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Local performers team up for Sawmill benefit. See story...page 4.

Camp Cadet teaches lessons for lifelong use. See story and photo...page 5.

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CLARION NEWS

Weather outlook

Tony Vega's exclusive weather forecast for the area. See County Weather Corner...page 2.



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Pesky 'Tree of Heaven' popular with spotted lantern fly

Invasive tree is everywhere in county and could attract the invasive insect

By Rodney L. Sherman
CLARION NEWS Editor

CLARION

The trees are practically everywhere as they can grow in mine spoil in full sun to fertile, partly shaded, alluvial soils along rivers and streams.

"They" are the "Tree of Heaven," a breed of tree now considered an invasive pest of a tree and recently designated as a favorite home of an even more invasion menace – the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF).

Because the Tree of Heaven is a prolific seed producer and grows rapidly, it successfully competes with native vegetation.

Also, its tissues contain a compound called ailanthone that is toxic to many other plant species.

Its root system is aggressive enough to cause damage to sewers and building foundations.

There's most likely a Tree of Heaven near your home or driveway.

"Tree of Heaven has become a big deal over the last couple years," explained Karlie Sherman, a Tech II and crew leader with FORECON Inc., private forestry consulting company.

FORECON does a variety of timber marking, timber cruising, herbicide application, and tree planting for large land investment companies, federal and state agencies, and private landowners.

"Even though I don't



University of Iowa photo.

A closer look at the leaves of the Tree of Heaven. The tree is a very high pollen producer and a moderate source of allergy in some people.

deal with it often, Tree of Heaven still plays a huge role in the forest health," said Sherman. "Not only is it difficult to control, but has become even more of a concern with the discovery of the Spotted Lantern Fly in southwestern Pennsylvania.

"Spotted Lantern Fly is the newest threat to our forests and cause serious damage to trees."

Sherman said it's been found SLF are a lot more successful in reproduction in Tree of Heaven than other trees.

"If Tree of Heaven isn't controlled its possible Spotted Lantern Fly will spread much easier," said Sherman. "Counties with Spotted Lantern Fly had already been put under quarantine."

(Disclosure: Karlie Sherman is a niece of the author of this report. She is a graduate of Clarion University and was working with FORECON before she graduated.)

Besides urban areas, Tree of Heaven is now found growing along woodland edges, roadsides, railroads, fencerows, and in forest openings.

Tree of Heaven is intolerant of shade and cannot compete under a closed forest canopy but will quickly colonize disturbed areas, taking advantage of forests



CLARION NEWS photo by Rodney L. Sherman.

Tree of Heaven is growing tall and thick near Walmart in Monroe Township. Its tissues contain a compound called ailanthone that is toxic to many other plant species. The tree is very hard to eradicate.

impacted by wind and other disturbances.

Sherman said she recently completed a Penn State Extension silviculture class focusing on Tree of Heaven.

Silviculture is the practice of controlling the

health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values.

"(Tree of Heaven) was brought over from the Asia and planted here in the United States and can out-compete our native plants," said Sherman. "I don't see

Monroe supervisors OK wood recycling facility

New operation could mean 15 new full-time jobs

By Brett Kriebel
CLARION NEWS Writer

MONROE

The Monroe Township Board Supervisors Aug. 6 approved a request

company works as a lawn care provider. Wood told the supervisors Endless Summer Supply has sold mulch to C&A Trees in the past.

The owner noted he would like the facility to be operational in the Spring of 2020 and to start site development in the fall.

"As far as I'm concerned,

even though it encourages the travels, actually provides you some sort of coverage as far as liability protection," Cyphert said.

Cyphert also made a suggestion of reviewing roads considered to be the least traveled within the township if the supervisors were indeed considering at

Tree Of Heaven

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it on a daily basis in the forest setting. It was commonly planted as ornamental trees in urban areas, but has spread. It's a deciduous hardwood tree and it grows very rapidly."

Even though Tree of Heaven grows quickly - the Penn State Extension website says the largest Tree of Heaven in the state is 80-feet tall and 4-feet, 9-inches in diameter - Sherman said the tree doesn't have much timber value.

State panel declares it a 'noxious weed'

In April of this year, the state's Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee, a 14-member panel of legislators, horticulturists and representatives of state agencies and nursery owners, approved adding the Tree of Heaven to the state's noxious weed list.

The panel based its decision in the tree's invasiveness and its connection to SLF.

By putting the tree on the list, the state can block the sale of the tree seedlings (almost entirely by online sellers), according to the Pennsylvania department of Agriculture.

The state has the power to order property owners to remove plants on the noxious weed list but Pennsylvania has never used that power, and doesn't intend to use it to force landowners to remove the trees, the Department of Agriculture said as it would be too costly for landowners to remove clusters of trees.

Reproduction is rapid

According to Bruce Wenning of the Ecological Landscape Alliance, "the Tree of Heaven is for the most part dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are located on separate plants.

"The light green colored flowers appear from April to May arranged in a multi-branched inflorescence.

"The pollen-producing male flowers have a foul, smelly odor that helps attract some effective pollinating insects such as certain flies, honey bees, many solitary bees, and some beetles.

"More male flowers are produced than female (pollen receiving) flowers. Pollinating insects visit both types of flowers ensuring adequate pollination leading to the development of viable fruit and seed; seed production is high.

"The fruit (samara or schizocarp) appears from August into October, and some fruit can remain attached to the tree into the winter months.

"Both male and female



CLARION NEWS photo by Rodney L. Sherman.

This bunch of Tree of Heaven is along the Clarion River in Clarion Borough. Tree of Heaven is now found growing along woodland edges, roadsides, railways, fencerows, and in forest openings.

plants must be in close enough proximity to be fertilized by pollinating insects.

"Non-seed bearing trees, which are more common in urban areas than in woodlands, may either be a lone male or lone unfertilized female tree.

"Horticulturists had a preference for female trees because they lacked the foul flower odor. This specific selection or landscape design choice probably has contributed to curtailing Tree of Heaven's spread in some areas."

Human health concerns

According to the Penn State Extension office, Tree of Heaven can affect human health.

The tree is a very high pollen producer and a moderate source of allergy in some people.

In addition, a few cases of skin irritation or dermatitis have been reported from contact with plant parts (leaves, branches, seeds, and bark) and products.

Symptoms often vary and depend on several factors, including the sensitivity of the individual, the extent of contact, and the condition of the plant or plant product.

There are rare reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) from exposure to sap through broken skin, blisters, or cuts.

People who have extensive contact with the tree should wear protective

clothing and gloves and be careful to avoid contact with the sap.

Battling the Tree of Heaven isn't easy

So what can you do to battle the invasive tree on which the Spotted Lantern Fly cold thrive if it make it to this part of the state?

Eradicating the tree is hard - cutting the tree down doesn't kill it.

Its roots simply sprout new trees. A cut or injured tree may send up dozens of root sprouts. Sprouts as young as two years are capable of producing seed.

Destroying female trees (and thus stopping seed production) is one of the best ways to limit its spread, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Injuring the root system is critical to killing the tree completely.

Certain herbicides can provide control if applied correctly.

Commercial pesticide applicators can choose among several herbicide products on the market to control Tree of Heaven.

If you choose to treat the trees yourself, a foliar application of an herbicide product that contains 18-41 percent glyphosate can effectively kill Tree of Heaven.

Extensive advice and suggestions for controlling Tree of Heaven can be found on the Penn State Extension's website at <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>

North Clarion

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in September the district's food manager and another person will travel to Louisiana for a training in order to properly implement the grant funding.

"It's a busy time of year to be on the road, but for \$100,000 we have got to do it," Young said.

According to the USDA, the Farm to School Grant Program offers annual grants to schools, school districts, nonprofits, state agencies, agricultural producers, and Indian tribal organizations to plan, implement, or provide training on farm to school activities.

"The Farm to School grants announced (Aug. 5) connect schools with the farmers, ranchers, and producers in their communities," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said. "Everybody wins with Farm to School. USDA is proud to help the next generation better understand where its food comes from, while strengthening local economies."

According to a press release from the USDA, this record-breaking year for the USDA Farm to School Grant Program was made possible by increased funding from Congress for fiscal years 2018 and 2019,



which enabled USDA to award 52 more grants than the previous highest year of 2016 when 74 were granted. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and fund equipment purchases

and experiential learning activities, including planting school gardens, offering taste tests to children, and organizing field trips to local farms and food producers.

Contact your reps

CLARION - Here is contact information for state and federal representatives serving Clarion County. All of the county's elected state and federal representatives maintain websites which can be located quickly using an Internet search engine.

State Rep. Donna Oberlander (R-63)
Offices: Clarion - 160 South 2nd Ave. Suite C, Clarion, Pa., 16214. Telephone: (814) 226-9000. Fax: (814) 226-1614. **Elderton** - 309 Saltwork Street (P.O. Box 304) Elderton, Pa. 15736. Telephone: (724) 354-3500 Fax: (724) 354-2896.

E-mail: Doberlan@pahousegop.com
Facebook: Facebook.com/RepOberlander

State Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-21)
Offices: Harrisburg -170 Main Capitol Harrisburg, Pa., 17120. Telephone: (717) 787-9684. Fax: (717) 787-6088. TTY: 800-364-1581. **Warren** - 22045 Route 6 Warren, Pa., 16365-7952. Telephone: (814) 728-2100. Fax: (814) 728-2102. **Butler** - 110 East Diamond Street, Butler, Pa., 16001. Telephone: (724) 282-1234. Fax: (724) 282-6852. **Oil City** - 229 Elm Street Oil City, Pa., 16301. Telephone: (814) 677-6345. Fax: (814) 677-6331.

U.S. Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-5)
Washington office - 124 Cannon HOB Washington, D.C., 20515. Telephone: (202) 225-5121. Fax: (202) 225-5796. Hours:

M-F 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Bellefonte** office - 3555 Bennet Pike, Suite 101, Bellefonte, Pa., 16822. Telephone: (814) 353-0218. Fax: (814) 353-0218. Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Titusville** office - 127 West Spring St., Suite Titusville, Pa., 16354. Telephone: (814) 827-3985. Fax: (814) 827-7307. Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-3)
Washington office - 17 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C., 20515. Telephone: (202) 225-5406. Fax: (202) 225-3103. Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Butler** - E. Diamond St., Suite Butler, Pa., 16001. Telephone: 724-282-2557. Fax: 724-3682. Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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