

April, 2018

Volunteers needed to fight the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) by placing sticky bands on *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree-of-Heaven)

Since 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has been working with citizen volunteers in the SLF quarantine area. Working on their own property, volunteers place sticky bands on the tree-of-heaven throughout the summer and report how many SLF are captured.



The PDA and the Penn State Extension welcome returning and new volunteers to the tree-banding program for 2018.

In 2018, the PDA will work in close conjunction with the Penn State Extension offices, in each county of the quarantine zone (which includes Berks, Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe, Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster and Lebanon counties), to help residents control spotted lanternfly nymphs on the tree-of-heaven on their own properties. **Please note that the banding materials supplied through this program are only to be used on tree-of-heaven trees. Citizens who wish to band other species of trees may do so by purchasing commercially available bands.**

• *What work will the volunteers do?*

The bands may be placed as early as the last week of April, but no later than mid-May. Volunteers must change the bands every 2 weeks and enter the number of SLF captured on each band into the PDA's database: PaPlants. This data is important to the PDA and to other agencies to determine allocation of funds for future control efforts. This data also helps demonstrate the effectiveness of tree-banding.

One drawback of using sticky bands is that they can capture other creatures. Other insects are often caught, and some of them may be beneficial insects. Occasionally a bird (such as a woodpecker), small mammal (such as a squirrel), or other animals have been captured. Think about this possibility and have a plan for how you would react to this situation before using sticky bands.

• *What training is required to be a banding volunteer?*

New and returning volunteers should watch the recorded training videos available at: <http://bit.ly/SLF-BandingVid>

Next, take the SLF Banding Volunteers quiz available at: <http://bit.ly/SLF-Banding>

If you do not have access to the internet, please call Emelie Swackhamer at 610-509-2469 to make other arrangements.

• *How do volunteers get the banding supplies?*

When you have completed the on-line training and quiz, your results will be emailed to you. Print the quiz results and take them to the county Extension office that you have selected to pick up your bands. Within a few days, you will also receive another email with your banding volunteer number.

The banding kits for volunteers should be available in your selected Penn State county Extension office starting Monday, April 23, 2018. Please call the office before you come to pick up your kit to make sure it is reserved for you.

• *How can volunteers get help if needed?*

Albert Ciccarone, from the PDA, will serve as a liaison during the banding season. He will be available to answer questions about tree identification, banding technique, and data-entry issues. Contact Albert at 717-409-9557 or aciccarone@pa.gov

The PDA and the Penn State Extension commend all citizens for their commitments to protect Pennsylvania's agriculture and forests—industries that provide all of us with food, wood-products, natural beauty, and a healthy economy.

Thank you for considering helping control SLF by being a volunteer in 2018.

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Contact information for the Penn State Extension offices in the 13 counties that are participating in the PDA banding program in 2018. Please call before you come to pick up your banding kit to make sure your kit is reserved.

Penn State Extension, Berks County, 610-378-1327

1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 110, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, Pennsylvania, 19533-9709

Penn State Extension, Bucks County, 215-345-3283

1282 Almshouse Road, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 18901-2896

Penn State Extension, Carbon County, 570-325-2788

529 Lentz Trail, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania 18229

Penn State Extension, Chester County, 610-696-3500

601 Westtown Road, Suite 370, Government Services Center, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 19380-0990

Penn State Extension, Delaware County, 610-690-2655

20 Paper Mill Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania, 19064

Penn State Extension, Lancaster County, 717-394-6851

1383 Arcadia Road, Room 140 Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17601-3184

Penn State Extension, Lebanon County, 717-270-4391

2120 Cornwall Road, Suite 1, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, 17042-977

Penn State Extension, Lehigh County, 610-391-9840

4184 Dorney Park Road, Room 104, Lehigh County Agricultural Center, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18104-5798

Penn State Extension, Monroe County, 570-421-6430

724 Phillips Street, Suite 201, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, 18360-2224

Penn State Extension, Montgomery County, 610-489-4315

1015 Bridge Road, Suite H, Colledgeville, Pennsylvania, 19426-1179

Penn State Extension, Northampton County, 610-746-1970, 14 Gracedale Avenue , Nazareth , Pennsylvania, 18064

Penn State Extension, Philadelphia County, 215-471-2200, The Penn State Center Philadelphia, 675 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19106

Penn State Extension, Schuylkill County, 570-622-4225, 1202 Ag Center Drive, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, 17901