

Remarkably long-lived color remains in much of the commonwealth. Statewide, many leaves are fading or on the ground, but peak autumn shades adorn the state's southeastern forests. Fall foliage sightseers should target the southeastern quarter of the Keystone State for best color.



## Northwestern Region

The manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie, Crawford counties) reported that many of the trees in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania have lost or are losing their leaves as the fall foliage season draws to a close. Fall colors of rust, yellow, and maroon persist on the hillsides, providing some last glimpses of the season. Shorter days and predicted cold will hasten the final color changes.



*A recent, early snowfall clings to a colorful red oak, Warren County. (photo by C. Stelter)*

## Northcentral Region

In Tioga, Sprout, and Susquehannock State forests, last week's wind and rain stripped much of the remaining color from the northern hardwood species, but some color remains on beech and hickory. Upland oaks are still displaying various warm shades, but recent heavy frosts will effectively end the fall foliage season in these districts.

Foresters in Loyalsock State Forest, Lycoming County, reported that fall color is past peak. Most leaves are down, but understory beech trees are still colorful. Oaks in the Little Bear and Grays Run areas are at peak, offering some late autumn scenery.



In Tiadaghton State Forest, western Lycoming County, the last remnants of autumn color can be observed on northern hardwood species. Oak dominated settings are showing some darker fall hues, but last week's wind and rain have taken many leaves. Recent and expected freezes will help drop many remaining leaves.



*Square Timber Vista, Elk State Forest. (photo by T. Herzing)*

The Elk County service forester said more rain and wind knocked down many leaves again this weekend. Oaks continue to change to russet and copper colors. Good color can still be found in the Square Timber Wild Area.

The Clearfield County service forester (Moshannon State Forest District) stated that rain and wind have downed most colorful maple, sassafras, and black gum leaves. However, oaks are especially colorful this year, showing nice orange, light green, and yellow colors. Blueberry bushes are creating a carpet of red on the dry sites in the oak dominated areas near Black Moshannon State Park. Motorists will see the best display along Route 504 through the Black Moshannon Division, looking south to catch glimpses across the valley, and Bald Eagle Mountain in the distance.





*Underwood Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by Z. Miller)*

### **West-central and Southwestern Regions**

The service forester for Venango and Clarion counties (Clear Creek Forest District) said dropping temperatures and windy days have pushed colors past peak and leaves are dropping or gone from maples, walnuts, aspens, birches, especially north of US 80. Hickories are starting to lose their leaves too, but still holding on with deep yellows and browns. Oaks are finally displaying rich red, russet, and copper.

Good places to see fall colors include Brady's Bend Overlook in Clarion County, Seneca Fire Tower at Cook Forest State Park, Beartown Rocks in Clear Creek State Forest, Kennerdell Overlook in Venango County and just about any view along a rail trail or from a kayak or canoe on the Clarion River.

The Forbes State Forest environmental educator said fall colors continue to hang on throughout southwestern PA, despite recent rain and wind. Hillsides are speckled in mostly oranges, yellows, and russet with the secondary peak of oaks, birch, and beech.

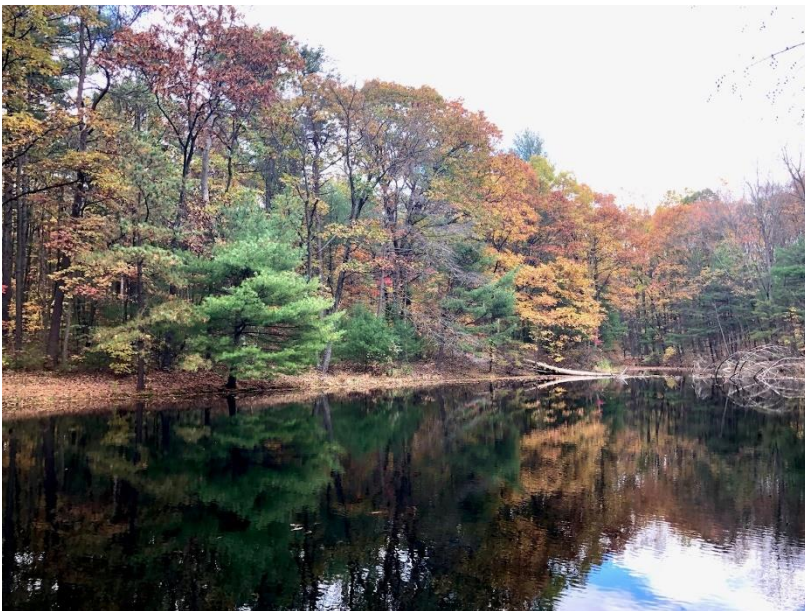
The ridges of the Laurel Highlands are well past peak. In Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties, vibrant reds, oranges, and pinks are still showing but freezing overnight temperatures will likely drop more leaves in the coming week. Fall color has been uniquely beautiful and long-lived, but is not likely to last much longer. Sightseers are encouraged to take a trip to the historic Wharton Iron Furnace south of Chalkhill, or take a hike in the Quebec Run Wild Area southwest of Elliottsville.





*L: Mountain Streams area near Stalhlstown, Forbes State Forest. (photo by D. Stiffler) R: Bald Eagle State Forest at Shade Mountain. (photo by J. Portzline)*

## Central and Southcentral Regions



*Ibberson Conservation Area, Dauphin County. (photo by A. Brought)*

The Dauphin County service forester (Weiser State Forest District) reported fading foliage in the district. Only in the southern reaches of the district (southern Dauphin and southern Lebanon counties) will peak conditions persist for at least the first half of the forecast period.

The Mifflin/Snyder/Juniata County service forester serving Bald Eagle Forest District reported plenty of color in central Pennsylvania as the oak-dominated forests are in full color, presenting yellow, orange, and rustic browns across the landscape. There are still some lingering red and yellow colors from maple, birch, and hickory, but leaves are falling fast.





*Spectacular view of fall color from Penns View Vista, Pine Swamp Road, Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by M. Beaver)*



*Eddie's Vista, Bald Eagle State Forest, Snyder County. (photo by J. Portzline)*

Foresters in Rothrock State Forest said that after a slow start, leaves finally peaked about a week ago. They were beautiful while they lasted but rain and wind brought many leaves to the ground. There is still some color on the landscape, especially in the valleys, but the higher elevations are generally lacking in color. Expected colder temperatures will only help bring the remainder of the leaves down progressing into November.





*Pleasant fall color remains at Raystown Lake. (photo by J. Thompson)*

Foresters in Perry County (Tuscarora State Forest) reported continued peak colors across the district, with best fall color expected to diminish quickly through the forecast week. Licking Creek Valley is a recommended destination to experience some great fall color, or take a drive along the corridors that bisect the mountains of the Tuscarora, such as routes 233, 274, 17, 75, 35, 103, or US 522. For a scenic fall tour, consider cruising the country roads that surround Fowlers Hollow State Park, just south of New Germantown.



*State Forest road near Licking Creek, Tuscarora State Forest. (photo by L. Book)*

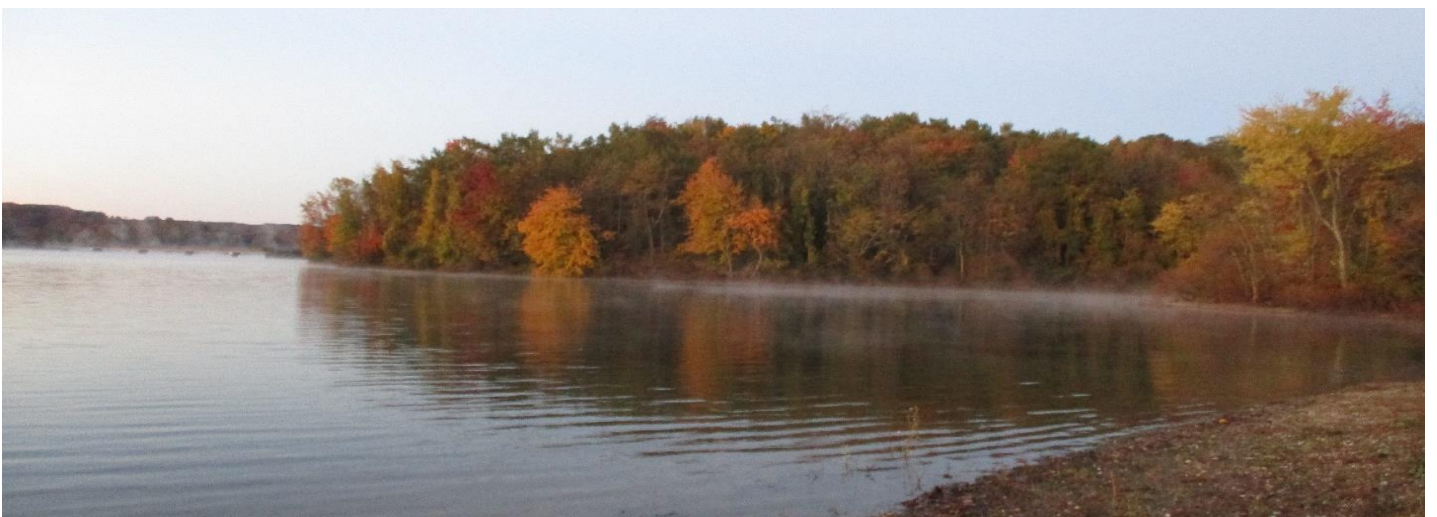


Foresters in Buchanan State Forest said this weekend will still be a great time to view leaves. Although just past prime, there is still plenty of color. With the cold, windy weather, fall color will not hang on much longer. Hickories and maples still have impressive color, but oaks are turning brown and falling off fast. Almost any road within the forest district will give great views of fall foliage.



*Tower Road vista in Allen's Valley, Bear Valley Division, Buchanan State Forest. (photo by D. Scamardella)*

The Cumberland/Franklin County service forester serving Michaux State Forest reported that ridgetops in Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, and York counties have lost most of the black gum foliage, but many other species are still going strong. Wonderful color all around the South Mountain region can be observed on beech and hickories, and oaks are finally expressing their true colors. Sightseers are advised to get out and enjoy the scenery as soon as possible, as beautiful peak colors will begin declining by the end of the weekend. Dark Hollow Vista, Pole Steeple, Long Pine Run Reservoir, and Codorus State Park are great places to see current color.



*Codorus State Park. (photo by M. Kern)*



## Northeastern Region

Delaware State Forest staff said fall color is declining quickly. Recent hard frosts, coupled with strong gusty winds and waning daylight, are causing rapid loss of leaves of all species. The best fall colors in the district can still be viewed from Big Pocono State Park and along Blue Mountain in southern Monroe County.



*Painter Swamp, Delaware State Forest District. (photo by E. Kuntz)*

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported that the only significant remaining color to see in the district is in the oak forests toward the southern end of Luzerne County.

## Southeastern Region



*Vivid ash at the state capitol. (photo by R. Reed)*

The assistant manager at William Penn State Forest said that colors have “popped” in the southern two-thirds of the district and that fall shades have reached peak in Berks County. Fall color enthusiasts are recommended to visit Hopewell Furnace and any state park south and east of Reading, or the Wertz Tract near Wernersville. Beautiful fall colors in beech, sassafras, hickory, and maple await.