

**Volunteers Needed: Spotted Lanternfly Tree Banding Program**  
**April 19, 2016**  
**Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State Extension**

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect known to be established in Eastern Berks County and portions of Montgomery, Bucks and Chester Counties. This insect has potential to severely impact a number of agricultural commodities. Attempts are being made to eradicate this insect in the affected area.

Residents of municipalities included in the quarantine are encouraged to sign up as volunteers to band trees to trap and destroy this insect on their property. To participate, you must own property with a confirmed population of spotted lanternfly, and have *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven) trees. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) crews will service other targeted properties where volunteers are not available.

Penn State Extension, in cooperation with the PDA, and the United States Department of Agriculture is offering three opportunities to train volunteers.

### **What is involved?**

Interested residents must attend one training session to participate in the banding program.

Participants must agree to hang sticky bands on a number of *Ailanthus* trees on their property, service these bands every two weeks from May through December, and enter results into an on-line database. The estimated time to service a single band, count, and enter data is 15-20 minutes every two weeks. Five bands could take about an hour. The number of trees banded will vary depending on the availability of equipment and time commitment of the volunteer.

Participants must agree to schedule pick-up of spent bands for proper disposal by PDA crew members or other volunteers.

Three training sessions for potential volunteers are scheduled:

Friday, April 29, 2016: 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the District Township office, 202 Weil Road, Boyertown, PA

Saturday, April 30, 2016: 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the District Township office, 202 Weil Road, Boyertown, PA

Friday, May 6, 2016: 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Upper Hanover Township office, 1704 Pillsbury Road, East Greenville, PA

Call the Penn State Extension office in Lehigh County at 610-391-9840 or email your name, address and phone number to [LehighExt@psu.edu](mailto:LehighExt@psu.edu) to register for a training session.

### **What is provided?**

**Training:** At the training sessions, volunteers will be shown how to identify target hosts of spotted lanternfly, how to identify spotted lanternfly, how to band trees, how to accurately count specimens on a tree band, and how to enter their results into the online database.

**Equipment:** Equipment is limited, so targeting of infested properties is essential for the success of the program. These properties will receive top priority. Provided equipment includes rolls of tree bands, push pins, trap labels, and trash bags.

**Support:** Field survey crews will begin employment with PDA and be assigned to specific areas. These crews will be available to assist with site assessment, initial band deployment, initial insect identification, waste disposal and biosecurity, and covering services if needed. Volunteers should expect regular contact from the PDA crew assigned to their area.

For more information on the spotted lanternfly, and a current quarantine map go to:

[www.pda.state.pa.us/spottedlanternfly](http://www.pda.state.pa.us/spottedlanternfly)

[http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted\\_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx#.VxU2-bHD\\_IU](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx#.VxU2-bHD_IU)