



DELAWARE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 344
Bridgeville, Delaware 19933
www.delawareforest.com

Winter 2018



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Newsletter

Laura Yowell

Dear Delaware Forestry Association Members, Friends, and Family,

As 2017 has come and gone, we at the Delaware Forestry Association are looking forward to an exciting 2018. The Board of Directors and I are committed to continue providing educational opportunities to the next generation of forest managers and natural resource specialists. Again in 2018, the Delaware Forestry Association will offer a scholarship to a Delaware resident who is currently attending or will attend a two- or four-year accredited program concentrating in forestry or environmental science. The Delaware Forestry Association will also be a sponsor to the Delaware Envirothon, awarding prizes for the top three competing teams in the forestry portion of the event. Prizes are then used to purchase teaching materials for the students to further their education. Also, the Delaware Forestry Association will sponsor one high school student from each county to attend the Natural Resources Career Camp at Camp Hickory in Garrett County MD. If you or anyone you know has a high school student that may wish to explore a career in natural resources please forward this link to them: <http://marylandforestryboards.org/nrcc.cfm> for more information.

While we are committed to education for the next generation, we are also committed to continuing education for forest land owners and industry professionals. This year, we held a seminar on tick-borne illness at the Burnt Swamp complex in Selbyville, DE. This seminar coupled with representatives from the QDMA on hand to answer questions about wildlife management, made for a very informative field day. In 2018, we look forward to providing more educational events for members and industry professionals.

With that, I would like to personally thank all of the members, directors, and supporters of the Delaware Forestry Association. Without you, we could not continue to promote the educational benefits that help to ensure that current and future generations understand just how important our forests are to all of us.

Sincerely,
Alex Fignar, 2017 President

The Delaware Forestry Association is a non-profit corporation of the State of Delaware (1982) and functions to support and protect private forest landowners and the forest industry's right to practice forestry through public policy and educational efforts.

DFA Scholarship

Award Winner

The Delaware Forestry Association is pleased to have awarded our 2017 scholarship to Alison Van Vorst of Rehoboth Beach, DE. Alison has been excelling in her studies at the North Carolina State University since 2014, where she is pursuing a degree in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Alison hopes to be a wildlife biologist when she earns her degree. Congratulations Alison, we wish you continued success in all of your endeavors.

If you know a student who may be interested in applying, you can find the rules and application at: <http://delawareforest.com/scholarship/>. Good luck students!

BMP Study

Delaware timber harvests achieved a 93 percent rate of compliance with best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality and limit soil erosion. Dr. Anne Hairston-Strang, of the Maryland Forest Service assessed the effectiveness of BMPs by surveying a total of 72 sites in Maryland and Delaware from 2014 to 2016. Results indicated that average sediment delivery across all locations was less than one cubic foot per site—indicating that properly used BMPs were successful at protecting water quality during timber harvests. Read it at delawareforest.com.

State Forestry Administrator's Update

The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) is aware of extensive crop damage caused by white-tailed deer, especially in Sussex County. The DDA is working with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) on a state-wide strategy to reduce deer damage to crops. The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) was tasked with identifying State Forest lands to be potentially included in a pilot program that would involve leasing these lands to private hunt clubs, whose members would be tasked with removing a required number of does before any bucks were harvested. Two areas of Redden State Forest are currently under consideration: the 245-acre Long Tract and the 826-acre Tunnell Tract. Neither tract is currently included in our Quality Deer Management (QDM) program. Should the plan go through, the State's Government Support Services bidding system would be used as a fair way to accept bids from hunt clubs although the Department is not required to do this. More details on this proposed pilot project will follow.

As part of a wider strategy to reduce the deer population on State Forest lands, an antlerless season is planned for 2018/2019. Antlerless deer hunting was previously banned on State Forest lands. To allow deeper access into some of the more popular areas, roadside gates will be opened to allow for hunter parking further into the interior of these tracts. The Forest Service is also open to other suggestions in an effort to help control the deer population in Delaware. Because of the nature of State Forest use by the public for a multitude of recreational activities besides hunting, we reserve the right to uphold our ban on Sunday hunting on all but the potentially leased tracts of forestland.

Many of you have probably heard about the recent court case involving open and concealed carry of guns on State Forest and State Park lands. The Delaware Supreme Court overturned our respective agency gun bans. Previously, firearms were allowed for legal hunting only, and were otherwise prohibited on State Forest and State Park lands. This decision stemmed from a lawsuit filed by the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club against the Delaware Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Besides three public workshops (one in each county) in February, there will be a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments to our regulations that seek to ban firearms in only a small number of designated safe areas that includes office and shop buildings, the Lodge at Redden, our two Educational Centers, and our private residence at Taber State Forest. The public hearing is scheduled for March 12, 2018 starting at 6:00 pm at the DNREC Richardson & Robbins building auditorium in Dover. All are welcome to attend if you are interested in voicing your opinion on this matter.

Michael A. Valenti, State Forestry Administrator

Tree Farm Update

The Delaware Tree Farm Committee NEEDS YOU! We are currently seeking new committee members to fill a few vacant spots, if you or anyone you know is interested please give me a call at 302-856-2893.

We co-hosted a wonderful field day at Delaware Wildlands Roman Fisher Farm that included a tour of the swamp and a very informative talk on Lyme Disease and other tick-borne ailments. We are already looking forward to helping host this fall's field day. We are always open to suggestions on what you would like to see and learn about.

We hope to see everyone at the banquet this year as we recognize our new Tree Farmer of the Year and all of our tree farmers who will hit their 25 years of membership milestone.

Submitted by Laura Yowell, Chair



Spotted Lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula

Photo by PA Dept. of Agriculture



Bacterial Leaf Scorch

Xylella fastidiosa

Forest Health Update

Exotic invasive insects such as gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid, and diseases such as bacterial leaf scorch and chestnut blight have damaged Delaware's woodlands in the past. Several new threats are approaching. A single emerald ash borer adult was found on a purple sticky trap near Hockessin in 2016. An adult spotted lantern fly was found on the Wilmington riverfront area in November of 2017. Walnut twig beetle and associated fungal disease called thousand cankers disease have been found in Bucks and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania, as well as nearby Cecil County, Maryland. The Delaware Forest Service in cooperation with Plant Industries, continues to survey for these exotic insects and a few others that are more distant at this time. One of the few native insect pests to cause widespread mortality in healthy stands of pine is the southern pine beetle. Though it has led to about 300 acres of loblolly pine stand mortality in Dorchester County, Maryland in the last couple of years, it has been sporadic and caused much smaller acreages of mortality in Delaware. In 2017, no additional areas of mortality were found, and funnel trap catches were all zero. Weather in 2017 was good overall for tree growth and health with only short dry periods in June and late September/early October. A mild winter and very warm February led to some early bud break and subsequent frost damage to early flowers and tender leaves of a few species such as cherry, magnolia, and some maples.

Submitted by Bill Seybold, DFS Forest Health Specialist

Seedling Give-Away

Raffle Winners

The Delaware Forestry Association is pleased to announce the winners from our FREE Tree Seedling Give-Away Contest at the Delaware Forestry Association/Delaware Tree Farm Program exhibit during the 2017 Delaware State Fair.

Each winner will receive five redbud and five serviceberry seedlings during the spring 2018 planting season. Each of these trees are native to the State of Delaware and not only provide shade, reduce surrounding air temperatures and seasonal foliage interest, they are also important for our native wildlife. Congratulations to all of the winners! (See box at right.)

2017 Timber Tax Tips

If you bought or sold timber or timberland in 2017, or had timber management related expenses, you may want to check out the article “Tax Tips for Forest

Landowners” for the 2017 tax year. This article is released every year by the U.S. Forest Service and serves as an introduction to common forest accounting situations. Common situations include selling or buying timber or land, pre-commercial thinning, planting, spraying, cost-share program participation, losses from natural disasters, conservation easements, and others. It can be found on the web at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/>



Seedling Give-Away Winners

- John Lucas (Millville, DE)
- Henry Kline (Chester, MD)
- Michelle Babiarz (Middletown, DE)
- John Marko (Saratoga Springs, NY)
- J. Mitchell (Laurel, DE)
- Christine Cornish (Dover, DE)
- Philip Ulrich (Clayton, DE)
- Jullianna Morelli (Delmar, DE)
- Sandra Sadler (Centerville, MD)
- Lama Singleton (Dover, DE)



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