



THE EDWARD L. ROSE CONSERVANCY



Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter

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The Emerald Ash Borer – What You Need to Know

17 years ago this Asian-based beetle made its debut in the United States. In 2007 it was first identified in western Pennsylvania. It took only seven years for ash forests in the commonwealth to be reduced by 12% and is a major threat to all ash species, similar to the impact of Dutch elm disease on that species.

When trees begin to die the canopy is reduced, bringing more light to the understory. While that may enable other types of trees to flourish, it also enables dormant ash seedlings to become infected, spreading the infestation.

The beetle is most dangerous in its larval stage, burrowing under the bark and destroying the host in three to five years.

There are three recommended mitigation strategies: remove diseased trees, pre-treat healthy trees with insecticide, and focus on disease-tolerance breeding.



The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DNCR) says: "Only ash trees that are healthy and are of value to the homeowner should be considered for treatment. Other ash trees should be removed before they become a hazard."

Here is information on how DNCR intends to address the problem:

http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20029768.pdf



Compound leaves (group of leaflets) of an ash tree.
(Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org)

The diamond patterned bark on older ash trees.
(Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org)

Note below that moving ash firewood during the fall can risk further spread of the infestation.



Repair of South Lake Road

Anthony Palombaro, who is coordinating this important project supported by E.L. Rose, reports the following:

"Because this is the outlet of Silver Lake and origin of Silver Creek and most importantly is designated "Exceptional Value" by PA DEP, we needed a higher level permit and engineering plan and controls designed to eliminate construction mud and silt from entering the creek. The permit was submitted early 2018, finally approval from DEP came early Fall, bids went out and we decided to wait till after the busy summer season to do the work. Darren Small our contractor, working with Joe Bayer, our engineer and DEP were able to successfully replace this pipe and rebuild the road in only three days in October 2019 with the road closed only for one day with no silt entering Silver Creek.

Once the vegetation grows in to 80%, the final approval will be provided by DEP."



Waiting for Eagles to Land - An Update



In the Spring Newsletter we described an initiative to build a raptor nesting habitat near the High Point Preserve. A platform was erected. And now we wait...

While the nest has yet to have attracted residents perhaps it will not be long in coming. Here are two pictures taken by Tim Matthews that demonstrates our patience may be rewarded.

Tim reports:

"We had an eagle fishing at Silver lake the first week in September. Steve Wax watched as the eagle grabbed a large fish but could not lift it. The eagle swam to the shore

and pulled the large fish out and began to feed on it.

The other picture is of an eagle scavenging on a deer carcass last winter on the lake ice. We have not yet had any pictures of eagles visiting the nesting platform."



PennEast Pipeline Project



We recently became aware that the PennEast Pipeline Company seeks to build a 116-mile, 36-inch diameter, high-pressure fracked gas pipeline that will impact our Greenwood sanctuary (pictured hosting a group to the left) in Dimick, generously donated to us by Laidily McBride. This proposed pipeline also includes construction of a new air polluting compressor station in Luzerne County.

PennEast's application is currently under review by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. On August 29, 2019, DEP granted a time extension to PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, to provide the necessary information to make their application

technically adequate.

To share your concerns about the proposed pipeline we invite you to email Keith Salador at the Citizen Advisory Council (ksalador@pa.gov) or call him at 717-787-8171 for guidance as to how best to direct your concerns so they are received by the appropriate office.

A Birder's Guide to Susquehanna County - A *"Thank You"* to Donors

If you would like to own this elegant 40-page guide please contact our office. First-come first-served. It is free of charge to our members, but we only have a limited quantity.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY



A guide to bird watching and wildlife
viewing in Susquehanna County, PA



A project of the Friends of Salt Springs Park
www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

