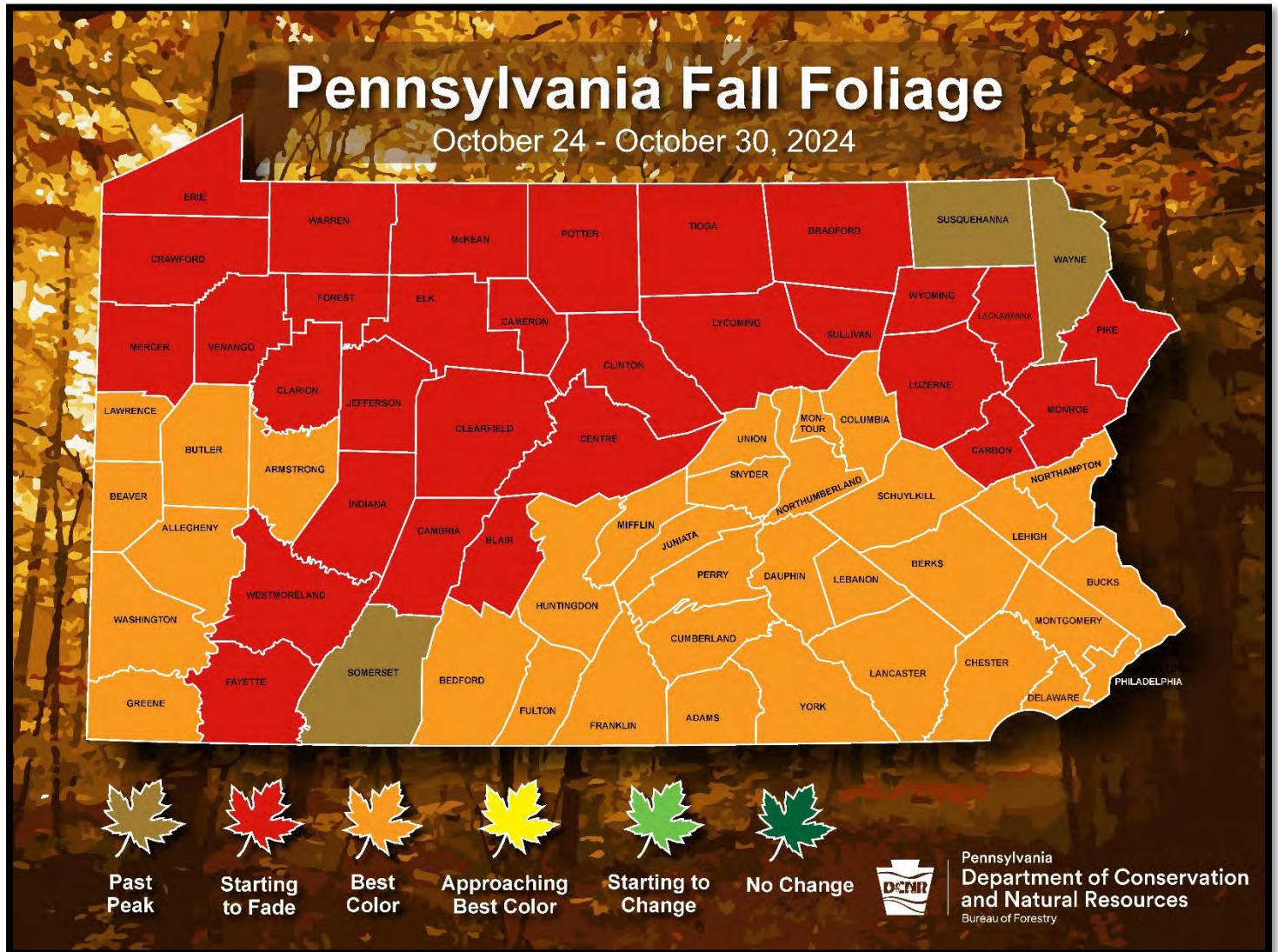


Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 24 – October 30, 2024



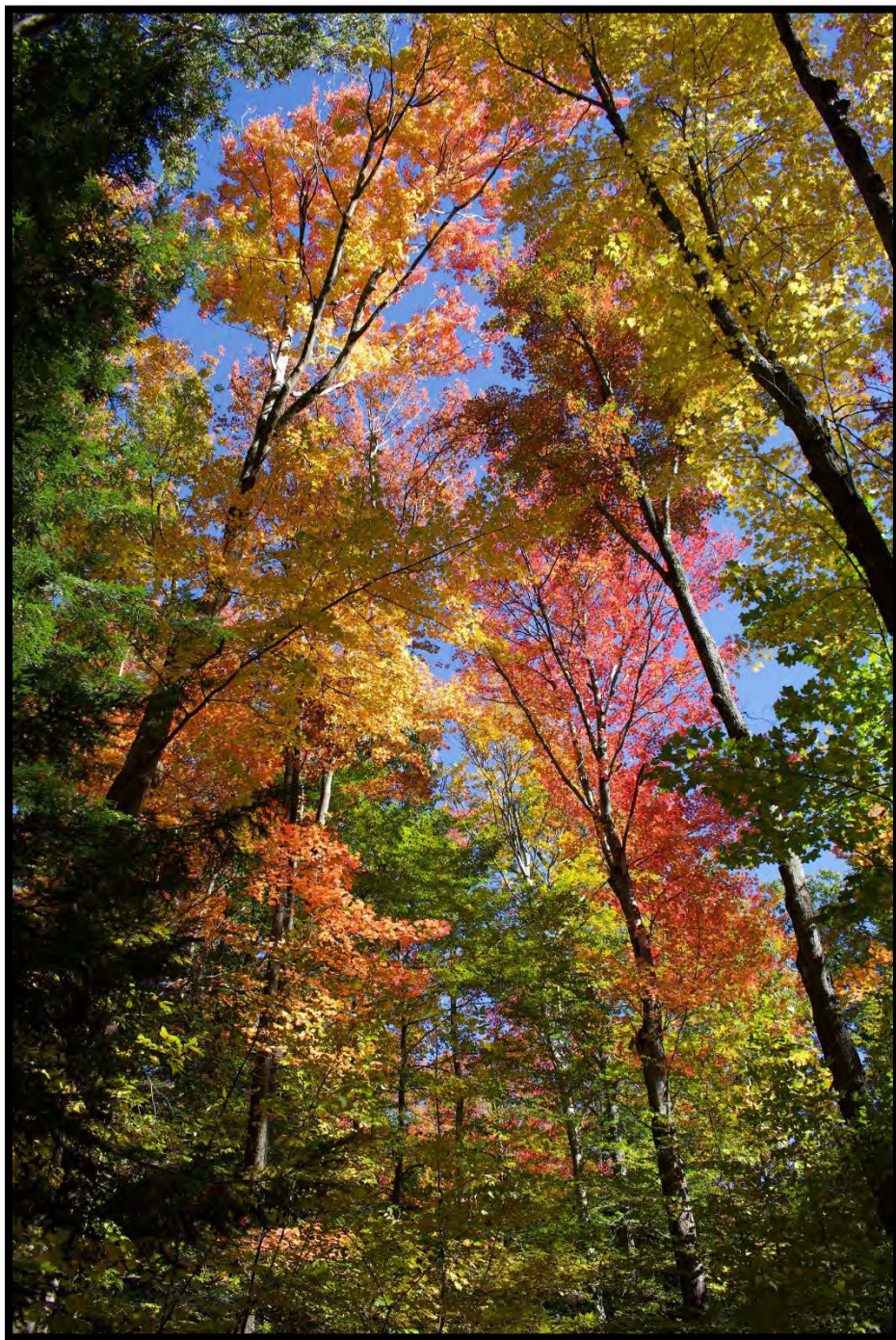
To predict peak season from the colors, use these guidelines:

- Dark Green/Little to No Change= peak is *three weeks to a month* away
- Light Green/Starting to Change= peak is *approximately two to three weeks* away
- Yellow/Approaching Best Color= peak is *approximately one week* away
- Orange/Best Color= foliage is *peaking this week*
- Red/Starting to Fade= still some nice color but won't last more than *a few more days*
- Brown/Past Peak= all or nearly all color is *gone*

Statewide Fall Foliage Overview

Cool nights and warm, sunny days have continued to stimulate steady change in Pennsylvania forests. Although most color is fading in the northern third of the Commonwealth, an abundance of vivid foliage awaits sightseers in the middle and southern Appalachians, southern Alleghenies, and southeastern forests. With oak forests peaking in the northern tier, this could be the final week for widespread color throughout Penn's Woods.

Northwestern Region



Wintergreen Gorge, Erie County. (photo by S. Laskowski)

oaks and beech are stars of the show now. A good drive to observe the autumn scenery is Route 120 along the Bucktail State Park Natural Area. Another scenic drive – Ridge Road, with stops at several scenic vistas, will give leaf peepers a good look at the rapidly changing oak foliage. This week is expected to be the last to enjoy the fall foliage before the mountainsides are mostly bare.

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (serving Warren, Crawford, Erie counties) reported that most of the hillsides in northwestern Pennsylvania have transitioned from brighter colors to more muted burnt oranges, golden yellows, and chestnut colors. Some leaves have fallen but there is still much color to be seen throughout the region. Many oaks have finally started to display their colors, and visitors to the area can expect to see attractive fall hues into early November. Suggested areas for fall foliage viewing continue to include the Allegheny River overlooks and rural routes 8, 62, 27, and US 6.

Northcentral Region

The Tioga County service forester said the region's forests are fading and most of the northern hardwood species have dropped their leaves. Oaks are peaking, showing orange and russet and it is still beautiful in the area. Birch and aspen species are still holding leaves and contributing bright yellows in the landscape. The Pine Creek Valley and Asaph areas are recommended for viewing oak stands at peak foliage.

Foresters in Elk State Forest indicated the region's colors are fading but still nice. Many of the maples and birch have shed their leaves. Oaks are now golden bronze but shedding their leaves quickly. A few red maples are showing pops of yellow and red, but



Norcross Vista on the southern end of Ridge Road, Elk State Forest. (photo by S. Johnson)



Lone Tree Vista, Susquehannock State Forest. (photo by N. Confer)

Foresters in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties) reported fading conditions in the district, with beech providing the best color now. Recommended drives are routes 44 and 144 where oak forests are still holding attractive color.

Foresters in Tiadaghton State Forest (serving Lycoming County) said the region is fading. Many trees are already bare, with maples and birches having lost all their leaves. Oaks are still retaining foliage and vary from yellow to orange to russet. The southern end of the district is recommended for the last of the viewing opportunities for the season.



Darling Run rail trail access looking west across Pine Creek. (photo by T. Oliver)



Foresters in Moshannon State Forest (serving Clearfield County) said peak is past, but beauty can still be found in the district. Many maple leaves are down, but those remaining show bright yellow and orange. Remaining sassafras and black gum are still providing nice yellow and red colors. Beech stands in the Penfield area are a vivid yellow, and oaks across the district are providing subtle yellow and orange color. Routes to consider for sightseeing include US 322 and routes 255 and 153 in the DuBois-Rockton-Penfield area, which will provide bright yellow beeches with scattered, vivid maples and a background of light yellow and orange oaks.

View from Waterville Maintenance Building, Tiadaghton State Forest. (photo by J. Jeffries)



Colors are fading in Moshannon State Forest District. (photo by C. Gulvas)

Foresters in Loyalsock State Forest (serving Sullivan, Bradford, and eastern Lycoming counties) indicated that foliage conditions in the district vary considerably by forest type. Oak and hickory forests are displaying vibrant shades, but northern hardwoods (maple, birch, cherry) are mostly bare. Best color currently can be found in southern Sullivan and Lycoming counties.



High Knob Overlook, Sullivan County. (photo by J. Jordan)

The Clinton County service forester serving Sproul State Forest District reported the area's colors are fading. Most color has passed, but spotty black gum, birch, chestnut, and oaks are still offering some color. Best viewing in the region is along the Bucktail Natural Area, the scenic drive along Route 120 from Lock Haven to Renovo and beyond. The entire hillside is a lovely orange with patches of yellow and red. Leaves are falling quickly, so don't delay a visit to the area.



Pete's Run Road, Noyes Township, Clinton County. (photo by L. Greenaway)

West-central and Southwestern Regions



A sea of gold in the Callen Run Tract of the Clear Creek State Forest, Jefferson County. (photo by J. Whitehead)

The Armstrong/Beaver/Butler County service forester serving Clear Creek Forest District reported Mercer, Clarion, and Jefferson counties are starting to fade, but Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Armstrong counties will show best color for another week. Higher elevations in Jefferson and Clarion counties are showing excellent color but are expected to begin fading. Lower elevations should remain at peak throughout most of this week. In Mercer County, many of the maple dominated forests are fading, though the oaks are changing nicely. Throughout the western region, red oak leaves have started to change and are adding a rusty color to the fall display. In Butler County, the red maples that changed early are dropping leaves; however, red maples late to the party are still adding bright yellows and reds to the landscape. It will be a colorful drive on Washington's Trail historic driving route through Butler and Lawrence counties this week, which takes travelers through Zelenople, Portersville, and Slippery Rock with opportunities to visit nearby McConnells Mill State Park, Moraine State Park, and Jennings Environmental Education Center along the way. Any trip you take this weekend in the region will be full of fall color.

Foresters in Forbes State Forest said visitors to the Laurel Highlands will find the best fall color in oak dominated forests. White oaks are shades of burgundy, while red oaks are showing golden yellows, tans, and browns. Many of the northern hardwood forests that displayed bright color in early October have lost their leaves, but there are still opportunities for viewing great fall color across southwestern Pennsylvania. Lower elevations in western portions of Westmoreland and Fayette counties will continue to show great fall color. Visit Ryerson Station State Park in southwestern Greene County for a late October hike and some of the last peak color viewing opportunities. Linn Run State Park in Westmoreland County has beautiful forests of yellow poplar and red oak displaying shades of bright yellow and golden brown. A drive along the winding country roads of Greene and Washington counties will provide viewers with beautiful hillsides of maples, hickories, yellow poplar, and oaks at their best fall color.

Central and Southcentral Regions



View from Route 219 near South Fork. (photo by J. Vinglas)

Foresters in Gallitzin State Forest representing Indiana, Blair, and Cambria counties said the region's colors are fading. Some areas in the district still have much color and other areas are past peak with substantial leaf drop. Oaks and beech are some of the only species left that still have most of their leaves. This will be the last week to observe nice color throughout the district.

The Carbon/Schuylkill County service forester serving Weiser State Forest District indicated that Schuylkill, Columbia, Northumberland, and Montour counties will still exhibit peak color this week. Excellent color can be seen on scarlet oak and black gum. Carbon County forests are starting to fade, although areas at lower elevation like Jim Thorpe are still at peak. The Pocono Plateau still provides great foliage viewing opportunities overall and any tract of Weiser State Forest will provide beautiful color.

The Dauphin/Lebanon County service forester said the region is currently peaking. Foresters are noticing brilliant tones of yellow on hickory, tulip poplar, black birch, and chestnut oak. Colors ranging from golden yellow to orange to wine and red are all on display on maples, sassafras, white oak, and dogwoods. Conditions in the area are very favorable for fall color viewing now. The Roaring Creek and Haldeman tracts are recommended for fantastic viewing opportunities.



Fall scenery from the hang glider launch site at the Haldeman Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by A. Brought)

Foresters in Bald Eagle State Forest (serving Union, Snyder, and Mifflin counties) said foliage peaked over the weekend across much of Bald Eagle State Forest. Oaks have finally changed, adding a darker hue of red to mix. While maples are still presenting a mix of vibrant reds and oranges, sassafras is still stunning with a bright yellow glow. State forest vistas are flooded with onlookers taking in the autumn display. Enjoy a colorful drive across Route 45 and through Poe Valley, with a stop at Penns View looking down across Penns Creek. Colors will start to fade later this week as the higher elevations have already started.



Bald Eagle State Forest is still at peak but fading conditions are expected after the weekend. (photo by K. Runner)



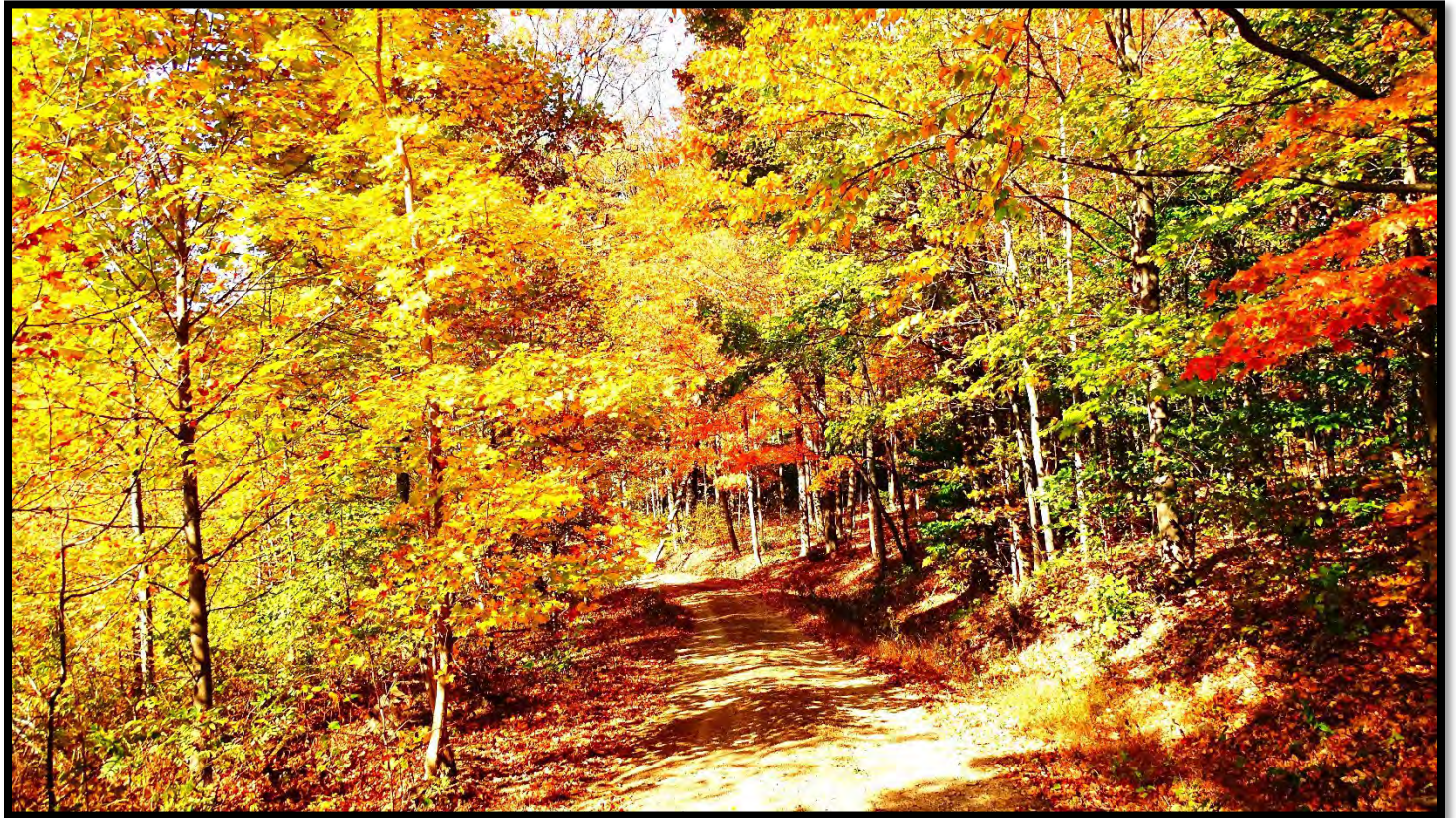
Bear Gap Vista, Rothrock State Forest. (photo by S. Pongracz)

Rothrock State Forest ranger staff reported that the district (serving Huntingdon and parts of Centre County) is peaking now. Sugar and red maples are in their best color stages, displaying deep orange. Some oaks are turning while others are still green, resulting in a mix of beautiful forest colors. Two great choices for drives are Turkey Hill Road near Greenwood Furnace State Park and Bear Gap Road as it climbs from Laurel Run Road to the Bear Gap Vista. Both offer attractive layers of colorful leaves along the shoulders and above.



Turkey Hill Road, Rothrock State Forest. (photo by S. Pongracz)

The Perry/Juniata service forester serving Tuscarora State Forest District said the region is still at peak, with beautiful color everywhere. Leaves are falling fast so take advantage of the nice weather and the fall foliage while they last. Most gated roads are open for hunting season and fall foliage viewing in the state forest.



Shearer Dug Trail, Perry County (photo by S. Shaffer)

Foresters representing Buchanan State Forest (serving Fulton, Bedford, Franklin counties) reported that foliage will peak this weekend in the region. All species have undergone change, including the oaks, which are turning yellowish-gold and brown. Leaves are falling quickly, so don't delay a visit to see the fall color. In Bedford County, Blankley and Martin Hill state forest roads are great options to view the foliage while enjoying several stops at vistas. In Fulton County, a drive down Bark Road with a stopover at the vista is recommended to see some great color. Broad Mountain Road in Franklin County also offers vistas overlooking the Cumberland Valley and the Chambersburg area.



Pleasant color at the Buchanan State Forest Resource Management Center in McConnellsburg, PA. (photo by D. Scamardella)

The Cumberland/Franklin County service forester representing Michaux State Forest said cooler nightly temperatures stimulated best color to appear in the region. Oak species are showing some nice burgundy shades and a drive on Old Forge Road in the southern half of the district is suggested for a scenic drive.



View from Chimney Rocks off the Appalachian Trail. (photo by Michaux State Forest staff)

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest District said most forests in the northern part of the district have peaked and dropped leaves. Portions of southern Lackawanna and Wyoming counties, as well as all of Luzerne County, will continue to give leaf peepers amazing views of reds, yellows, and oranges with all species currently at peak. With little to no rain/wind events in the extended forecast to strip leaves from trees, peak foliage viewing is expected to persist into the coming week. A great hike to see fall foliage this week would be along the D&L Rail-Trail outside of Mountain Top, or Nescopeck State Park.



Vosberg Neck State Park. (photo by J. Maza)

The Pike/Monroe County service forester serving Delaware State Forest District indicated that the region is fading. Oaks have begun to show fall color, with dark red and rusty brown. Most other species contributing color are either dark yellow or dark red. Visitors to Pike County should consider a trip to the Camp William Penn Tract near Snow Hill Road while targeting the southern half of the county. In Monroe County, colors are still good throughout most of the area, but will decline significantly over the next week. Places to visit include Ron Flad Park, Thunder Swamp Trail, and Tobyhanna, Gouldsboro, Promised Land, and Big Pocono State parks.

Southeastern Region

The Bucks/Lehigh County service forester serving William Penn State Forest District said the region is at peak now, with oaks adding beautiful color. Any of southeastern Pennsylvania's state parks will offer pretty fall color, as will the Gibraltar Hill, Wertz, and David R. Johnson state forest tracts. With dryness prevailing, colorful leaves may not hang on for long. Sightseers should not delay a visit to the region.



Colors have advanced at the Gibraltar Hill Tract, William Penn State Forest. (photo by H. Nowotarski)