all those who attended the woods walk at my property in Potter Co. on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Even though it was a cold and rainy day over twenty people were there. I am encouraged to see that our woods walks are being well attended. Last years woods walk at D.E. Errick also had a very good turnout. In past years some of these events only drew 5 or 6 people. This is an excellent opportunity to see what other forest landowners are doing and meet and discuss issues with other NCFLA members. While it was raining we took refuge in my shed and Tim Pierson handed out information on crop tree management. When the rain stopped we were able to go out and see some examples of this treatment on wild cherry. Tim then led the group in an exercise in selecting trees for this treatment. Because of limited time and a heavy down-pour we were unable to spend much time at my ponds. If anyone would like to see all the ponds and discuss them give me a call and we will arrange a time.

I want to welcome Marie Petrick as our new treasurer. Thanks to Jean Culver for all the years she served as treasurer and all the things she has done for NCFLA. The willingness of people like Jean and Marie to give their time and talents to NCFLA is what makes this a great association.

### Forest Health Update

Two common gall making insects on spruce trees are confusing. The following articles on the Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid and Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid are found on the PA Bureau of Forestry Website.

#### Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid

*Adelges abietis* (Linnaeus) Phylloxeridae: HOMOPTERA

**Description** - The eastern spruce gall adelgid closely resembles an aphid. However, aphids have long antennae and characteristic pipe like tubes (cornicles) arising from the tip of the abdomen. The adult eastern spruce gall adelgid is a small, bluish green sucking insect covered by cottony, waxy strands. The summer generation develops wings. The nymph is yellowish to bluish green and grows to a length of about 1mm. The nymph may be obscured by cottony, waxy strands. The small eggs are black and oval shaped. Eggs are found in a cottony mass of waxy strands near the base of dormant buds.

**Distribution and Host Plants** - The eastern spruce gall adelgid is believed to have been introduced from Europe before 1900. The favored host plants of the eastern spruce gall adelgid are Norway and white spruce, but it also has been found on red, black, Engelmann and Colorado blue spruces.

**Damage** - Infested trees produce pineapple-shaped galls, approximately 1.5 to 2.0 cm long, which stunt the growth of new shoots and cause distortion of the stem at the gall.



Adult adelgids - Photo OSU

In summer the galls dry out and turn brown. Trees demonstrate a wide range of susceptibility- some have galls which kill the branch and others have few galls, which allow for continued branch growth. Severely infested trees may decline in

vigor.

**Life History** - The eastern spruce gall adelgid has one generation per year. This adelgid overwinters as immature females (called fundatrices) near or at the base of the dormant buds of the current year's twigs. In mid-April these females continue to grow and produce a white, waxy, cotton-like covering. In about two to three weeks the females mature and lay 100 to 200 eggs surrounded by cottony or woolly wax. The eggs are laid about the time the buds break. About 10 to 14 days later, the nymphs hatch and begin to feed at the base of the needles. This feeding causes a pineapple-shaped gall to form in the new twig. The nymphs mature in cells inside the gall until the gall dries out and splits open in summer. The mature nymphs



Gall on Spruce - Photo OSU



Nymphs on buds - Photo OSU

crawl to needles and molt into winged females called alate non-migrants. These winged females are feeble fliers and usually do not leave the tree. Within two to five days, the females deposit 60 to 100 eggs under the bark and then die. The eggs are usually covered in a cottony, waxy mass. These eggs hatch in approximately 16 days and the nymphs immediately migrate to areas of the twigs near buds.

**Control** - Overwintering nymphs can be controlled in early spring before new growth begins. Galls can be pruned from the branch to control light infestations. The use of resistant varieties of spruce is recommended. Chemical controls can be applied in mid- April and late summer. For specific chemical controls, see the current PA Department of Agriculture recommendation or contact the nearest Penn State Extension Office.

#### Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid

*Adelges cooleyi* (Gillette) Adelgidae, Homoptera

The Cooley spruce gall adelgid closely resembles an aphid. Adult Cooley spruce adelgids have wings and the nymphs are wingless. The most obvious indication of a Cooley spruce gall infestation is the pinecone shaped galls that form on one of its hosts, Colorado blue spruce. In

Pennsylvania there are two generations of Cooley spruce gall per year. Only the first generation produces galls. The second generation overwinters as an immature female under the bark scales near the terminal twigs.

**Distribution and Host Plants** The Cooley spruce gall is native to North America, but is now worldwide in its distribution. Douglas-fir is the alternate host for this adelgid where it openly feeds on the needles without producing galls. On Colorado spruce, this adelgid makes a characteristic pinecone shaped gall. It also occasionally makes galls on Engelmann and sitka spruces.

**Damage** On spruce, the young Cooley spruce gall adelgid nymphs begin feeding on the buds in late May which causes the formation of the pinecone shaped galls on the tips of the branches. The galls are actually buds that swell to about 5cm in length as a consequence of the salivary secretions of the feeding nymphs. Each gall may contain hundreds of nymphs feeding on the sap of the tree's new growth. Initially the galls are green; later, after the adelgids emerge and the galls dry out, they turn reddish-purple. Old, vacated galls have many emergence holes, stunted needle-like projections and are reddish-



Old Gall - Photo BCU



Adults on Fir - Photo BCU

brown in color. Another characteristic of Cooley spruce adelgids is white, cottony specks that appear on the tree in spring and remain throughout the summer. These specks are actually a waxy coating (flocculence) laid down by the female adel-

gid to protect the eggs. In heavy infestations, these white specks can cover an entire tree. On spruce, only first-generation adelgids feed inside the galls. Succeeding generations feed openly on the branches, sucking the sap out of older needles. Many of these needles will dry out and eventually fall off. Externally, damage is mainly cosmetic. However, needle drop combined with the persistent old galls can make ornamental and Christmas trees unsightly. If gall formation is heavy, tree growth and vigor may be reduced, but trees are rarely killed. The Cooley spruce adelgid also makes the white, cottony specks on Douglas-fir, but not the galls. Douglas-fir may lose needles, as in spruce, but the damage is usually not as extensive.

**Control** The Cooley spruce adelgid has very few natural enemies; hence, if populations are high some form of control may be necessary. When practical, remove and destroy the new galls as they are formed. This will help reduce the number of adelgids and improve the appearance of the tree.

## 2008 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--**Forest Ecology and Silviculture Seminar** at Kane Experimental Forest--more to come

July 12--**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** at the American Legion in Coudersport.