

FLAMING FOLIAGE

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" comes to the spiritual conclusion that only God can make a tree. In that case, one must also conclude that God was most generous in creation--to Pennsylvania. Of all the species of native trees in the United States, 123 are found in Pennsylvania. Actually, the flaming foliage of autumn occurs naturally in only three principal regions of the world--that is, in the profusion that you'll find in Pennsylvania...and the southern and eastern United States is one of those areas. It is fortunate then, for Pennsylvanians, that in the Fall--and this is not public relations boasting, but a natural fact--Pennsylvania becomes the most beautiful place in the world--with the wonders of coloration all around us, a kaleidoscopic shower of sparks as the leaves rustle to the ground until winter slips in to whiten the landscape. The reason we boast of Pennsylvania's fall coloration--which we've called for years our Flaming Foliage Festival is simple--Pennsylvania has more beautiful coloration because it is the meeting ground of many northern and southern tree species. The numbers of colors on the hillsides during the Flaming Foliage Festival then is due to the numbers and varieties of trees. A walk in the autumn in Pennsylvania--in any part of Pennsylvania is a breathtaking experience--and festivals abound

in all parts of the State to show off the beauty of the landscape in a particular area--the northern tier or the southern tier have their favorite places in the festivals--Renovo, Brookville, Bradford, Somerset, Uniontown--any area in the mountains--and you have loveliness indescribable. Nonetheless, any area in Pennsylvania provides it without the sensational views of our mountain areas--simply because 29,000,000 acres of forest land are part of the heritage of Pennsylvania...Penn's Woods in the fall is a miraculous blending of breathtaking and colorful beauty. What to see in coloration? The noble hemlock, the state tree; the venerable oaks, the proud males, the stately pines, the slender birches, the sturdy ash, dogwood, hickory, plum, sassafras...and the sumac species in reds and purples. A stand of hardwoods between Galeton and Lockhaven in a tear-shaped area presents colorations of sugar maples, birch, beeches, and ash. These signal the opening of nature's annual festival of flaming foliage in Pennsylvania. Amazingly in Pennsylvania there are 40,000 miles of highway to take you into these magnificent Penn's Woods; state parks, picnic areas, forest monuments, national parks--a vast wonderland of beautiful trees, in shining pure gold and brilliant scarlets, bright orange and deep purple. And the hemlock and pine remain green to remind of the everlastingness of Penn's Woods.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.