SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FALL 2026

Autumn Arrives

It's that time again: the falling leaves, the fiery foliage, the whiff of pumpkin spice in the air. Fall is my favorite time of year as we enjoy a brief (and scenic respite) before whatever the oncoming winter has in store.

Beyond my personal affection for the natural surroundings of the season, in the world of SELT, autumn signifies an important milestone in the work year calendar: the looming finale of our year's easement monitoring.

While this is a duty built into our ongoing responsibility as a land trust, I know I speak for all our Easement Stewardship staff when I say the added benefit of monitoring is connecting with you and our other landowners.

This relationship is key to our shared commitment to ensuring the special places in our communities are cared for and stewarded now and into the future.

It is a sentiment we hear from you, and as your partners in the easement management process, we highly value this connection. We're in this together, and as always, I encourage you to reach out at any time with questions about your property or conservation easement.

It's always best to be proactive rather than reactive!

Thank you for being a SELT easement landowner, and enjoy the New Hampshire foliage.

Best,

Nicole

Nicole DeCarolis
Easement Stewardship Manager

To update your contact information, please visit
seltnh.org/landowner-contact

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Spotted Lanternfly Spotted in New Hampshire

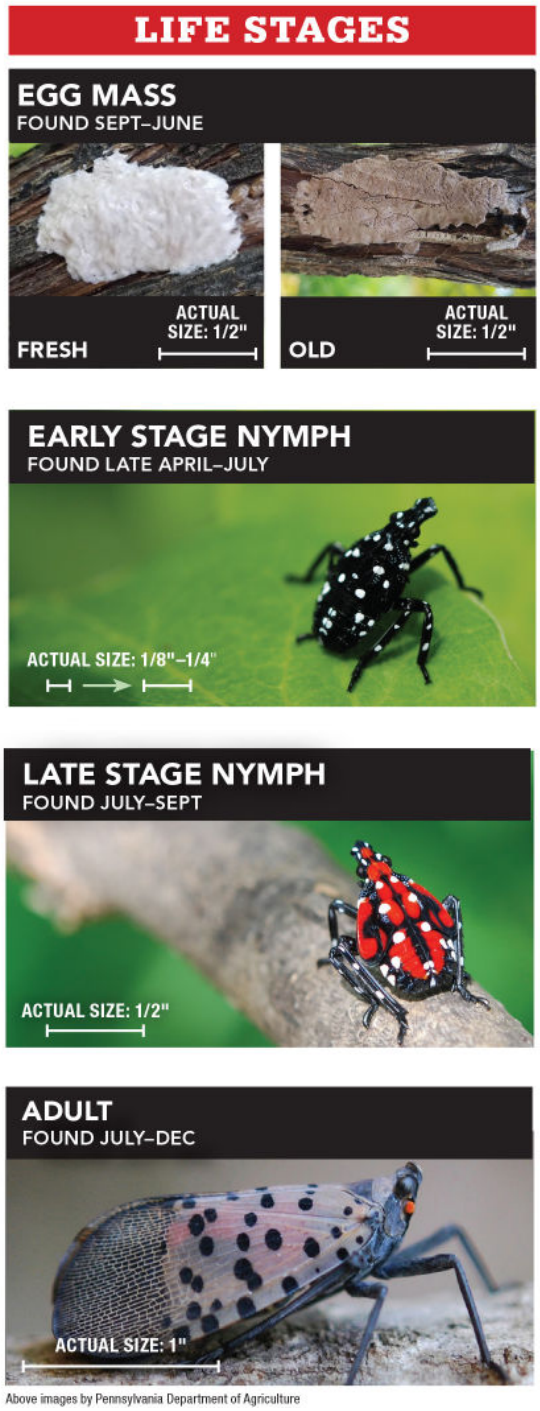
A new invasive insect has been spotted in New Hampshire. The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food has recently confirmed the appearance of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) this August, the first time it has been reported to be found in New Hampshire.

According to NH Bugs, the UNH-powered database on invasives:

> *Spotted lanternfly feeds on plant sap from a wide range of hosts throughout its life cycle. It prefers Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus altissima), but it will feed on many other plants. Mass feeding causes plant stress and can contribute to decline in hardwood saplings, fruit trees, landscape ornamentals, and nursery stock. Grapevines are particularly vulnerable and can be killed by heavy SLF feeding.*
>
> *Feeding creates large amounts of sticky honeydew, which can attract wasps and other insects and support the growth of black sooty mold.*
>
> *These nuisance impacts can affect homeowners, businesses, and communities as infestations increase over time. Businesses in states with established SLF populations may face additional regulatory compliance costs related to shipment of plant materials and other goods.*

At this time, there have been no identified established populations of spotted lanternfly. Any reports of sightings in New Hampshire can be reported at NHBugs.org.





A Chat with Matt Tarr About Flora and Fauna

Last month, Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Habitat Specialist, presented at a SELT easement landowner workshop. Matt took attendees on a walk through the fields and forest habitats at Burley Farms to identify bird species. In addition, Matt discussed native and invasive plant species and their relationship to a healthy habitat. Matt took some time for a quick Q&A about the workshop and key takeaways.



What was the topic of your landowner presentation?
We identified a variety of native and non-native invasive plant species and talked about how each species functions as habitat for a variety of birds, insects, and other wildlife. We identified some of the common plants that occur in southern New Hampshire, many of which landowners have on their properties. We then discussed how those plant species function as habitat and why they are important to wildlife.

What would be the top-line takeaway for what landowners could do to encourage diverse habitat?
Plant diversity results in wildlife diversity, and we want to provide cover and food sources across as many seasons as possible. We also want to recognize how our property fits into the larger landscape around us. we can provide plant species and layers that are different than those on neighboring properties, we can improve habitat for wildlife throughout the neighborhood. Examples of different layers include ground cover, shrubs, mid-story layer, and canopy layer.

Was there specific wildlife discussed at the workshop?
Many of the people who attended the workshop were especially interested in birds and pollinators. In the case of pollinators, they are very important to our food production systems. An abundance of insects also supports many other wildlife species on the landscape that rely on insects as an important food source.

This must be especially important if you garden on your property.
Yes, if you are an organic gardener, you would likely want to work with a variety of plant species anyway. One reason for doing that is to support an abundant population of predators that help control pests that might otherwise require chemical treatments.

What's the Latest with Beech Leaf Disease

Beech leaf disease has traditionally been nearly impossible to treat, so landowners have primarily focused on early identification and preventing its spread (e.g., avoiding moving beech seedlings and promptly reporting cases of infection).

Researchers, however, are now testing a promising new approach that involves systemic injections and foliar sprays that slow the disease's progression, helping to extend the life of priority trees (i.e., shade trees, landscape (yard) or historically important trees that there is a desire to save).

While early results are encouraging, researchers are still evaluating this treatment strategy. Learn more here: **https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treating-beech-leaf-disease.htm**.



Banding on leaves is a symptom for Beech Leaf Disease.
PHOTO: UNH EXTENSION

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As of August 2026

Contact SELT at 603-778-6088 or email info@seltnh.org. To update your contact information, please visit **www.seltnh.org/landowner-contact** or reach out to Nicole DeCarolis at nicole@seltnh.org or 603-658-9480.

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Thinking of Selling Your Land?

More and more conserved land is selling – meaning there is a whole new generation of landowners who need to understand what a conservation easement is and the associated privileges and responsibilities.

SELT can help make your sale smoother by working with your realtor to properly inform buyers about your conservation easement. Once you've decided to sell and have selected a real estate agent, please have them call us.

We will provide an electronic packet of information to incorporate in your disclosures and can answer questions from buyers.

Once you've scheduled a closing, please remember to give us the required notification of transfer of title in accordance with the terms of the easement.