



FORESTRY, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES UPDATE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010



Walnut Tree Infected with
Thousand Cankers Disease



Photo: walnut canker from Dr. Alan Windham,
Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Tennessee

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“Autumn Clues! Do You Know the Answers?”

Walnut Quarantine

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), which kills walnut trees, has been discovered in Anderson, Blount and Union Counties. TCD is a progressive disease that kills a tree within two to three years. The disease-causing fungus, *Geosmithia*, is transmitted by a small twig beetle. Because of the potential for damage by TCD, an emergency quarantine of walnut tree products has been established. The following summary has been developed by the Tennessee Division of Agriculture:

Thousand Cankers Disease Regulations in Plain Language

10/8/2010

TCD Quarantine Counties: Anderson, Blount, Knox, and Union

TCD Buffer Regulated Counties: Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, and Sevier

Walnut Logs

Walnut Logs in TCD Quarantined Counties

Walnut logs can move within the TCD quarantined counties without treatment or a compliance agreement as long as the counties are adjacent to each other. Companies need to enter into a compliance agreement and walnut logs have to be debarked and heat treated for movement outside of TCD quarantined counties. *Note – if walnut logs are moved into a quarantined county they must meet the quarantine requirements to move back to a buffer regulated county or into non-regulated areas.*

Walnut Logs in TCD Buffer Regulated Counties

Walnut logs can move within the TCD buffer regulated counties and into TCD quarantined counties without treatment or a compliance agreement as long as the counties are adjacent to each other. *Note – if walnut logs are moved into a quarantined county they must meet the quarantine requirements to move back to a buffer regulated county or into non-regulated areas.* In order to move walnut logs into non-regulated areas, companies will need to enter into a compliance agreement and all walnut logs from the buffer regulated area would have to be debarked and heat treated.

Walnut Logs in Tennessee outside the TCD Quarantined or Buffer regulated Counties

Walnut logs outside the TCD quarantined or buffer regulated counties can move within and out of the state of Tennessee without treatment or a compliance agreement. **Note** Some states may require a state inspection and phytosanitary certificate (phyto) to enter their state. Check the website or call for current information: <http://nationalplantboard.org> under Summary of Laws and Regulations or call TDA at 615-837-5137

Walnut Lumber

Walnut Lumber in TCD Quarantined Counties and Buffer Regulated Counties

Walnut logs can be processed into lumber and move within the quarantined or buffer regulated counties as long as the counties are adjacent to each other, without the need of a compliance agreement. *Note – if lumber is moved into a quarantined county it must meet the quarantine requirements to move back to a buffer regulated county or into non-regulated areas.*

Walnut Lumber moving Outside TCD Quarantined Counties and Buffer Regulated Counties

Within the state of Tennessee if walnut lumber is to be taken outside of the quarantined or buffer regulated counties it must be square edged and be 100% free of bark and the cambium layer. Green walnut lumber and kiln dried lumber cannot move out of the TCD counties without the mill having a compliance agreement and the shipment moving under certificate. Some states require a state inspection and PHYTO certificate to enter their state. Check the website or call for current information: <http://www.nationalplantboard.org> under Laws and regulations or call TDA at 615-837-5137.

Walnut Lumber in Tennessee outside the TCD Counties moving to other states

Some states have regulations that require a state inspection and PHYTO certificate to enter their state. For information on requirements of other states check the website: <http://www.nationalplantboard.org> under Laws and regulations or call TDA at 615-837-5137

Firewood

Movement of Firewood within the TCD Quarantine Counties

Hardwood firewood may be moved without treatment only within the TCD quarantined counties as long as the counties are adjacent to each other.

Movement of Firewood within the TCD Buffer Regulated Counties

Hardwood firewood may be moved within the TCD buffer regulated counties as well as TCD quarantined counties without treatment or a compliance agreement as long as the areas are adjacent to each other. *Note – if firewood is moved into a quarantined county it must meet the quarantine requirements to move back to a buffer regulated county or into non-regulated areas.*

Movement of Firewood from the TCD Quarantine Counties or Buffer Regulated Counties into non regulated areas

A company will need a Compliance Agreement that requires a heat treatment for firewood and required safeguarding the firewood from re-infestation or a Firewood Distributor Compliance Agreement to move firewood outside the regulated counties.

Hardwood Mulch

Ground Hardwood Mulch in TCD Quarantine Counties

Chipped mulch may move freely within TCD quarantine counties without a treatment or compliance agreement as long as the counties are adjacent to each other. There is no movement allowed of chipped hardwood mulch outside of the quarantine counties at this time.

Ground Hardwood Mulch in Buffer Regulated Counties

Chipped mulch may move freely within TCD buffer regulated counties and into TCD quarantine counties without treatment or a compliance agreement as long as the counties are adjacent to each other. There is no movement allowed of chipped hardwood mulch into TCD unregulated counties at this time. *Note – if Mulch is moved into a quarantined county it will not be allowed to move back to a buffer regulated county or into non-regulated areas.*

Composted Hardwood Mulch outside Quarantined Counties

A company will need to enter into a compliance agreement listing the requirements of composting, shipping requirements, and permit issuance and the receiving company will need to have a compliance agreement on how the materials will be treated.

Further information and compliance agreements can be obtained by calling the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at 615-837-5137

The following websites provide additional background:

- <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/5926>
- <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/tcd.html>
- http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/cankers_disease/thousand_cankers_disease_screen_res.pdf

ORDER SEEDLINGS NOW FOR PLANTING NEXT SPRING

Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

Both pine and hardwood seedlings for planting next spring should be ordered now. Often, the supply of the more preferred species may exceed the demand. Order early to make sure that the seedlings desired are reserved. A seedling catalog is available for the Tennessee Division of Forestry nursery at <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/publications/forestry/seedlingcatalog.pdf>

GETTING PAID TO BE A GOOD STEWARD?

David Mercker, Extension Specialist

On occasion foresters and landowners alike have made comments that, “If society wants clean water, abundant wildlife and even attractive views, then society should be willing to pay landowners for these free services.” That’s an arguable perspective, for sure, but payments for *ecosystem services* are now reality.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) administers programs with private landowners designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants and animals that result from productive lands and healthy ecosystems. More recently the NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored and more resilient to environmental challenges.

A current initiative of the NRCS is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages landowners to address natural resource issues by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. For forest landowners, this can include projects such as tree planting, timber stand improvement, creating wildlife den trees, controlling exotic invasive species, creating wildlife openings, protecting streamside management zones and more.

Landowners can inquire about the program at their local NRCS office. Applications are assigned stewardship points. If applications are successful, landowners receive an annual payment for their stewardship efforts. Payments have ranged from \$5 to \$30 per acre per year for five years. For more information, see:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html. In some cases, a forest management plan might be required which could qualify landowners for forest certification, as well. A certified forest allows landowners to gain access to emerging markets that seek wood originating from verifiable well-managed forests.

These are interesting (and perhaps frustrating) times for forestry - with much to think about. But getting paid to be a good steward, right or wrong, is sure be an opportunity, if not a reward, for many landowners.

INCOME FROM TIMBER SALE IS TAXABLE

Larry Tankersley, Extension Associate, Forestry

The good news it can be a **capital gain** rather than **ordinary income** and this can qualify for special treatment such as long-term tax rates, the deduction of sales expenses and the recovery of basis thru depletion. Capital gains are also exempt from self-employment taxes.

Qualifying for Capital Gains Treatment

Make sure you sell timber not cut products. Timber is “standing trees that are available and can be used as a wood product”. The key word here is standing. While the tree is still attached to its stump it is considered **real property** and its sale produces a capital gain.

Cutting the tree and converting it into a wood product, i.e. a log would change the tree’s legal status to personal property and its sale would produce ordinary income. This is an important distinction as many folks do their own logging or sell logs via “**shares**” where a logger sells the logs. Such arrangements can receive capital gains treatment but it is important that the logger has a “contract right to cut the timber”. In order to have a "contract right to cut timber", the logger must have a right to sell the timber cut under the contract on his own account or to use such cut timber in his trade or business. If the logger had a "contract right to cut" then the landowner’s income would qualify for capital gains treatment.

Types of Sales

Four types of sales are considered; 1) sealed bid or lump sum sales, 2) contract logging/delivered sale, 3) pay-as-cut and 4) negotiated or shares sale. Each of these types of sales may have different tax consequences for the timber owner depending on the facts and circumstances.

Sealed Bid or Lump Sales are generally preferred as they generally receive the most income and are efficiently administered. These sales also almost always qualify for capital gains treatment as the seller clearly transfers title to the standing trees (timber) to the buyer upon receipt of the proceeds.

The second type of transaction is **contract logging/delivered sale**. If the logger only has a contract to cut the timber and must either deliver the logs back to the owner or to a buyer specified by the owner, then the logger is performing a logging service.

Tax treatment of the proceeds of this type of sale depends on how/when the ownership of the timber is actually transferred to the buyer. If the timber owner maintains ownership of the logs once they are cut then the income to him/her is ordinary income. If a price is agreed upon prior to the actual cutting of the trees then sale becomes a **pay-as-cut** transaction which does qualify as a capital gain as we have agreed to a price while the trees are standing.

A version of this type of sale is a **pay-as-cut** transaction where the logger is granted a **contract right to cut** the timber. According to this arrangement the logger has the right to cut the timber according to his/her schedule and return to the timber owner an agreed upon price per unit of wood actually cut. Effectively the timber owner has agreed to a price before the

trees are actually cut, thus we have sold timber not logs and the income is a capital gains transaction.

The final type of sale is the **negotiated or shares sale**. A typical shares contract would involve a logger cutting the timber and selling the logs. The buyer of the logs writes one check to the logger and another to the landowner. The proceeds from the sale are split between the landowner and the logger at an agreed upon rate prior to the sale.

If timber was sold under a shares contract it is important to determine who actually "owned" the logs at the time they were sold. This affects whether or not the proceeds you received from the sale qualifies for capital gains treatment. There are two possible scenarios for this type of sale.

First, the logger had a "contract right to cut" the timber as mentioned above. He/she has the right to cut the timber according to their schedule and sell the logs as part of their business. The sale is effectively as pay-as-cut sale and qualifies as a capital gain.

Second, the shares sale may be more like a logging service where the logger is working for the timber owner, who may or may not have a price prior to cutting the timber and is effectively selling logs in which case the income is ordinary income and subject to self-employment tax.

Holding Period for Long-Term Capital Gains

Once we are sure that our transaction qualifies for capital gains treatment we need to verify the **holding period** the time the timber has belonged to you.. The greatest benefit of capital gains tax treatment is the reduced tax rates associated with a long-term capital gain. Currently(2010) the maximum tax liability for a long-term capital gain is 15% regardless of your ordinary tax rate. Note: for persons in the 10 and 15% ordinary tax brackets there is **no** tax on long-term capital gains.

Qualifying for long-term capital gains rates depends on your **holding period**. This is determined by how the timber became yours.

If you **purchased** the timber, you must hold it for more than one year, for instance if you bought timber on Jan. 1, 2010 you must not sell before Jan. 2, 2011 in order qualify for long-term treatment. Any sooner and the gain is a short-term capital gain.

If you **inherit** timber, it is automatically assumed to be a long-term asset regardless of how long the decedent had owned the timber.

If you receive the timber as a **gift**, the holding period is the time the donor owned the timber plus the time that it is in your possession. For example if your mother owned the timber for six months before giving it to you, you would need to hold the timber an additional six months before selling to fulfill the holding period requirement. If the donor had owned the timber for more than a year, selling the gift would qualify for long-term capital gains treatment.

Once we are sure that our timber proceeds qualify as a capital gain it is important to determine the **amount of the gain**.

In general in determining the amount of your capital it is important to know the general formula which is:

Gross income
minus your depletion allowance
minus your cost of conducting the sale
equals the **net** capital gain.

These reductions are part of the reason that we want to qualify for capital gains.

Recovering Timber Basis

As a capital asset, we assume that the amount paid to obtain the timber have previously been taxed when the money was made (ordinary income). The amount paid to obtain the timber is thus considered your **basis**. Basis is discussed at length in UT Extension Publication 1691, *“Setting up the Books, a Forest Owner’s Guide to Capital Accounts and Recordkeeping for Federal Income Tax Purposes.”*

Costs of the Sale

Costs of the sale include those amounts paid out of pocket for things like legal fees for preparing a contract, consulting fees to foresters helping conduct the sale, gravel, culverts and other associated fees paid to facilitate the timber harvest and other amounts that are paid in the actual conduct of the sale.

Reporting

Beginning in 2009, Buyers of timber are expected to send the seller IRS Form 1099 which reports the amount paid for the timber to the IRS. You may receive one of two Form 1099, either 1099-MISC or 1099-S. 1099-MISC is used to report payments that are generally ordinary income to you the seller. 1099-S is used to report real estate transactions.

As discussed above the net gain from the sale of timber is almost always a capital gain, either short-term or long-term. How you report the income on your tax return depends on several factors. The two critical factors are whether or not your timber is part of a business and how long you have owned the timber.

As a general rule if you only occasionally sell timber (one or two sales every three or four years) you are not in the timber business. Nevertheless, if you claim that your timber is a business by reporting timber related expenses on a business tax return, such as Form 1040, Schedule C or F, you should consider your timber sale a business transaction.

If you qualify for long-term capital gains treatment and consider yourself in the timber business, then the income should be reported on Form 4797, *Sale of Business Property*, Part I. The total payments you received are reported in column (d). You may be able to claim a depletion allowance and sales expenses in column (f).

If you do not qualify for long-term capital gains treatment, report total income received on Form 4797, Part II, column (d). Any depletion allowance and sales costs in column (f). This is a short-term capital gain.

If you do not consider yourself in the timber business, the income still qualifies for capital gains treatment. You report the amount on Form 1040, Schedule D, *Capital Gains and Losses*. If the holding period is met, a long-term capital gain is reported on Part II. The gross income is reported in column (d) and any depletion allowance and sales costs in column (f). If the gain is a short-term capital gain the information is reported on Part I of the Schedule D.

Remember that actions to prepare the site and control competing vegetation should take place well before planting, usually in the fall of the previous year. Most problems associated with poor seedling survival are due to inadequate site preparation and poor control of competing vegetation.

TYPICAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING SUCCESS OF PLANTED HARDWOODS

Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

Millions of hardwood seedlings are planted each year. Unfortunately, even though many resources have been expended to grow seedlings and establish plantations, a majority of these plantings have not been successful. What are the causes?

The Virginia Department of Forestry recently completed a survey of 200 hardwood planting sites ranging from one to eight years old that were evaluated for growth and survival. An additional 100 sites less than six months of age were visited as well to monitor planting quality. Most of the tracts were planted using various cost-share programs and were on former pasture or hay land.

Less than 40 percent of the inspected plantings had seedling survival of 80 percent. Those sites experiencing survival problems were usually deficient in one or more of the following prescribed practices

- Lack of a reforestation plan or lack of implementation of the plan
- Species planted was not appropriate for the site
- Poor quality of planted seedlings
- Problems with seedling storage, handling and planting quality
- Site preparation before planting and vegetation control after planting was inadequate
- Limited, ineffective, or incorrect use of herbicides to control residual vegetation

Many of these same problems occur with planting hardwoods in Tennessee. The most common causes of poor hardwood seedling survival are inadequate or no site preparation and poor control of competing vegetation. UT Extension has a recent publication with site preparation and competition control guidelines for hardwood tree plantings (PB 1783) that is available on the web at the following address <http://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1783.pdf> or at your county Extension office.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLANTING PINE AND HARDWOOD

Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

A serious mistake often made by practitioners and landowners alike is to assume that the conditions for planting hardwoods are similar to planting pine. Planting hardwoods is much more difficult and the success rate much lower than planting pines. Consider the following contrasts between planting pine and hardwoods.

- Pine is a much more forgiving species and can be grown on sites with a wide range of productivities. Hardwoods are much more site specific and should only be planted on the more productive sites.
- Pines are much more uniform and grow at similar rates because of more than 40 years of tree improvement programs. Each hardwood species has a specific growth habit. Very little tree improvement work has been conducted in hardwoods because of the greater growth variations within and between species.
- Pines can easily be released from hardwood vegetation through broadleaf herbicides. Hardwoods are much more difficult to release because there are very few, if any herbicides available that are selective or specific enough to release hardwoods from other broadleaf competing vegetation.
- Pine seedlings are uniform and easy to plant. Hardwoods are much more variable and more costly to plant because of their larger root systems.
- Hardwood seedlings cost 3 or 4 times more per seedling than pine seedlings and are more expensive to plant because of their larger and more variable size, especially in the root systems.

Establishing a successful hardwood planting requires attention to several key elements: proper species selection, seedling quality, proper planting techniques, and short- and long-term control of competing vegetation. These elements are also necessary for planting pine, but the degree of planning for hardwoods is much more critical because of the greater variation. Controlling competing vegetation both before the planting through site preparation techniques and after the planting is key to hardwood planting success. The integration of proper tree density management (spacing); proper use of groundcovers that supplant potential competing weeds, but do not interfere with seedling growth; and pro-active herbicide prescriptions are necessary for the control of competing vegetation.

For more information about procedures to ensure hardwood planting success, refer to UT Extension publication PB1783 at the following web address:

<http://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1783.pdf>

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Craig A. Harper, Professor, Wildlife Management

Wildlife Notes

White-tailed deer breeding season peaks in most areas of TN during November

Wild turkeys form winter flocks

Groundhogs begin to hibernate

Ducks begin to migrate through in substantial numbers

Sandhill cranes and an occasional rare whooping crane migrate through east TN

Owls and hawks increase vocalization and begin establishing territories just prior to mating season

Blackbirds form large winter flocks

Marbled salamander eggs hatch in ephemeral forest pools

Habitat Management

Spray non-native perennial cool-season grasses (such as tall fescue and orchardgrass) to improve/establish early successional habitat

- October through early November is the optimum time to kill these grasses!
- spray to release the seedbank or in preparation to plant native warm-season grasses
- use 1.5 – 2 quarts per acre of a glyphosate herbicide (such as Roundup) with a surfactant
- Using glyphosate to kill cool-season grasses after a killing frost; spraying at this time will not harm desirable warm-season grasses and forbs as they will be dormant
- refer to *[Native Warm-Season Grasses: Identification, Establishment and Management for Wildlife and Forage Production in the Mid-South](#)*, PB 1752, for additional information on eradicating non-native perennial cool-season grasses;
<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/wildlife/default.asp>

Disk areas within old-fields for brood habitat

- will stimulate desirable forb growth next spring
- will reduce grass dominance where needed
- will reduce woody encroachment by sweetgum, elms, maples and other undesirable woody saplings in the field

Disk firebreaks around fields and woods before the ground freezes so they'll be ready to burn next March/April

- disking now will stimulate forbs next spring
- winter wheat can still be sown, if desired, or leave fallow
- don't disk firebreaks immediately adjacent to the woods; come out beyond the drip line of the trees, 50 feet from the trees, and allow a soft edge to develop

Begin dormant planting native warm-season grasses

- don't plant too deep – no more than ¼ inch!
- don't forget preemergence weed control next April/May; it is critical!

- Enhance the cover around old-fields by thinning (killing) undesirable trees 100 feet into the woods
- girdle unwanted trees and spray wound with a mixture of Garlon and Arsenal AC
- use 2 quarts Garlon 3A and 12 ounces Arsenal AC filled to 1 gallon of water
- dead standing trees (snags) provide perching, roosting, denning, feeding sites for many wildlife species
- increased groundcover is stimulated by the additional sunlight, improving forage and nesting cover for many wildlife species

Plant trees/shrubs for wildlife

- establish hedgerows across fields with soft-mast bearing trees and shrubs
- hedgerows can be used to break up fields into sections
- also plant trees/shrubs in blocks at end of fields or in "odd" areas
- wild plum, crabapple, persimmon, elderberry and others are good choices
- refer to [*Improving Your Backyard Wildlife Habitat*](#), PB 1633, for a list of other trees and shrubs to consider

Fertilize/prune trees/shrubs for increased soft mast production

- this is for trees/shrubs out in the open, not those in woods
- fertilizing oaks in woods is a waste of time and money; to increase mast potential for trees in the woods, refer to TSI activities

Continue to strip-mow or silage-chop dove fields to provide seed and hunting opportunities

- strips can be disked and top-sown with winter wheat (2 bushels per acre) to provide additional forage opportunities
- migrating doves appreciate your efforts and the late dove seasons can offer great shooting

Spray perennial forage food plots for weed control if necessary

- refer to [*A Guide to Successful Food Plots: Blending Science with Common Sense*](#), PB 1769, for specific information

Soil test now for spring plots

- applications of lime require about 6 months before full effect on pH is realized

Flood waterfowl impoundments

- a depth of 8 – 12 inches is ideal for dabbling ducks

Continue watching and identifying good acorn producers

- one-third of the oak trees produce roughly 75% of all the acorns
- if you are interested in improving acorn availability in your woods, distinguishing good producers from poor producers will help you identify which trees to favor
- once acorns begin to fall, walk through the woods and mark trees with good acorn crops with aluminum tags or tree marking paint near the bottom of the tree
- continue this for at least 3 years and a pattern will begin to develop identifying those trees that do not ever produce many acorns (even in a good acorn year)
- good producers can be released by killing or removing unwanted adjacent competitors, allowing the crowns of favored trees to expand and produce more acorns

Continue Timber Stand Improvement activities

- stimulate growth among oaks, beech, cherry, persimmon, blackgum, and other mast producers by killing surrounding competitors
- girdle unwanted trees and spray wound with appropriate herbicide
- a 50% solution of Garlon 3A and water and/or a 25% solution of Arsenal and water work well

Build brushpiles from thinned trees and pruned limbs

- put large limbs on bottom and small limbs on top for crevice space and overhead protection
- this is best done and the effect greatest along the edges of and within high-quality early successional habitat (native forbs and grasses with scattered brambles and shrubs) where good cover already exists
- building brushpiles along a woods edge adjacent to a tall fescue pasture or hayfield may do more harm than good because all rabbits present will then be isolated for predation

Clean out bluebird boxes to allow more room for roosting bluebirds when cool weather arrives

- 10 or more bluebirds may roost in a single box on cold nights

Clean out wood duck boxes and replace old wood shavings with fresh shavings

- screech owls and squirrels may use the boxes through fall and winter
- repair/install predator shields if necessary

Put out bird feeders and keep them full

- it's not too early
- refer to [*Improving Your Backyard Wildlife Habitat*](#), PB 1633, for information on specific feeders and seed for birds

Wildlife Damage/Population Management

Close crawl spaces under the house and check for openings in the attic

- helps keep snakes, skunks, and squirrels from getting into places where they are not welcome
- rodents are beginning to cache food for the coming winter; take action now to keep them out of your house
- glueboards are very effective in trapping mice, snakes, and lizards looking for a warm place inside your basement or garage

Blackbirds and starlings have gathered into large winter flocks

- don't allow them to roost in your trees; if they start, they'll form a habit
- repel them with noise makers (shotguns, firecrackers, banging metal pans together)
- be persistent

Deer season is underway

- allow hunters access to your land if you have a problem with too many deer
- shoot the females (does); concentrating on bucks does little to control overpopulation
- in many overpopulated areas, it is necessary to kill 1 doe per 10 acres (sometimes more) before the population is reduced to acceptable levels
- where Quality Deer Management is desirable, reduce the population so plenty of forage is available, shoot does to even the sex ratio, and allow bucks to reach 3 ½ years of age before shooting them
- refer to [*Quality Deer Management: Guidelines for Implementation*](#), PB 1643, for additional information;
- remember to take a kid hunting!



RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Questions: “Autumn Clues! Do You Know the Answers?”

1. This bird species eat carpenter ants and bark beetles all winter long. (two words)..
2. This often solitary mammal searches for a mate in autumn.
3. This insect overwinters under the loose bark of dead deciduous trees.
4. During autumn migration, you can see large flocks of this bird species on muddy flats or at the edges of slow rivers (two words).
5. In autumn, males of this wildlife species spar with one another to establish dominance. (three words)
6. This bird of prey hunts mourning doves and other small birds gathered at backyard bird feeders. (three words)
7. This reptile hibernates on the bottom of a slow-moving stream. (two words)
8. While most migratory birds leave our region in autumn, this species migrates south from Canada into our region.
9. Term used to describe a small group of ruffed grouse that overwinter together.
10. Insect filled acorns make a protein-rich autumn food for this bird. (two words)

Answers:

1. Pileated Woodpecker
2. Porcupine
3. Lacewing
4. Least Sandpiper
5. White-Tailed Deer
6. Sharp-Shinned Hawk
7. Wood Turtle
8. Snow Bunting
9. Covey
10. Blue Jay

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