



An Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Publication

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Fall Webworm

Dr. Dave Shetlar, OSU Extension, Landscape
Entomology Extension Specialist

I remember last year at this time, I was wondering if something had happened to the fall webworms! I needed some as a Chinese filming crew was coming to the U.S. to film the "American White Moth" which is their name for this pest that has invaded their country. The adult moth is snow white in color, often with a few black spots. It wasn't until August that we really began to notice the nests. Not this year!

Here, this pest favors walnut, hickory, and various fruit trees (mainly apple, cherry and plum). However, it may infest a dozen other tree species, including sweetgum, willow, maples and American elm.

The eggs are laid in a mass on leaf undersurfaces. The newly hatched larvae immediately skeletonize this leaf and begin covering the leaf surface with a silk thread matrix. As the larvae grow, they expand their silk matrix to include nearby leaves. This continues until a noticeable bag-like silk structure is formed.

What has been especially interesting to me is the large numbers of stink bugs I've been seeing hanging out along the edges of the webworm nests. These constantly are probing the silk in the hopes of snagging a larva that gets too close to the edge. If so, the stink bug's beak penetrates the caterpillar, injects a paralyzing saliva and the caterpillar is then slowly sucked dry! There are also some wasps that will try to enter the nests in order to capture caterpillars. I've seen several paper wasps, do this, often with success.

While observing the caterpillars last summer, I was shocked to see a rather slender wasp push its way into the webbing and upon finding a larva, it tucked under its abdomen and quickly "stung" the caterpillar! In this case, the sting was

actually laying an egg inside the caterpillar. The egg soon hatches into a grub-like larva that eats the caterpillar slowly over several weeks!

In spite of all these interesting biological controls, fall webworm can get out of hand. In some cases, numerous colonies on one tree can eventually completely envelop the tree in the silk webbing. During this time, practically all the foliage is eaten! Most entomologists have said that this isn't really important as most infested trees have put away sufficient energy resources to take them into next season. I suspect that there ARE consequences to this defoliation. As an example, apple scab often drops the leaves on crab apples and this defoliation doesn't kill the trees. However, flowering the next season is either eliminated or greatly reduced. I suspect the same thing would happen to flowering plums and crabapples that are defoliated by fall webworms.

Controls? If you are looking for non-chemical controls, you need a sharp eye, quick action and a pole pruner! As stated before, the nest begins as a group of tiny caterpillars on just a few leaves. If you can spot these initial skeletonized leaves and prune them out, you eliminate one to two-hundred

Adult fall webworm moth



Fall webworm on black walnut

caterpillars in one snip! I just step on the nests after they hit the ground, but if you don't like caterpillar goo on your shoes, drop the nest in a bucket of soapy water or simply put them in a plastic bag, seal it and toss!

Basics of Safe Chainsaw Operation

Dave Apsley, OSU Extension Natural Resource Specialist

I recently conducted a quick Google News Search using 'chainsaw accident' as key words. The following headlines were at the top of the list: Worker Injured by Chainsaw, Patient in Chainsaw Accident Taken to Hospital, Man Dies After Falling on Chainsaw.

Yes, the chainsaw is probably the most dangerous tool that you own, but with proper training you can learn how to greatly reduce the likelihood and severity of a chainsaw accident.

On October 8, 2010 Ohio State University Extension and Hocking College are collaborating to offer an all-day, hands-on chainsaw class in Nelsonville. This class is designed for woodland owners, farmers and others interested in learning how to safely and efficiently operate a chainsaw. Topics covered include: Safety Gear, Saw Maintenance, Saw Safety Features, Directional Felling, Bucking & Limbing. Each participant will have the opportunity to fell at least one tree using the latest and safest techniques.

The class will be taught by Hocking College—Timber Harvesting and Tree Care instructors, Mike Kessler and Dale Hatfield who have nearly 40 years of combined experience teaching safe use of chainsaws.

Chainsaws and chaps will be provided for use in the class. All participants must wear leather boots, and bring a hard hat, eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) and hearing protection (earplugs and/or muffs). The Course Fee of \$150 includes: Instruction and 1/4 credit hour at Hocking College, and Lunch. This class runs from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm and qualifies for 6 hours of continuing education credit for landowners participating in the Ohio Forest Tax Law program.

Do yourself and your family a huge favor: register today!

For more information or to register contact:
Ohio State University Extension – Athens County
740-593-8555 or lewandowski.11@osu.edu OR
Dave Apsley at 740-286-5044 ext. 30 or apsley.1@osu.edu

2010 Gwynne Conservation Area Schedule of Events

Farm Science Review is September 21, 22, 23 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center outside London, Ohio. Once again this year there are a series of natural resource related talks being offered at the Gwynne Conservation Area during the three days of the Review. To find the Gwynne catch the shuttle at the West end of Friday Avenue and it will take you to the Gwynne.

Want more information? Check out the Farm Science Review website at <http://fsr.osu.edu> or the Gwynne Conservation Area website at <http://gwynne.osu.edu>.

Critter Corner



Tales of Dragons and Damsels

Marne Titchenell OSU Extension Wildlife Program Specialist

Petaltails, darners, spiketails, emeralds, and skimmers; these are some of the names of one of the oldest groups of insects; the dragonflies and damselflies. At times nicknamed the flying dinosaurs, these fascinating winged predators have been around for 300 million years. Since that time, dragonflies and damselflies have been zipping over ponds, lakes, wetlands, marshes and other bodies of water catching the attention of nature enthusiasts.

If you've yet to take an interest in these insects, I would encourage you to try it out. Watching dragonflies and damselflies is much like watching songbirds. There are many varieties of body sizes and shapes, and a plethora of colors and patterns to help distinguish between different species. Neon orange, bright reds and blues, metallic greens and purples, ebones and softer hues of rose decorate the 160 plus species that live in Ohio. In fact, many are named for their appearance; the ebony jewelwing, the violet dancer, and the ruby meadowhawk are just a few examples.

There are many identification guides available to help you decipher among the different species in Ohio, but for starters, let's review the basic differences between a damselfly and a dragonfly. One of the easiest ways to tell the difference is to observe their resting behavior. Damselflies, while smaller and more delicately built than dragonflies, rest with their wings pressed together over their abdomen. Dragonflies hold their wings

2010 Gwynne Conservation Area Schedule of Events

		Cabin	Wildlife Amphitheatre	Woodland Amphitheatre	Aquatic Amphitheatre
<div><div></div><div>Tuesday</div><div></div></div>	10:30-11:00	If It Were My Pond, I Would...	Woodland Wildlife Management	Invasive Plant Species in Ohio's Woodlands	Healthy Wetlands Don't Bite!
	11:00-11:30			Woodland Management Tips That Pay	
	11:30-12:00	Wildlife Sounds of The Night	Brush Pile...Brush Up!		Quality Fishing in Ponds & Small Lakes
	12:00-12:30		How to Monitor Wildlife on Your Property	Conservation Tree Plantings	
	12:30-1:00	Consider This Before Selling Your Timber	Native Grass & Wildflower ID (1HR)	Seeing Green: An Emerald Ash Borer Update	Muskrat Management -Forget Control!
	1:00-1:30			Taking Care of Your Stream So It Can Take Care of You!	Ohio's Reptiles and Amphibians
	1:30-2:00				
	2:00-2:30				
	2:30-3:00		The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)		
<div><div></div><div>Wednesday</div><div></div></div>	10:30-11:00	Taking Care of Your Stream So It Can Take Care of You!	The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Hobby Maple Syrup Production	Muskrat Management -Forget Control!
	11:00-11:30		Ohio's Reptiles and Amphibians		The Basics of Chainsaw Safety
	11:30-12:00	Wildlife Sounds of The Night		'Holesome' Habitats	
	12:00-12:30		Bats: Fact or Fiction		Native Grass & Wildflower ID
	12:30-1:00	If It Were My Pond, I Would...		Invasive Species Plant Detective	
	1:00-1:30				Invasive Plant Species in Ohio's Woodlands
	1:30-2:00				
	2:00-2:30				
	<div><div></div><div>Thursday</div><div></div></div>	10:30-11:00	Consider This Before Selling Your Timber	How to Monitor Wildlife on Your Property	
11:00-11:30		Invasive Species Plant Detective			Healthy Wetlands Don't Bite!
11:30-12:00		Taking Care of Your Stream So It Can Take Care of You!		Invasive Plant Species in Ohio's Woodlands	Controlling Aquatic Plants & Algae with Herbicides
12:00-12:30			Brush Pile...Brush Up!	Don't Forget the Simple Things... Nest Boxes for Wildlife	
12:30-1:00		Enhancing Wildlife Food (Mast) Production in Your Woodlands			
1:00-1:30					

straight out and to the sides of their bodies. Once you have identified whether you are looking at a damselfly or dragonfly, then you can use other features, such as color patterns and size to determine the species.

Dragonflies and damselflies live to eat and breed, so look for them over water sources, an essential habitat component for them. Most dragonflies and damselflies spend a significant portion of their lives as aquatic larvae; gilled and without wings. Once they reach adulthood and gain their wings, they spend their time feeding on other insects, defending their territories, and looking for mates. This is a special time when these insects open a window for us to take a peek into their lives. You may observe tandem pairs, when the male clasps the female behind her eyes with appendages on his abdomen. When the female swings her abdomen up to meet the male, a heart shaped copulation wheel is formed.

So the next time you are near a pond on a sunny day, take a few minutes to observe the impressive flight maneuvers and speeds, intriguing behaviors, and beautiful colors of Ohio's dragonflies and damselflies.

Workshops to teach business and wildlife-management basics

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Purdue University Extension specialists will lead workshops Sept. 8 and 9 to show farmers how they can use the natural resources of their land for outdoor recreational businesses and other income-producing enterprises.

The Natural Resource enterprises workshops will explore how agritourism, trail riding, hunting, fishing, bed-and-breakfast inns and such operations can be viable businesses for farmers. The workshops are for anyone who has such an enterprise or is interested in starting one.

"We want to provide ways that people can keep

their property and do it in ways that help sustain wildlife and other natural resources," said Brian MacGowan, Purdue Extension wildlife specialist. "People may have an idea, but they don't know if it will work. This will help walk them through this process. It's valuable to see real-life examples and talk to other business owners."

Each workshop will include a morning presentation that will explain the revenue potential of a natural-resource business. Experts will talk about business planning and legal considerations.

After the workshop, a field trip will focus on wildlife habitat conservation, management and enterprise development.

The Sept. 8 field trip, at Dagaz Acres in Rising Sun, Ind., will cover invasive plant control, deer leases, game management, ziplines, trail maintenance and outdoor recreation.

The Sept. 9 the field trip at Dull's Tree Farm in Thorntown, Ind., will include Christmas tree farms, bed and breakfasts, outdoor recreation and pond

management.

Registration deadline is Aug. 30, and the cost is \$35. On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. the day of the program and costs \$45. Register online at <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/NRenterprises/>. Lunch, refreshments and resource materials will be provided.

For more information, call the FNR Extension office at 765-494-3538.

Ohio Maple Days Are Coming

The Ohio Maple Days are scheduled for January 20th, 21st, and 22nd 2011. The three programs are held in Morrow, Wayne, and Geauga Counties allowing for maple producers to attend one of the programs closest to them. The featured speaker will be Mr. Bob Crooks from MARCLAND



Male eastern pondhawk with wings held out to the sides.



Damselflies in a heart-shaped copulation wheel.

Photos courtesy of David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

Corporation out of Schroon, NY. Bob has developed and built many innovations that assist maple producers to work smarter not harder. His technology seminar will deal with new products like draw off systems that help producers make a more consistent density product. He will also cover other new technologies on the market today to help producers of all size operations in sap collection to finishing syrup.

Other topics this year as in the past will be to help all size producers from a couple dozen taps to thousands of taps. The meetings will be held on January 20th in Morrow County at the Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, the 21st in Wayne County at the Mennonite Christian Assembly Church in Fredericksburg and on the 22nd in Geauga County at Joe Miller's Window Shop in Burton. The same program will be delivered at all three meetings. They run from 8:00 to 4:00 and registration includes handouts and a meal.

If you would like to receive registration information please contact Gary Graham at 330.263-3799 or graham.124@osu.edu.

Ohio to Offer First Detector Training

This winter Ohio will offer training for those individuals interested in becoming First Detectors. What is a First Detector? First Detectors are a part of the Federal National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) First Detector program (<http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>) that promotes the early detection of invasive, exotic plant pathogens, arthropods, nematodes and weeds.

First Detectors are the front line of defense against likely infestations of things like emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Asian longhorn beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, and other pests and pathogens. Monitoring trees and raising awareness about exotic forest pests are key activities of First Detectors.

First Detectors must first complete online training modules before attending the one-day First Detector training and commit to being available and involved with the program after completing the training. Involvement includes being accessible to the public, willing to conduct site visits near your home if necessary, report pest related monitoring activities,

and notifying organizers of current contact information.

Examples of potential First Detectors include Tree Farmers, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, tree care professionals, forestry professionals, natural resource professions who work with trees, environmental educators etc.

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with send your name, address and email contact info to ohiowoods@osu.edu or give us a call at 614-688-3421 to be added to the list. Once the training schedule is set we will notify you of what your next step should be.

New Landowner Conference Offered

Join us in northeast Ohio for a new joint venture in landowner education. The 2010 NE Ohio Landowner Conference will be held Saturday November 6, 2010 at the Mahoning County Career & Technical Center in Canfield, OH. The cost for the day is \$40 and includes handouts and lunch along with refreshments throughout the day. Whether you own 5 acres or 100 acres, there is something here for you. Are you a new landowner? Just looking for some help on what your options are? Check out the introductory track of sessions. These topics are geared towards the landowner that is just getting started and looking for guidance or for those landowners looking

for new ideas.

Registration will be open this September – keep checking the Woodland Stewards website for registration details.

Thanks for Your Response!

A huge thank-you goes out to all of you who returned one of our Woodland Stewards surveys. We know it isn't fun to fill out surveys. However, we couldn't do it without your help, so we appreciate you taking the time! THANKS! Look for survey results in the next newsletter.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 21-23	Farm Science Review	London, OH
September 25	State Tree Farm Tour	Fulton County, OH
October 1-3	Paul Bunyan Show	Guernsey County Fairgrounds
October 8	Basics of Safe Chainsaw Operation	Hocking College, Nelsonville, OH
October 20	Why Trees Matter Forum	Wooster, OH
November 6	NE Ohio Landowner Conference	Canfield, OH
November 19	Woods in Your Backyard	Summit County, OH
November 30	Selling Timber? Consider This...	Wyandot County, OH

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Come find us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Woodland-Stewards-Program/197418573782?ref=nf>

Check Us Out On The Web!

Look for newsletter articles, links to fact sheets and other publications by browsing our site. Registration for upcoming Woodland Stewards classes may also be done electronically.

Go to:

<http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>

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