

**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

**PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT
October 21, 2014**

With cooler night-time temperatures and frost, the fall foliage season is rapidly developing across Penn' Woods. Find the best sites for viewing fall's natural beauty using DCNR's interactive story-map on line at maps.dcnr.pa.gov/storymaps/fallfoliage/.



NORTHERN REGION, (Northern Wayne County and all of Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga, Potter and McKean Counties)



Near Cresco, Monroe County

Courtesy of Matt Hazen

Heavy rain has knocked most of the leaves to the ground. Late coloring oaks and beech are still providing spots of autumn color in some areas. The central Pocono Mountains have past the peak of the fall foliage but southern Monroe County still has many trees displaying bright colors. Trees that change colors early — red maple and birch — have lost their leaves in northern areas. Oaks are still holding their leaves but within the next week they should start to fall.

A good place to still see colorful foliage is Upper Smith Gap Road and Lower Smith Gap Road near Kunkletown, Monroe County.

CENTRAL REGION, (A funnel-shaped band with its narrow end in southern Wayne and Pike Counties. It stretches across the central third of Pennsylvania to Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties. This region widens to the northwest to include Erie and Warren Counties.)

From east to west across central Pennsylvania, the autumn spectacular continues at near-peak color as oaks add their maroon orange and russet colors to the seasonal display. But leaves are dropping so this weekend may be the last best chance to enjoy fall color this year.



Black Gap Vista, Bald Eagle State Forest by Gerald Hoy

Farther west the Bald Eagle State Forest in Centre, Snyder and Union Counties still holds peak color this week. There are still bright reds from red maple and brilliant yellows on birch, aspen and tulip poplar. Oaks are adding deep brick red, orange and russet colors to local scenic overlooks and vistas. You'll see deeper crimson on red oaks and a mix of red and yellow on white oak and chestnut oak.

In the Sproul State Forest oaks have finally started to turn but the maples, ashes, black gum have lost most of their leaves. Rain predicted this week may bring more leaves down. Hickories are brilliant yellow contrasting with russet orange oaks. Best viewing is at Hyner View and Fish Dam overlook and traveling along Pa Routes 144 & 120.



Sassafras, Cornplanter Forest District by Ty Ryen

The seasonal change in foliage across the southern Poconos, Carbon and Schuylkill Counties has advanced to its peak. Heavy rain expected for the region this week threatens to bring many leaves to the ground. However this adds a colorful layer to the forest floor creating opportunities for nice photos of the forest understory. This will be a great weekend to get out for some near peak and peak conditions along the endless mountain.



Hall's Run Mountain from Fish Dam overlook, Sproul State Forest by Michelle Goodling

Grugan Hollow and Dry Run Roads through the state forest provide nice viewing at a leisurely pace. Both roads can be traveled by typical passenger cars.

Across Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango Counties in northwestern Pennsylvania oaks continue to display brown-red and golden hues and the hickories and tuliptree are in bright yellow. Many other species have already displayed their best color and are now dropping their leaves.

Green spots still visible on the hillsides promise at least another week of good fall color but don't delay. Autumn has come on quickly and can fade just as quickly. Colorful drives include US Route 62 along the Allegheny River, US Route 6 in the Warren area, PA Route 8 from southern Venango into Erie County and US Route 322.

The foresters in Forbes State Forest in the southwest corner of the Commonwealth report that trees on the highpoint of Mount Davis are past peak color. Along higher elevations in the Laurel Highlands the maples have lost many of their leaves and the oaks have donned their full orange red and brown array.

In lower elevations of Fayette, Greene, Washington and Allegheny Counties, fall colors are at or close to peak for this year. The oaks haven't changed quite yet but the maples and poplars are beautifully vibrant. Some of the wind and rain of last week brought some leaves down but overall this weekend will offer prime leaf peeping in the southwest counties.



Kennerdell Overlook, Venango County

by Ty Ryen

SOUTHERN REGION (The area south and east of a line through southern Monroe, Dauphin, Bedford and southeastern Somerset Counties is included in the southern region.)

Visitors to the Michaux State Forest will see fall foliage is at its best for this year. Every broadleaf tree on South Mountain is arrayed in red, orange, gold or bright yellow. With cooler night temperatures the oaks have quickly changed. Abundant chestnut oaks are golden bronze. Where the mixed oak forest type is dominant, the red, white and scarlet oaks provide a varied pallet of crimson reds and dark oranges. Brilliant yellow and fiery orange highlights are still seen as red maple, sassafras and tuliptree hold onto their leaves. Drive along Ridge Road or visit any of the five vistas throughout the Michaux for exceptional panoramic views of the brilliant color display. Rain and high winds at mid-week could have the leaves falling fast but the weekend of October 25-26 should be excellent.



Old Water Tower, King's Gap State Park

by Ed Dix

Color really popped in southeastern counties this week. All species are changing with hickory and sugar maple being the most vibrant. The William Penn State Forest District expects autumn color to peak this week.

King's Gap, Pine Grove Furnace, Caledonia, Gifford Pinchot Codorus French Creek Marsh Creek, Nockamixon, Ridley Creek and all the other State Parks in southcentral and southeastern Pennsylvania will be great destinations for fall foliage outings this weekend.



View along Ridge Road, Michaux State Forest

Photo Courtesy of Mike Wright



Long Pine Reservoir, Michaux State Forest.

Photo courtesy of Mike Wright