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# All in a Nutshell

Volume 17, Issue 2

Summer 2012

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*With the weather's cooperation, a most interesting and enjoyable day was had at the Spring Woods Walk hosted by the Sellers. Unfortunately, the recent tornado has devastated all of the Sellers' hard work and improvements.*

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## *President's Message*

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Today I had to take the dog to the vet for her Lyme shot. It was the fourth day in a row that I have been behind the wheel and I was bummed out. As I drove out of Nicholson on the way home, there was a big bear on the berm of the road. It was shiny and black and big and beautiful and very close. It moved off just barely in the bushes and waited for me to pass. My truck was stopped where he wanted to go and he would have to wait for me to leave. That brought me back to reality – he was wary, but wasn't worrying about what he could not change. I and my truck were just a temporary inconvenience. If he had patience, I would go away and he could cross the road like he wanted to do. Was there something to be learned from that?

That made me think. "Heh, there are a lot of beautiful and interesting things to see out there- just slow down. Don't just look; observe and absorb." I slowed down; I stopped to watch the neighbor baling hay; taking the spring bounty and putting it away for his stock to feed on in the long winter months ahead. I drove by Don Williams's house and marveled that someone looking at 80 way back in the rear view has the energy and the desire to maintain a really large vegetable garden and to freeze and, actually can, enough for the winter.

I thought about the fact that there seem to be very few apples on the trees this year, but the blackberries appear to be quite plentiful perhaps even offsetting the shortfall for those critters that forage to live. I thought about the hummingbirds at the feeder and the fawns scampering across the meadow last week. What a wonderful world it is that we live in!

What is summer? Summer is the time for growing things: dig in the dirt, plant some flowers, and plant some vegetables. Tend them carefully and watch them grow. Likewise tend to your relationships old and new, watch them grow and harvest memories. Pick some berries, put them over ice cream, but put some away to enjoy when the winter wind is heavy on the land.

But ... summer is also time for renewing yourself: stop and revel in the wildflowers, their colors and their smell. Feel the warm as you sit on the porch after a hard day's work.

Take your family to the beach, or just to the local pond to catch some fish with the kids. The list of opportunities is limited only by your imagination and ambition. But whatever you do, try to include a youngster and introduce him or her to how wonderful and exciting the outdoors with its many plant and animal inhabitants really is. Enjoy.

*-Jim James*

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## *Harford Fair Exhibit*

### *Identify that firewood*

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Look for SCFLOA's display and talk to us at this year's Harford Fair, August 20-25. We will be located in the same previous location at the Susquehanna County Conservation District booth #107, which is located midway along the first corridor in from the amusement rides, down from the Founder's Museum.

This year's display includes a contest to identify firewood specimens, a forestry trivia contest, and a display/matching game featuring "Nature's Woodworkers". Prizes of free ice cream and SCFLOA memberships will be awarded to contest winners. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## *Harford Fair Booth Information*

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**WHEN:** August 20-25, 2012

**TIME:** 10:00 AM - closing

**WHERE:** Harford Fair Grounds

**LOCATION:** Susq. Co. Conservation Booth #107

**TOPIC:** Firewood ID contest, forestry trivia contest, "Nature's Woodworkers" display, handouts

**PERSONNEL:** SCFLOA directors, foresters

**PRIZES:** Ice cream passes for high firewood quiz scores  
1 year's free membership for trivia winners

**COST:** Just your interest and time

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## *Big Tree Search Continues*

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The Susquehanna County Forest Landowners Association (SCFLOA) is taking part in a statewide search for the biggest trees in Pennsylvania. The SCFLOA Board of Directors has decided to conduct a county wide (Susquehanna county) search for 24 different native/naturalized trees during the next 5 months. This search will be in cooperation with The Pennsylvania Forestry Association - Champion Trees of PA. The "PA Big Trees" website lists the biggest trees in the state, also the biggest trees in different counties. The listings are dependent upon the past records of champion tree measurements and the most current updates. It should be noted that not all species of trees have been measured in the county.

The tree measurements used are:

- 1) the height of the tree;
- 2) the crown spread as measured two ways;
- 3) the circumference of the tree as measured at 54" above the ground.

Tree species being measured in Susquehanna County are: Apple, Arborvitae, Ash, Aspen, Birches, Black Cherry, Black Gum, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Downy Serviceberry, Elm, Hemlock, Hickories, Hornbeam, Maple(s), Norway Spruce, Oak(s), Sassafras, Tulip Poplar, White Pine, Willow(s).

During the current measuring period one tree has qualified as a State Record – an Arborvitae on the Flaherty farm in Choconut Twp.

According to Jim James, President of SCFLOA, "The Big Tree measuring committee has measured 40 trees with at least 35 more on the list to be measured. We will continue our search efforts through the end 2012".

If you have a Big Tree that you would like measured, please call: **Jim James – 289-4935; Bob Wagner – 278-9363; Stu Slocum – 756-2497.**



*Former service forester Dave Cole measuring a big Red Oak tree in Brooklyn Township*

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## *Updates from Our Forester*

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**Ryan Brown**  
Service forester  
for  
Susquehanna &  
Wyoming Counties

-The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is prevalent in the County this year. From the site visits I have been on it seems that most infected sites have been on the western half of the county with Interstate 81 being the dividing line.

-Several EAB traps are dispersed all around the county covering major travel corridors and even isolated back roads but no positive confirmation has been reported up to this point.

-Viburnum leaf beetle has been detected in the county apparently in the northern half spanning east to west. Southern portions of the county did not show signs of the beetle from my site visits. It was very apparent on arrowwood which is one of its preferred hosts.

-Minor defoliation was detected this year due to gypsy moth in the northern sections of the county. Defoliation flights were conducted this year as well.

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## *Coyotes-forest predator or ally?*

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### **Coyotes and Your Forest**

*Jack Sorber –guest speaker*

**SCFLOA banquet**  
*November 16, 2012*

John "Jack" Sorber, a well-known outdoorsman in the area, will be the guest speaker at the annual SCFLOA banquet on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sorber is an outstanding hunter, trapper, and deer management enthusiast. He trains dogs for coyote hunting. There is a complex interrelationship between coyotes, deer and your forest. Coyotes prey on deer, which consume the forest plants. The amount of plants available in turn control the number of deer that can be sustained in that area.

If you have an interest in this complex relationship, please plan on attending the SCFLOA banquet on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be forthcoming in the fall newsletter.

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## 2013 Funding Sign-up deadline

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers both technical and financial assistance to implement best management practices for forestry management through its Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Funding is awarded annually through a competitive process. Each EQIP application is ranked based on the environmental benefit as well as the overall cost benefit of the proposed BMPs. You must have a current forestry management plan that address soil erosion and water quality resource concerns to receive funding for conservation practices.

To have your project considered for the first round of fiscal year 2013 funding, **applications available at all USDA NRCS offices must be submitted to your local NRCS office no later than 9/15/2012.** Applications received after that time will be evaluated in consecutive rounds if funds remain. The office can be reached by calling 278-1011, extension 2, 103 or 108.

-Bob Wagner



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### 2012 SCFLOA Board of Directors

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**Left to right:** Doug Gunn, Jim Kessler, Rob Alfred, Ryan Brown, Franz Fearnley, Jim James, Bob Wagner  
**Seated:** Carol Hartley, Stuart Slocum  
**Absent from picture:** Curt Hepler



The Association is looking for members to serve on the Board of Directors. Anyone who may have an interest kindly contact President Jim James @570 289-4935 or director Curt Hepler @570 465-3921. *Thank You!*

**Board of Directors Meetings** are open to all members. They are held the first Monday of every other month at the NRCS conference room, Montrose PA. They begin at 7:00 PM. *The next meeting is **October 1**, Your presence and ideas are always welcomed!*



**Indian Pipe**, also known as Ghost Flower, Corpse Plant, Death Plant, and Fairy Smoke is one of the easiest plants to recognize. Unlike most plants, Indian Pipe doesn't have chlorophyll, the stuff that makes plants green. Indian Pipe is a waxy, whitish color. It turns black when it gets old. Indian Pipe grows only four to ten inches tall. It has flowers that droop and tiny, scale-like leaves. Indian Pipe is usually seen from June to September. It grows in shady woods with rich soil and decaying plant matter. This plant is often found near dead stumps.

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## Multiflora rose demise?

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**Rose rosette**  
*Attacking  
multiflora  
rose*

Before its invasiveness was well understood, multiflora rose was widely planted in the eastern United States as a wildlife plant for erosion control and as a living fence. Discovered in Canada in 1940, rose rosette disease is a mite-transmitted, graftable "virus" that eventually kills the rose plant.

Symptoms of RRD in multiflora rose include red, purplish or dark green veinal pigmentation; production of bright red lateral shoots; enlarged stems and stipules; dense, yellowish, dwarfed foliage; and premature development of lateral buds producing many compact lateral branches forming "witches' brooms." Symptomatic canes are cold sensitive and usually die at temperatures below -10°C. Bushes will generally die out after 1 to 5 years of symptoms.

The disease can be graft or mechanically transmitted but not by seed or fruits of rose species. It has been demonstrated to move from one plant to another by a microscopic eriophyid mite. These mites may be moved distances of several hundred feet by wind currents.

The disease attacks most plants in the *Rosa* genus but with different degrees of susceptibility. Symptoms on ornamental roses include a yellow mosaic pattern on leaves, greatly increased thorniness of stems, clumped and wrinkled foliage, and witches' brooms. Rose rosette is not believed to be of any danger to commercially important related plants such as apples, plums, or cherries.

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## 2012 SCFLOA Calendar of Events

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**August 20-25:** Harford Fair display-Firewood ID contest/  
Nature's Wood Workers buzz board

**October 8:** Columbus holiday fall foliage tour, tentative plans to visit Hansford Mills, Iroquois Museum, and Hartwick Environmental Campus @ Pine Lake, all in upstate NY

**November 16:** Annual membership business meeting and Dinner/ Speaker: Jack Sorber-"Coyotes and Your Forest"

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*Ask the Forester*

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Dear Forester,

I am from Bucks County PA but I also own land in Susquehanna Co. Over the last year I've noticed a decline in my Black Walnut trees in Bucks co. and while I do not have a plethora of walnut on my property in Susquehanna Co., I am concerned that this could happen there as well. The symptoms I've witnessed are yellowing of the leaves and the upper crown appears to be much thinner with foliage. On some of them the larger limbs are beginning to die. Attached is a picture of one of the dead branches. Currently I do not see any signs of die back on my walnut in Susquehanna Co., but I wanted to know if there is something affecting walnut trees that I could protect against?

Thank You, A concerned Forest Landowner

Concerned Landowner,

In examining the picture that you sent and interpreting the symptoms described, your Black Walnut trees are infected with what is called Thousand Cankers Disease. It is caused by the Walnut Twig Beetle which carries a fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*). The beetle will tunnel under the bark; resulting in small cankers, eventually interfering with the movement of nutrients throughout the tree. This leads to the dieback you are experiencing and then the eventual death of the tree, most commonly within a 10yr. period. Currently there is no known cure for this disease but this reiterates the importance of **RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF WOOD MATERIALS**. If you have already moved wood be sure to burn all of it **ASAP and do not move anymore. This will help slow the spread.** Currently, Thousand Canker Disease is found in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington. In Pennsylvania it is found in Bucks Co.

-Ryan Brown, PA service forester



Thousand cankers disease



Walnut twig beetle

If you haven't done so yet, please pay your 2012 dues soon!

Any questions, please contact SCFLOA treasurer at:  
[slocumsw95@yahoo.com](mailto:slocumsw95@yahoo.com) or at 570 756-2497  
1371 Slocum Rd, Thompson, PA 18465

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED