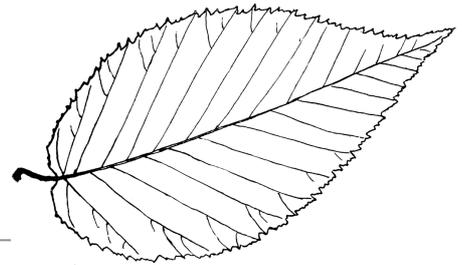


LEAF



## Living on the Edge of Arden Forests

**WELCOME HITHER.** . . to the third installment of the LEAF newsletter, coming to you as a hard copy for our outlying neighbors and electronic format for those living within the Ardens. While we are trying to reduce our paper footprint, we understand the need to keep our neighbors apprised of forest activities and ecologically sound practices. Our goal is to send paper newsletters to our neighbors yearly—ahead of spring fever and Earth Day—and to supplement those with 1-3 electronic newsletters in other seasons. To make sure you can see all the newsletters or to view the archives, please join our **Forests of the Ardens Facebook** page. And drop us a message. We would love to know what you enjoy reading, what questions you have, and how we can best dialog about our local natural resources.

## Earth Day/Arbor Day Bash at the Buzz!

All friends of the Ardens' Forests are welcome to our blow-out party. There will be **CAKE!** There will be **ART!** There will be **\$5 Earth Flower Fizz** cocktails to celebrate. **Wear** a creative costume/hat/corsage or dress! **Take** home a yellow outdoor LED bulb to reduce night light pollution and save insects.



We'll be crowning Arden's first **Guardian of the Forest!** Bash the Spotted Lantern fly piñata! **Decorate a "festive vessel"** (\$2) for imbibing at *Weeding & Wine* Forest Committee events! (No more single use plastic.) **Sign up** to certify your yard as a Wildlife Habitat. We will highlight our favorite native plants to solve all (!) your gardening dilemmas.

Free trees for the first 20 takers for Arbor Day. **Pledge** 1 hour of woods clean-up to enter to win a rain barrel. Fun for all ages.

**Wednesday, April 22, 4-7 PM**, at the Buzz Ware Village Center, 2119 The Highway; Arden. Free! *\$1-2 suggested donation to BWVC*

## Add to your Calendar

☼ Ardens' waterways cleanup though Naaman's Creek Watershed Assoc.  
Sat April 4 • 9AM-12PM *Raindate 4/5*  
8:45 AM for Sign-in, Coffee/Donuts  
*Student Volunteer Hours apply*  
Buzz Ware Village Center • 2119 The Highway

☼ Book Club. Discussion of "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren. All are welcome  
Mon April 13 • 7 PM Buzz Ware Village Center • 2119 The Highway

☼ Arden Dinner Guild, Wild Vegan Dinner for the Planet  
Sat April 18 • 6 PM \$12 members/ \$15 non-members/\$7 kids Arden Gild Hall 2126 The Highway (Call 302-792-7139 for menu and reservations.)

☼ Arden Club Gardeners Gild Annual Plant Swap  
Mon April 20 • 7:00 PM  
Lower Gild Hall • 2126 The Highway

☼ Anthony Gozen "Bayshore Initiative" Arden Scholar's Gild Lecture  
Tue April 21 • 7:30-9:00 PM  
Gild Hall • 2126 The Highway

☼ 50th Anniversary Earth Day Fest  
Wed April 22 • 4-7 PM  
Buzz Ware Village Center • 2119 The Highway

☼ Delaware Nature Society's Native Plant Sale  
Members only: Thu April 30 • 1-7 PM  
Public: Fri, May 1 • 3-7PM | Sat, May 2:  
• 9Am-3PM Ashland Nature Center • 3511 Barley Mill Rd, Hockessin

*Events at Arden Club (Gild Hall) Buzz Ware Village Center are free (except dinner) but hosts graciously ask for a small (\$1-2) donation to cover costs.*

## Time to pull Garlic Mustard

Brought over from Europe as a food plant, garlic mustard is now a serious concern in our local forests. This species is an invasive, non-native herb that spreads by seed. Although people can eat it, it supports no local wildlife or insects. Difficult to control, it can cross-pollinate or self-pollinate, has a high rate of seed production rate, competes with native vegetation, and can establish in a relatively stable forest understory.

Garlic mustard is a biennial or winter annual herb that generally grows 2-3 (up to 6) feet tall. First year plants are low-growing rosettes with rounded, kidney-shaped leaves, scalloped on the edges. Leaves feel hairless, and the root has an "S" or "L" shape just below the stem base.

Be a friend to the forest. When you see garlic mustard on woods-adjacent properties and in our forests, pull it out. To eradicate, you must get the entire root and put plant in plastic bag to capture tiny seeds. Make sure to clean shoes and clothes thoroughly as to not spread seeds to new areas. The good news is that you can make a tasty pesto from the leaves. Use on top of pasta, meats or vegetables; spread on bread; or stir into hummus.

### **GARLIC MUSTARD PESTO** *serves 4*

11 cups lightly packed garlic mustard leaves and tips, loosely chopped

1/4 cup pine nuts

1 garlic clove

1/3 cup grated parmesan

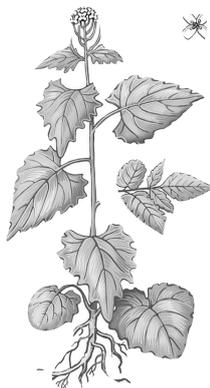
1 cup extra virgin olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon sugar

2 squeezes lemon juice

In a blender, grind the garlic, pine nuts and parmesan. Add the garlic mustard. While blending, pour in a steady stream of the olive oil for 1 minutes, or until smooth. Add salt, sugar, lemon juice and pulse until mixed. *Recipe from Food52.com*



## Earth Day Essay Contest for All Ages

### ***“What do the Forests of the Arden mean to you?”***

Do you love hoprocking? The change of seasons? Identifying local flora and fauna? In 5-500 words tell us what you love about our forests. (You could even do a haiku!) Submit with your name, email address, phone number and include your age if you are under 18. Too young to write? Draw us a picture. All we ask is that you allow us use your words and images (attributed to you) on our Forest of the Ardens Facebook page and in print (Arden Page or LEAF) to inspire others. The winner will be announced at the Earth Day party at the Buzz on April 22. The winning entry will be printed in May's Arden Page.

Contest is open to residents of the Ardens and neighboring communities. All entries must be received by Wednesday, April 15th.

Ways to submit: send in the body of an email to [Forest@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:Forest@arden.delaware.gov) **OR** Print out and mail to Earth Day Essay Contest, % Carol Larson, 1900 Sherwood Road, Arden, DE 19810

Judges: Jill Althouse-Wood (Arden Forest Committee), Jeana Carey (Arden Club's Gardeners Guild) & Elaine Schmerling (Ardentown Public Works and Safety Committee)

### **Prizes: Adults (ages 18+)**

*First place:* Membership to Mount Cuba or Delaware Nature Society or The Arden Club

*Second Place:* Four free meals at this spring's Arden Club Saturday night dinners

*Third Place:* Doug Tallamy Book "Nature's Best Hope,"

*Hon Mention:* Bamboo travel utensil set

### **Youth: (ages 3-17)**

*First place:* Movie Passes

*Second Place:* Alan Burslem Ceramic Mug w/ Double Spiral Chocolate Bar

*Third Place:* Journal and colored pencils

*Hon Mention:* Bamboo travel utensil set

AND bragging rights for all. Plus, entering an essay in the contest fills one of the requirements for the 2020 *Friends of the Arden Forests* Patch featuring Hoprocking.

## Pest Alert: Spotted Lanternfly

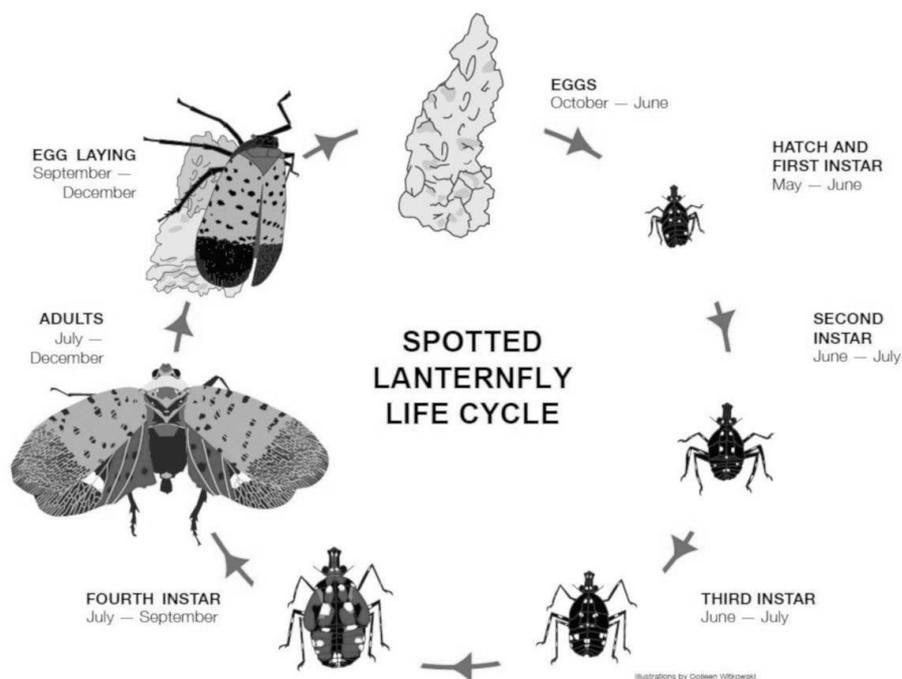
New Castle County, north of the C&D Canal, is in a quarantine area for an increasing infestation of a very destructive pest, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). This pest has been found feeding on 75 different plants, and Penn State has already estimated \$50 million in agricultural damages in 2019 and projects growing numbers and significant job losses incoming years. The damage to natural areas has not even been addressed. Volunteers in the Ardens have destroyed well over 500 egg masses this season - preventing over 21,000 of these bugs from hatching next year. But they have more areas to search before they hatch mid-April thru May.

The simplest, non-toxic way to reduce the numbers of this pest is to search for and destroy egg masses (scrape into a ziplock bag, add alcohol or hand sanitizer, zip close, and trash). Each mass has an average for 30-50 eggs, but they have great variability in shape and sizes. They usually are laid on smooth surfaces on a variety of trees—including maples, cherries, and especially Tree of Heaven and Japanese Styrax trees,—but also on stones, fences, rusty metal and more. We have often found them at bases of smooth-barked trees when we cut ivy off, and on underside of branches of larger red maple and evergreen magnolias. Please help us in our efforts to search and destroy!

See <https://agriculture.delaware.gov/plant-industries/spotted-lanternfly/> for detailed information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2016, world plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons. Roughly half of annual plastic production is destined for a single-use product
- Americans alone throw away 25 billion styrofoam coffee cups every year. Styrofoam cannot be completely recycled. Most of the Styrofoam disposed of today will still be present in landfills 500 years from now.
- Processing accounts for the biggest part of the carbon footprint when it comes to food.
- The meat and dairy industries cause more greenhouse gas emissions than all transportation combined. And it's also the main contributor to deforestation, water pollution and ocean dead zones
- If you eat just one plant-based meal a day for a year, you'll save almost 200,000 gallons of water (that's 11,400 showers!) and the pollution equivalent to about 3,000 miles driven in your car (roughly LA to NYC).



Source: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

## Quest: Hoprocking Patch

For residents and neighbors of the Ardens, there is still time to earn the 2020 Forests of the Ardens Hoprocking Patch. Simply go to *Forests of the Ardens* Facebook page. Join the page if you haven't already. You'll find the patch requirements in the *Files* section. Print your passport, complete the requirements, and return your passport to a member of the Arden Forest Committee or mail to *Forest Committee; BWVC; 2119 The Highway; Wilmington, DE 19810* by July 26, 2020.



LEAF is brought to you by the Arden Forest Committee. The Forest Committee implements the Forest Stewardship Policy, the main tenets being preservation of a natural ecosystem, including appropriate wildlife habitat, and enhancing residents' interaction with and enjoyment of this natural environment. Specifically, the Forest Committee oversees trail improvements to encourage residents to enjoy the woods. We use social media to educate neighbors about appreciating and respecting our forest. In addition, we monitor hazard trees, evaluate risk, and intervene if damage to structures or hikers would occur if the tree fell. The forest committee is charged with the tasks of monitoring forest borders to stop encroachment by leaseholders or neighbors. We also observe water flow in an effort to prevent stream bank erosion and are currently monitoring our waters to ensure stream health. Lastly, we facilitate removal of invasive species to encourage native growth and diversity of native species.

## Gardeners Gild Plant Swap

**April 20, Monday, at 7:00 PM • Lower Arden Gild Hall • 2126 The Highway, Arden**

Yes, it's back, and our **Annual Plant Swap** promises to bring us a wide and wild and wonderful selection of great potted plants to choose from, for our outdoor and indoor gardens. You can trade for at least as many plants as you bring!

The lower Gild Hall doors will open at 6:45 and we should be able to start by 7:15, so please be prompt. If you have **non-invasive** plants to trade, please label them so that everyone can tell:

- **The plant's name**
- Whether it likes **sun** or **shade**, **wet** or **dry**
- Whether it prefers to live **indoors** or **outdoors**
- If it's an **annual** or **perennial**

Everyone is welcome to take part! **Admission = one plant** (min). But bring as many as you want to trade.

## Good Forest Neighbor Lawn Practices

- \* Add organic matter to your lawn to build the soil — or spread an inch of compost in the fall, and water it in. Adding just 5% will quadruple the soil's ability to hold water.
- \* Use corn gluten meal. It is nature's weed & feed! It prevents seeds from germinating and benefits grasses by adding valuable nitrogen to the soil. Note: Don't use in the fall if seeding your lawn!
- \* Take care of young weeds before they become seed-producing monsters.
- \* Avoid chemical lawn fertilizers which can kill soil microbes, repel earthworms, and ruin soil structure. (Not to mention pollute our waterways.)
- \* Water in the morning to prevent disease. To promote deep roots and a healthier lawn water longer, but less often. After watering, use a garden trowel to check soil moisture. If it isn't wet 4 to 6 inches down — keep watering!
- \* Aerate your lawn every couple of years to eliminate thatch and to allow air, nutrients, and water to penetrate deep into the root zone.
- \* Try grasscycling! Save time and energy - no need to bag - let the clippings lay on the lawn they will decompose and add organic matter in no time!

### Arden Forest Committee

Buzz Ware Village Center/  
2119 The Highway/  
Wilmington, DE 19810

[http://arden.delaware.gov/  
committees/forest-committee/](http://arden.delaware.gov/committees/forest-committee/)

forest@arden.delaware.gov

Facebook group: Forests of the Ardens

Current elected members:  
Carol Larson (chair), Jennifer Borders, Jill Althouse-Wood, David Nordheimer, Jeff Martin.

LEAF editor: Jill Althouse-Wood

The goals of this newsletter are forest stewardship and communication—goals we want to advance through social media and online forums. Some issues of this newsletter will be only available in electronic form. Join Facebook Group *Forests of the Ardens* to stay connected, find out about future events, and read archives of LEAF.