

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

May 2019

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 8, 2019 “Forestry: Where? What? Why?” with Dr. Jim Finley

If you own woodland, you hold shared values with a community of people who find satisfaction in the practice of forestry. To ensure that our forests continue to provide for our needs today and for future owners, it is important that we share our commitment to conveying our experiences and knowledge, and thus demonstrate how we value forests. Through our shared commitments to forest health and vitality, we are building a community of people who care about the place where they live and the people who live there. Location: Panera Bread Meeting Room, 108 Trinity Pointe Dr, Washington, PA. Program begins at 7 PM.

Special Session: Participate in a conversation with the Finleys on their experience with setting up a conservation easement on their property. Jim can speak about the issues and decisions that arise as one considers this option for preserving forest land. Anyone who has heard Jim speak knows that he brings a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and insight to forest conservation planning. **Meet on May 8 at 4:30 at the Panera’s on Trinity Pointe.**

Next Field Day: Saturday, May 11, 2019 Wildflower in the Woods: We will meet at the Gregors’ Tree Farm in eastern Washington County for a wildflowers walk in the woods near their house and along a small stretch of Ten Mile Creek. The Blue-Eyed Marys have been abundant in previous years and hopefully won’t disappoint this spring! Will follow with a drone tour of other areas of their property and refreshments on the porch. Walking conditions are likely to be somewhat wet so please wear appropriate footwear. Directions will be given at the Wednesday meeting or meet at Sears at the Crown Center Mall, Washington, PA - in the parking lot in front of the auto repair area by 12:30 PM. Tour begins at 1 PM and goes until about 4 PM.

Forest Landowner Resources

PA DCNR Service Foresters are a great resource for forest landowners. They are forestry experts that can guide you on how to manage your woodlands along with how to locate and apply for assistance and resources to do it. Contacting your PA Service forester is the first step in developing a forestry management plan for your property. USDA Forest Service also has many online sources available to landowners. The [Landowner Resources](https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/private-land/landowner-resources) page (<https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/private-land/landowner-resources>) has advice for landowners with less than 1 acre to many acres of forests. There are tree identification sources, as well as steps to develop a Forest Stewardship Management plan, and information on the EQIP grant programs that are available to help pay for management practices, tree planting and management plan development.

Science-based Guidelines for Building a Bee-friendly Landscape

Many resources encourage homeowners and land care managers to create bee-friendly environments, but most of them include lists of recommended plants rarely backed by science. To rectify this, Dr. Daniel Potter surveyed 72 native and non-native woody plant species in 5 sample sites throughout the Ohio Valley region to document which species attract which bees. His findings, which he summarizes in the webcast "Woody Plants for Urban Bee Conservation," include the following:

- Both native and non-native plants attract diverse communities of bees, and non-native plants can extend the flowering season.
- Flower form matters. Plants that are horticulturally modified for aesthetic reasons, such as flowers with double petals, don't attract bees.
- Many of the best bee-magnet plants are pest free, which is attractive to homeowners.

Potter ends his presentation with a list of the best woody plants and recommendations for building a bee-friendly landscape. He suggests planting a variety of trees and shrubs that bloom at different times of the growing season -- such as a cornelian cherry dogwood that blooms in the early spring, a bottlebrush buckeye for the summer season, and a seven sons flower tree for the autumn -- to provide crucial floral resources through the winter. Other recommendations can be found in the webcast.

This 19-minute webcast is part of a module in the new Pollinators Hub on the Plant Management Network. (PMN - sources can be found here:

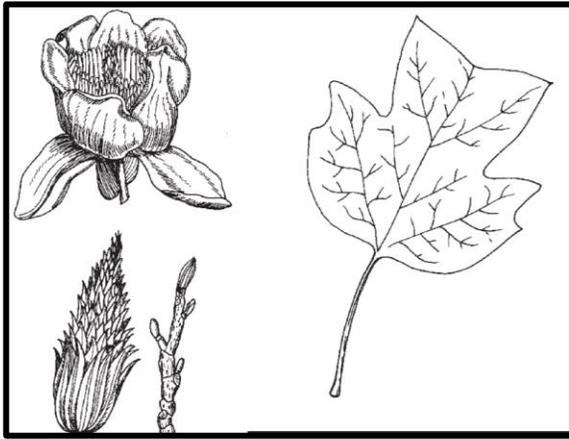
<https://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/Pollinators/>). The module includes a webcast, summary webcast, podcast, slide set, and study guide. PMN is a cooperative, not-for-profit resource for the applied agricultural and horticultural sciences. Together with more than 80 partners, which include land-grant universities, scientific societies, and agribusinesses, PMN publishes quality, applied, and science-based information for practitioners.

Reprinted from: American Phytopathological Society. "Science-based guidelines for building a bee-friendly landscape." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 5 April 2019. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190405124216.htm>.

Focus On Tree ID: Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Tulip poplar trees should be flowering in our forests any time soon. Many of our members have mentioned how this tree is one of their favorites. Its trunk tends to grow straight and tall in the woods with a crown that is high in the forest canopy where most do not notice its beautiful bloom. Perkey's "Crop Tree Field Guide" describes the bark as when young, it is gray with small, white narrow patches. When older, it changes to two-shaded gray with deepening furrows that form irregular lines.

The identifying feature on this tree is the persistent seed pod, as shown in the bottom left of the image provided. These seed pods will last through the winter and can be noticed until the leaves sprout. The leaf also serves as a distinguishing feature. It is a simple, alternative with four to six lobes and a unique squared off, notched apex.



Information for this article was compiled by Gay Thistle from: DCNR Common Trees of Pennsylvania, http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/document/document/dcnr_20029752.pdf and Perkey and Wilkins: "Crop Tree Field Guide: Selecting and Managing Crop Trees in Central Appalachians" October 2001

Review of April Meetings

Everything You Want to Know About Land Conservation Easements

April 10, Wed: Chris Beichner, President/CEO, Allegheny Land Trust. Chris gave an informative talk about what conservation easements were and were not. He included detailed examples which included a variety of conditions and ways to personalize a plan to meet the needs and wants of the landowner. Conservation easements do not limit a landowners mineral rights, but might restrict some surface activity. Plans do not have to include the entire property. Allegheny Land Trust is one of three different land trust organizations that work in southwest PA.

Tour of a Timber Harvest - Year Two: On a beautiful Saturday, the group met at Bob Brown's Tree Farm in Greene County. Jim Elze and Bob Brown guided us through the 2017 timber harvest where Jim had been hired as the Consulting Forester. All in all, the forest looked healthy. The trees left standing were certainly reacting to the new found light. Some multiflora rose will have to be treated, but most of the forest floor was still open for new seedling growth, of which there were a few. Deer sign was apparent - as in most of our woods. There was not much damage from the high winds the area experienced this winter beside the few dead ash falls, which are expected.

SWPWO 2019 Calendar

June 15, Sat 1-4 PM	The Value of Trees for the Watershed: a representative from the Stroud Research Center will join us on a tour of Thistles' Tree Farm in western Greene County to discuss his experiences planting trees in watershed restoration work. We will do demonstration plantings and look at invasive control. Dave will begin with a discussion of the work at Stroud and we will then head off onto the farm to look at work in progress and plant some trees. We will do both tree and invasive ID as we go along and focus on control of invasives. Wear appropriate gear for a hike. Call 724-499-5190 for directions.
July 13, Sat Evening	Owl Walk- Take a walk in the woods and learn how to call and spot local owls (if we are lucky). Learn from the experts.
Aug 9, Friday	Barrel Stave Factory Tour- Visit to Wilson Forest Products in

1 PM	Jefferson, PA-a local agribusiness that serves international customers from Greene County, PA. See how barrels are made from local white oak and learn how they are prepared for wineries and distilleries around the world. Meet at factory at 1216 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson, PA before 1 PM
Sept 14, Sat 1-evening	Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social -Tour of conservation practices of Brian Adair's woodlot in Conneaut, PA, where he manages his property for a variety of recreational uses. The tour will be followed by a social hour and dinner on the water at Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club just down the road.
Sept 28, Sat	2019 PFA Annual Symposium: Wildlife & Woodlands , Toftrees Resort & Conference Ctr, State College (http://paforestry.org/) Join other PA woodland owners for educational sessions that will assist you in managing your woods, water and wildlife.
Oct 6, Sun 1PM	Annual Walk in Penn's Woods - This is a statewide program where walks in the woods are offered all over the state. Visit this site to find a walk for you: https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/ or stay local and walk on the Burnham Wood lot where the tour will take you by vernal ponds, a variety of tree plantings of different age classes, and beautiful Fall foliage on and around the country road.
Nov 13, Wed 7 PM	Forest Management Practices Using Drones: This meeting will focus on recent developments in the world of UAS (otherwise known as drones). We have some exciting work going on locally and will present the technology and various applications of the technology to woodland management. This will be a follow-up to our meeting of two years ago. The technology is really flying along (pun intended). So I will stop droning on (pun intended) and hope to see you there. Greene County Airport hanger
Nov 16, Sat 1-4 PM	Demonstration of Forest Management Practices Using Drones- visit a site where drones have been used as part of forestland management practices. Location to be determined.

SWPWO Purpose

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners (SWPWO), a not for profit association, is an organization of individuals interested in sound woodland management practices to encourage the diverse use of forests for timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection and recreation, and to promote this multiple-use philosophy through education and technical assistance for the benefit of the membership and general public.

<p><u>Membership Information</u> Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to: SWPWO 261 2nd St, Oakmont 15139 If sending in dues, please include name, address, phone number and an e-mail address. Membership to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland</p>	<p><u>SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u> President – Mark Fajerski (2018) Vice President – John Gregor (2018) Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018) Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position) Director – Melissa Gregor (2018) Director – Harold Thistle (2019) Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018)</p>
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Owners Association is \$10 per year for an individual and \$15 per year for a household. Keep your membership up to date to continue to receive the newsletter and yearly calendar.

**Advisor-Bill Wentzel
Advisor- Arlyn Perkey**

Editors: Gay Thistle and Bobbi Cressey-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome Please send it to gaythistle@gmail.com