

THE TICKER

A Weekly Public Affairs Update for the PFPA Membership

PRODUCED BY:
PENNSYLVANIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
"YOUR CAPITOL INSIDER"



Monday, August 31, 2015

Reported by: Paul Lyskava, PFPA Executive Director

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expands

Another Berks County township has been quarantined in the fight to stop the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect new to the United States that was first found in the area last fall. The quarantine has added Colebrookdale Township, which joins District, Earl, Hereford, Pike, Rockland and Washington townships and the boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville which are already under quarantine.

The general quarantine restricts movement of any material or object that can spread the pest, including wood products, firewood, brush or yard waste. Businesses in the general quarantine area need to obtain a Certificate of Limited Permit from the department in order to move articles. Criminal and civil penalties of up to \$20,000 and prison time can be imposed for violations by businesses or individuals.

The Spotted Lanternfly, an inch-long black, red and white spotted pest, is native to China, India, Japan and Vietnam. It's an invasive species in Korea, where it has attacked 25 plant species which also grow in Pennsylvania.

The pest attacks grapes, apples, pines and stone fruits. It often attaches to the bark of Tree of Heaven. It's also known to feed on other hardwood trees. Adults often cluster in groups and lay egg masses containing 30-50 eggs that adhere to flat surfaces including tree bark.

These townships in Berks County are the only known infestation in the US. PDA staff continue to investigate the quarantined and surrounding areas to assess the spread and impact of the pest.

To learn more about the Spotted Lanternfly, visit www.agriculture.pa.gov and search "lanternfly."

New PA WoodMobile is Active

The Pennsylvania WoodMobile has been especially popular this year, exhibiting 105 days through the end of August at 68 events and hosting more than 80,000 guests, including some 11,000-plus school students.

With some two dozen events to come this year, a record number of events and attendance is possible.

Upcoming events include attendance at the September Penn-York Meeting and a visit to the National Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association in October.

Other Updates

Efforts by GOP leaders in the state House to override portions of Governor Wolf's budget veto failed last week. Meanwhile, Governor Wolf continues to review a GOP proposal that would link spending an added \$300 million towards basic education, if the Governor accepts a plan to shift future state employees and school district officials to a 401(k)-style program. the PA Game Commission will be seeking an increase in its license fees. The plan would increase the current license fee of \$19 fee by \$10 in the first year and by \$5 in the third and fifth years, bringing the total cost to \$39. Fees for a non-resident license could double to \$200. The fee increase requires approval by the state legislature. Pennsylvanians can now register or update their vote registration online at <http://www.dos.pa.gov>. Dr. Donald Eggen, forest health manager with DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, was honored early this month for leadership and accomplishments in forest health and aviation safety at the 2015 Gypsy Moth Program Managers Meeting, sponsored by the US Forest Service's Forest Health Program. Penn State will be holding a Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course on Sept 14-17 from 9am-5pm at the Livestock Evaluation Center in Pennsylvania Furnace. Registration is \$400 and the deadline to register is Sept. 4. For additional information, visit <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests/courses/hardwood-lumber-grading> The Penn State Ag Career Day on Oct 20 is the perfect opportunity to meet and talk with our bright and talented students face to face about your internships or full-time positions. Registration cost is \$300. For more information, visit: <http://www.cvent.com/d/jrq0w8>.

PFPA News

🌲 PFPA Executive Development Workshop; PFPA Annual Meeting and Penn-York Lumbermen's Club September meeting are all less than a month away. Information on all three events is included with The Ticker this week.

"DYK" – Did You Know? — PA has completed the most rails-to-trails projects in the nation, and it also has more projects in development than any other state. 1,740 miles of track have been turned into trails in PA. - *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*