

OHIO Woodlands, Water, & Wildlife

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Bats in Buildings Research Request

Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension Program Director - Wildlife

As we enter early summer, this is the time of year when female bats in Ohio are giving birth. Bats only reproduce once per year and have few pups per female. Therefore, a successful birthing and rearing season is critical to their long-term survival. There are 10 species of bats in Ohio, several of which may use buildings, bat houses, and other human-made structures as roosts (places to sleep and give birth). Some of these bat species



Tricolored bat on tree, photo credit Keith Lott

are the same species that have experienced severe populations declines due to white-nose syndrome (see www.whitenosesyndrome.org for more information). Currently, four species are listed as state endangered in Ohio (the little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and Indiana bat) and the rest are species of concern.

Now more than ever, it is important to consider bat conservation as a management objective for your woodland. If this is of interest to you, please visit the Ohio Bat Working Group's website (u.osu.edu/obwg) for information on managing forests for bats and building and erecting bat houses.



Little Brown Bat

But what if you already have a bat house with bats in it? OR what if you have bats in a barn or other building? Some of the most periled species in Ohio will use anthropogenic structures, which provides opportunities for conservation and research. There is still a lot to learn about the roosting habits of bats that use buildings and bat houses. In fact, there is a research project currently underway in Ohio that is seeking landowners with bats in buildings or bat boxes.

The goals of this project are:

- to study the types of structures used by bats and the relative importance of these structures and where bats go after they are done using these structures,
- to create a network of landowners and managers, both public and private, who are interested in working together to study and conserve bat populations,
- and to provide landowners who have bats residing in structures with information on how to help bats thrive in these environments if this is within the landowners' interest. If it is not, bat box recommendations will be provided when bats must be excluded from human dwellings.

This research is being conducted by Joe Johnson, a bat biologist and professor with the University of Cincinnati.

If you have bats in a building or a bat house, and would like to learn more about them, send an email to bats@uc.edu to be part of this research project. Please note that Dr. Johnson and his students are not offering to exclude bats from buildings. Information on bat exclusion can also be found on the Ohio Bat Working Group's website under the 'Coexisting with Bats' tab. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help with bat conservation in Ohio!



Bat house Summit Metropark, credit Perdicas



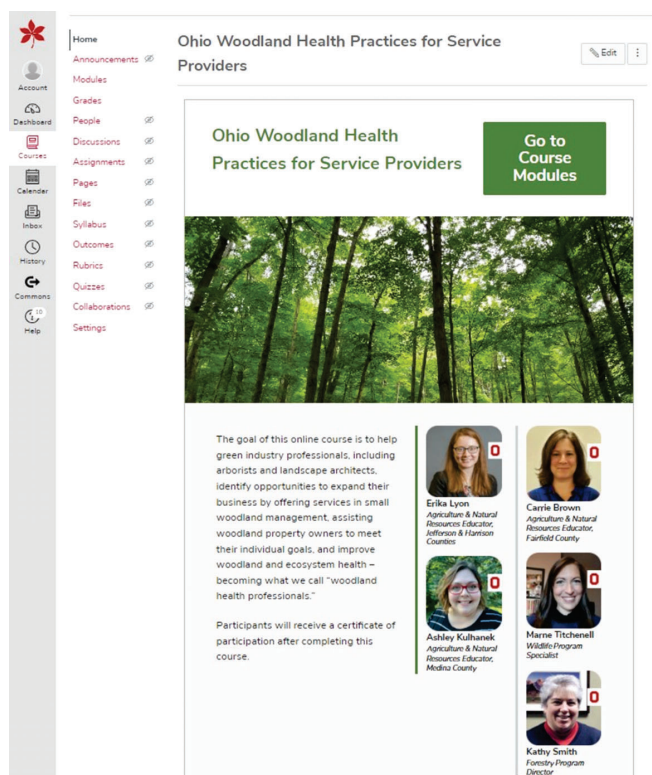
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Developing Small Woodland Management Service Providers from the Green Industry

Carrie Brown, Extension Educator – Fairfield County & Erika Lyon, Extension Educator- Jefferson and Harrison Counties

Are you a green industry professional looking to expand your business offerings? Consider working with backyard woodlot owners!

Service providers that can help address the needs of small woodland owners are often in short supply. Many woodlands in Ohio are under 10 acres in size, and consulting and service foresters may not be able to add those properties to their already packed workloads if these property owners want assistance. This is where your green industry business can help!



The Ohio Woodland Health Practices for Service Providers is an online course that provides introductory training to managing small woodlands, assisting woodland property owners to meet their individual goals, and improving woodland and ecosystem health. Based off the Woodland Health Practices Handbook developed by the University of Maryland Extension in collaboration with Penn State Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia Department of Forestry, this online curriculum has been adapted for Ohio and is divided into eight modules. Topics covered include forest succession, using the Woodland Health Assessment to evaluate land and educate clients, converting lawn to natural areas, modifying or improving existing wildlife habitat, improving privacy and creating trails, controlling invasive plants and insects, and combining the interests and ob-

jectives expressed by the landowner into a Land Care Plan that summarizes goals and recommendations.

This course is for green industry professionals - such as arborists and landscape architects - working on private properties of <10 acres. The training will focus on the why and how of addressing common woodland health issues.

The cost of the course is \$90, and participants will have the option to be added to the online directory of service providers, as well as receive a certificate upon course completion.

Interested in learning more? Contact Carrie Brown, ANR Educator in Fairfield County, at brown.2766@osu.edu or Erika Lyon, ANR Educator in Jefferson and Harrison counties, at lyon.194@osu.edu.

And if you're ready to get started, enroll today to become a Woodland Health Professional at <https://go.osu.edu/ohiowhp>.

The Unwanted Invaders – An Invasive Species Update

Amy Stone, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ohio State University, Lucas County

I am sure you must be thinking, not another article on invasive species. Unfortunately, it is true. This article is specifically focused on a few non-native pests to share the latest information on these unwanted, and an implied message to urge woodland owners and all Ohioans to be on the look-out for them and join the battle.

You might also ask; will this madness ever end? I have pondered the same question myself. And no, the invasive species saga continues, with no end in sight. I just hope the information that will be shared will be beneficial, relevant, informative, and can be put to immediate use this season for you.

So, let's start with the basics. What is an invasive species? While there are numerous definitions with many commonalities, I chose to share the definition used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species) and that tends to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy, or human health.

In today's global society, invasive species can pose ecological, environmental, and economical threats both on our soil, and abroad. While we may feel we have been on the receiving end when it comes to new non-native invasives, it is a two-way street, both coming and going, with the potential threats on this imaginary and figurative highway to a new home.

Beyond the initial introduction, and ultimate detection, we need to become more alert, and spread the knowledge and awareness so that we aren't responsible for the artificial movement of the species into new areas, or aid in the rapid expansion of these pests into their new territories. While the natural spread of an invasive species is problematic, the 'hot spots' and building populations outside the initial detection and range is even more challenging. While insects appear to be most abundant on this year's unwanted list, there are three plants, and one species that is broadly described as a disease. For each pest, some quick highlights will be made, with links for additional information.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) *Anoplophora glabripennis*

This will hopefully be recognized as the invasive species that was eradicated. Successful efforts have led to the eradication, or total elimination of this insect pest, in several areas in North America, and the fight continues in several more, including in Ohio near Cincinnati. This longhorned beetle has a wide host range and is particularly fond of some of the maples (*Acer* spp.). The typical feeding injury begins beneath the bark in the phloem.



As the larvae grow and move into the heartwood of the host, they create structural weak points in the wood where their feeding occurred. Woodpeckers love to feast on the immature stage of this insect pest and will create cavity like holes in its pursuit of the tasty treat.

While this insect has not been detected in the environment in Michigan, your neighbor to the south – Ohio – has been implementing eradication efforts in Clermont County since its discovery in 2011 in the southwest corner of the state.

More Info:
<http://go.osu.edu/albpest>

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD)

First identified in Ohio in 2012, beech leaf disease has now been documented in areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Ontario.



We have collectively learned many things about beech leaf disease, but there is still more scientists need to understand, including the impact of the presence of nematodes. Scientists believe it is possible the disease could be moved long distances on nursery stock or other beech material containing leaves and buds. Since it may take a few years for symptoms to become evident and noticeable, the location could already be well established and impossible to eradicate. Currently, some management options are being explored and studied, with more news to come.

More Info:
<http://go.osu.edu/bldpest>

Bradford Pear *Pyrus calleryana*

This species went from 1. being loved and sought after; to 2. stop planting – there are way too many; to 3. where did all these baby Bradfords come from? They are commonly found along roadside, in natural areas, and becoming quite the nuisance out-competing other species on its way to become a monoculture thicket of all invasive pears. If only we could turnback time. In Ohio, it is now currently illegal to buy, sell, and plant Bradford pears in the state.



More Info:
<http://go.osu.edu/pearpest>

Kudzu *Pueraria montana*

This plant is commonly referred to as the plant that ate the south. It unfortunately is moving north into locations that we were optimistic that maybe this vine would not handle the harsher winters. Not the case, as I have seen

it happy growing in Cleveland, Ohio, and have heard of research being done in Toronto, Canada where this plant has been detected.



So much for the cold saving us from experiencing this invasive vine that we would have only seen traveling south and watching as it grew over other plants, structures and utility lines creating a green sea of kudzu and some interesting character-looking outlines

as they take on the shape of whatever is underneath.

More Info:
<http://go.osu.edu/kudzupest>

Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Another common name for this woody vine is kudzu of the north. While the vines are not related, the attribute of aggressiveness is dually noted. Oriental bittersweet will not only grow over other plants in its way, but its woody stems also wrap themselves around other plants which ultimately leads to the strangulation or girdling of the trunk

or branches that it has used to support itself. This species is also known to hybridize with our native bittersweet vine, producing a vine with some characteristics of both, and usually its aggressiveness shines bright.



More Info:
<http://go.osu.edu/bitterpest>

Spongy Moth, formally Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar*

We have had a long history with this moth. Arriving with an unfortunate, but intentional introduction in Massachusetts in the 1860s, the first male moth was captured in Ohio in the 1971, with first chemical treatment to eradicate the pest in the 1973. In 1987, Ashtabula County was



the first Ohio county to have quarantine regulations imposed, and since that time we have had to learned to live with and manage it. While the caterpillar feeding frenzy hasn't changed one bit, this unwanted has a new name.

The Spongy Moth has a preference for oaks which can cause tree stress and back-to-back years of defoliation can lead to tree mortality. I have also noticed them feeding on spruce more frequently, and unfortunately one year of defoliation can lead to tree death.

Thankfully, our management tool-box includes both biological and insecticidal options, along with a couple monitoring techniques to better prepare for population fluctuations.

More Info:

<http://go.osu.edu/gypsypest>

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) *Lycorma delicatula*

This plant hopper is a fabulous hitchhiker and could be moving to a city near you soon; unless of course you are in Pontiac, Michigan where it has already arrived. This unwanted was detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and continues to be on the move.

While not an outright killer like emerald ash borer or Asian Longhorned beetle, this pest is a nuisance in numbers, a prolific honeydew producer and mess-maker, and can stress plants as it taps into the phloem and feeds away. Detections of this insect continue to 'pop up' in Ohio and will likely continue to do so. We need your help in looking for this insect, and reporting any suspect finds through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network App, or contacting the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

More Info:

<http://go.osu.edu/slfpest>



TBA

Wait, another acronym for an unwanted? Not yet. This 'To Be Announced' is planting the seed for what our future could hold. Of course, it is easy to share information about

invasives on the radar, whether they are somewhere else, or there is a concern about their introduction. But what about the next unknown? With that said, if you see something that is unusual that you haven't seen before, take note of the location, capture images and/or the species itself, and triage its ID. You are the eyes, ears and feet on the ground – if it is there, it will likely be someone just like you that will be involved in its detection.

And as with anything else, stay up to date on the latest information. While situations change, it is especially true when it comes to invasive species.

Future Foresters: Camp Canopy Registration is Open for 2023

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry is looking for future foresters, biologists, and conservation leaders for tomorrow. Registration is now open for the popular Camp Canopy!

"We are excited to provide forestry-centered programming to campers this year," said Ohio Division of Forestry service forestry manager and camp co-director Jeremy Scherf. "Camp Canopy facilitates learning around many natural resource-related topics while allowing campers to enjoy the beauty of Ohio's forests. Additionally, campers can interact with working professionals and form long-lasting friendships with their peers."

Photo right:

Alyx Flott attended Camp Canopy as a student for several years, which helped her to choose a college major and a career path – Alyx is now a Service Forester with the Ohio Division of Forestry!

Camp Canopy 2023 will explore forests and creeks with sessions focused on Ohio trees, insects, fungi, and amphibians. There will also be a session on how Ohio's Native Americans used and managed our forests in the past, including how they made and hunted with atlatls. Each camper will get to use an atlatl and learn about throwing techniques. Adventure-themed recreational activities like rifle and shotgun shooting, day and night hiking, and a kayak excursion will round out a fun week of learning.



The camp runs from June 11-16, 2023. Students who have completed the eighth grade through high school seniors graduating in 2023 are invited to attend Camp Canopy, which was previously known as the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp. The camp will be held at FFA Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake in Carroll County. Sponsorships are available.

Camp Canopy is operated by the Ohio Forestry Association Foundation, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the conservation of Ohio's forests and forest industry. Instructors are professionals from ODNR, OSU Extension, and the forest industry in the state. For more information about and to register for Camp Canopy, visit their website at campcanopy.com.

Upcoming Class/Webinar Schedule

May 12	1 - 4 pm	Class: Peak Inside a Vernal Pool	@ OSU Mansfield –
June 2	10 am -12 pm	Webinar: A Potential New Nemesis for Garlic Mustard?	
June 15	9:30 am - 3 pm	Class: Woodland Owners and Maple Production: Is It an Income Opportunity for You?	@ Holden Arboretum
June 23	10 am- 12 pm	Webinar: Slash Walls: An Effective and Feasible Approach to Growing the Next Generation of Forest	
Aug 24	6 - 9 pm	Bats: What You Didn't Learn Watching Batman	@ Fairfield County, Coyote Run State Nature Preserve



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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.
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