

Conservation Land Initiatives Summer 2022

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The spring and summer months are the busiest seasons for the Conservation Office and Commission with wetlands permitting, construction oversight, and land management activities. As our environment transitions from spring to summer, so is the Conservation Office. After many years of service to not only the Conservation Office, but also many other Town Departments, Kirsten Roopenian will be taking a much-deserved respite from serving the Town of Sudbury. In her stead, we are welcoming Robert Bosso as Sudbury's new Conservation Assistant, who will provide both administrative and land management functions for the Town.



Barton Farm Conservation Land

Trailhead improvements are being implemented at Barton Farm through the assistance of Walker Glin, who will be reconstructing the kiosk at Barton Farms as his Eagle Scout project. Additionally, the buckthorn that is encumbering this entrance is also being managed as a commitment associated with an Agricultural License that was recently issued to tap onsite sugar maples which can be seen in the before and after photos below.

Davis Pollinator Meadow

After two years of invasive species management and establishment of primarily native ground cover, the Conservation Office will be planting 550 native flowers into this meadow habitat to improve the biodiversity of species this pollinator friendly meadow provides for our native insects.



Kirsten Roopenian, who has served as a Select Board member and worked in several Town offices, retired earlier this year. Thank you for your years of dedicated service, Kirsten, Sudbury is lucky to have you!



Ford's Folly

Ford's Folly - Nobscot Conservation Land

Have you ever walked in the Nobscot Conservation Land on Brimstone Lane and wondered what that 30-foot high stone wall is? It's Ford's Folly, a little-known historical treasure hidden within Sudbury's forest.

Constructed in the 1927 by Henry Ford in an attempt to create a reservoir for the Wayside Inn, this 30-foot tall stone wall is an impressive construction feat, having been erected solely with manpower and oxen. Unfortunately, due to the porosity of the underlying earth, this dam never held back enough water to serve its purpose. One hundred years later, the forest is trying to take back this ground and trees have seeded themselves into this impressive stone edifice. To protect this structure from deterioration from penetrating root structures and falling limbs, the Conservation Office is partnering with one of our bowhunters to remove the vegetation on and overhanging the dam. This will help protect the long-term integrity of this structure and will also help provide safer passage for trail users.

Invasive Species in Sudbury

Invasive species continue to be problematic throughout the Commonwealth, and Sudbury is no exception. As residents work in their yards, they have become familiar with the Sisyphean task of removing these invasive plants, such as bittersweet and buckthorn. The Conservation Commission, in conjunction with the Library, is now providing the tool you need to be successful in this endeavor: the weed wrench. You can now borrow a weed wrench from the Library to remove invasive plants under 1.5-inch in caliper. Another very helpful resource to assist you is the [SuAsCoCISMA](#).

A couple of newer species just starting to invade our area include porcelain-berry and mile-a-minute. Porcelain-berry is a very colorful fruit bearing vine that has leaves that look similar to grape. Mile-a-minute has an impressive growth rate of 6 inches per day. These vines, combined with bittersweet, will challenge our trees as they can quickly climb and smother large areas. If you notice these plants in your yard, we ask that you help to eradicate them to prevent them from getting a foothold in Sudbury.



Sudbury Invasive Vines: Porcelain-berry (shown left) and Mile-a-minute (shown right)

The Spotted Lanternfly

Of particular concern in our area, as reported by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) last October, we must all keep an eye out for the invasive Spotted Lanternfly as we enhance our landscapes. A small population of Lanternfly escaped in Fitchburg last year and it has been confirmed that MDAR has recently received several reports that nursery stock from Spotted Lanternfly infested areas have been sent to Massachusetts growers. Spotted lanternflies may be found on sides of buildings, in or on vehicles, and on their preferred host plants: tree of heaven, grape vines, and maple and walnut trees. Egg masses are flat and gray in color, they are difficult to detect, especially on tree bark. For examples, please see this Pest ID Tool: <https://massnrc.org/pests/blog/?p=2680>. This pest could seriously impact the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.

If you find an egg mass or any other life stage of Spotted Lanternfly, please report it to MDAR immediately at <https://massnrc.org/pests/slf>. You can also use this link to see a map of where this pest has been found in Massachusetts and elsewhere in the USA.

Please contact our office if you have invasives that are in a wetland jurisdictional area and you would like to remove them, as it would require a permit by the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, thanks to the residents who assist us in keeping our open spaces and Conservation Lands in good condition so that all may enjoy the out of doors this summer.

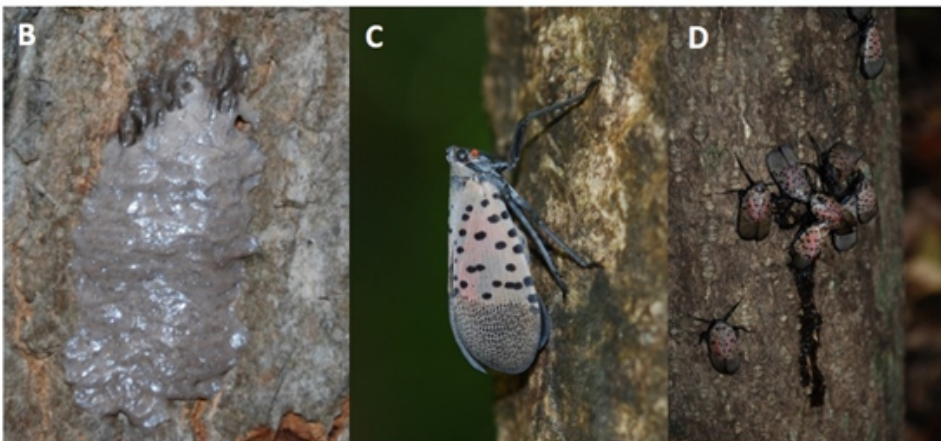


Photo courtesy: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

- A. 1st-4th instar nymphs and adult female with wings spread out
- B. Egg masses in oothecae (egg cases) covered in a waxy deposit
- C. Lateral view of a resting adult
- D. Adult congregation on a tree trunk and plant sap oozing from damaged area