

# SWPWO



September 2010

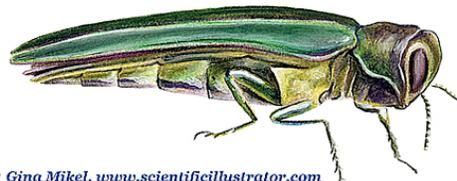
*Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners*

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## **Next Meeting: September 8 Emerald Ash Borer and PA Game Commission Updates**

During the September meeting, we will hear the latest updates on the Emerald Ash borer insect which is, basically, killing many of the ash trees in its path. The Emerald ash borer is confirmed to be in Allegheny County. Washington County is in a quarantine situation where ash wood cannot be moved in or out of the county. There are two varieties of ash trees that grow in our area and all two types will be affected by this invasive insect. Topics that will be discussed at the meeting include; identifying ash trees, identifying signs of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infection, and what to do about it. This section of the talk will focus on a nationwide effort to collect seed before the total destruction of this species (remember the chestnuts). The methods of seed collection will be talked about at the meeting and again during the Saturday field trip (see more information below). Forms with details about this seed collection effort will be available at both meetings.

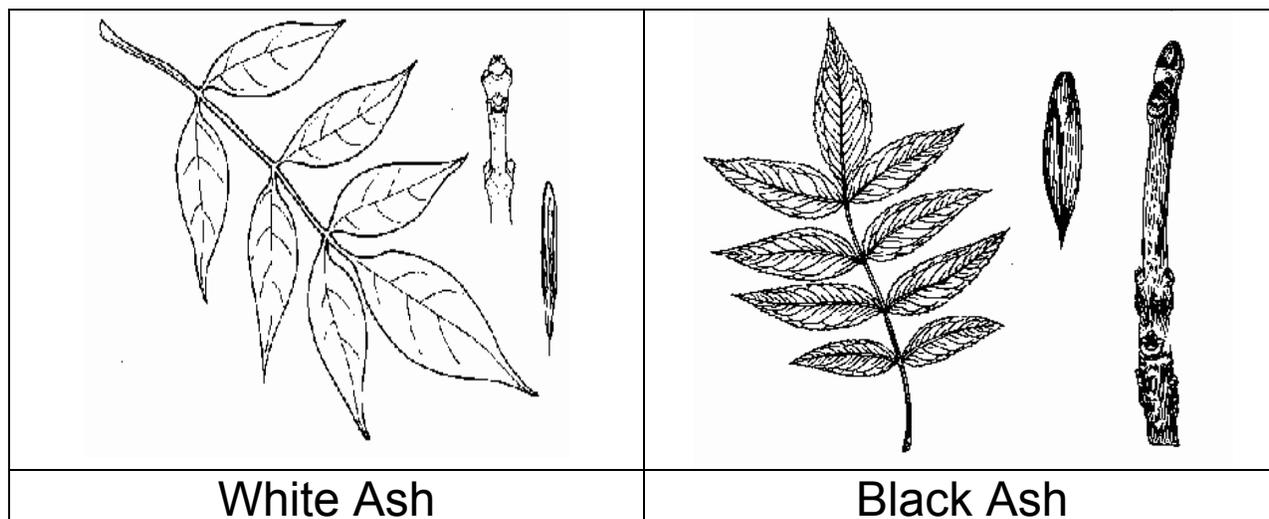
As an added bonus, Rodney Burns, PA Wildlife Conservation Officer will update us on the latest information on deer populations in our area and other news from the PA Game Commission. Mr. Burns will be available for a brief question and answer period. Meeting Time: 7:00 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA.



*Emerald Ash Borer (Adult) by Gina Mikel, [www.scientificillustrator.com](http://www.scientificillustrator.com)*

## **September 11 Field Trip Collecting Ash Seeds**

Description: The emerald ash borer has eliminated ash trees from forest populations in Michigan. The thought is that the emerald ash borer will go through the ash trees and then be out of this source and die off. After this threat is gone, scientists would like to have a native seed source ready to be planted once again in our forests. There is a national effort to collect these seeds now. In this tour you will learn how to collect ash seeds, how to preserve them, and where we can donate our seeds for preservation efforts Time: 1:00 PM Place: Thistle Tree Farm in W. Greene County Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA



Source of pictures "Trees of Pennsylvania"

## **Emerald Ash Borer Facts**

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, northern Illinois and Maryland in 2006, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia in 2007, Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia in summer 2008, and Minnesota, New York, and Kentucky in the spring of 2009. Since its discovery, EAB has:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines (Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Kentucky) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

Information for this article was taken from the website <http://www.emeraldashborer.info> or Google "emerald ash borer" for this complete and updated website.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary Farm Bill program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and maintaining and improving existing conservation systems.

CSP is available to all operations regardless of size. Eligible lands include: cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. Applicant must have:

- Records established with the USDA Farm Service Agency
- Effective control of the land for the term of the contract
- Be in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land (HEL), wetland conservation and adjusted gross income provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Include the eligible land in their entire agricultural or forestry operation

CSP pays participants for conservation performance through 5 year contracts for activities installed and maintained in the previous year. Southwestern Pennsylvania has identified Animals, Soil Erosion, Soil Quality, Water Quality and Water Quantity as our top resource concerns. Written documentation of conservation activity is a key component of this program.

The Conservation District, working in partnership with Penn's Corner R C & D, is promoting this continuous sign-up program administered by the USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service. For more information or to receive a self screening checklist to see if your operation will qualify please contact our office at 724-852-5278 (Greene County) or (724) 228-6774 (Washington County) on the web at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html)

*Reference:* By Laurel Rush for the Greene County Conservation District 2010 summer newsletter *USDA-NRCS, CSP fact sheet, 6/2010.*

### WOW! Still time to sign up

SWPWO has received a grant from the Tree Farm Association to put on forestry program. John Burnham has spearheaded this task and has put together a great day in the woods. WOW or Woodland Owners Walk will take place on Saturday September 18 at John Burnham's award winning tree farm from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The days programming will include the following topics; crop tree management, portable saw mill demonstration, directional tree felling, planting and maintaining black walnuts, planting and maintaining American chestnut, and planting for habitat development. The Tree Farm association will speak on their programs also. There will free breakfast and lunch and door prizes. There is no cost to attend but please register by September 8 at our website [www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo](http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo).

## **Executive Committee for the year 2009**

### **Officers**

Bob Daley- President  
Mike Irvin -Vice Pres.  
Gay Thistle- Secretary  
Maria Piantanida - Treasurer

### **Board of Directors**

Dave Cressey  
Mark Fajerski  
Jessica Wise

### **Advisors**

Bill Wentzel Arlyn Perkey

### **Past Presidents**

John Burnham  
Harold Thistle

## **Membership Information**

### **For 2010**

**Membership dues for 2010 are due now and will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:**

**SWPWO  
2506 Hollywood Dr  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

**If sending in dues, please include name, address, phone number and an e-mail address. Membership to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association is \$10 per year for an individual and \$15 per year for a household.. Keep your membership up to date to receive a calendar of the 2010 programs and to continue to receive the newsletter.**

### ***Our Purpose***

*Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners (SWPWO), a not for profit association, is an organization of individuals interested in sound woodland management practices which 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.*

**View photos of the Summer Tours on our SWPWO Website**

**[www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo](http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo)** for the most up to date information about our organization and connections to other resources to help you manage your woodlot

**SWPWO 2010 Calendar of Events**

**September 18 Special Event with the PA Tree Farm System  
Woodland Owners Walk**

Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (ret.)

Bob McBride, Service Forester, Greene, Fayette, Somerset

Gary Micsky, Penn State Extension and American Chestnut Foundation representative

Tom Fitzgerald, Service Forester (ret.) and Tree Farm System representative

Jose Taracido, Farm and Habitat Program, California University

Jim Elze, Ohio State Service Forester (ret.)

**Description:** Enhance your understanding of the woods for recreation, production, wildlife and aesthetics with a varied agenda including: crop tree management, chainsaw safety and directional felling, small scale milling and drying, tree planting, american chestnut recovery, and habitat development

**Registration is required for this event. See website below for details.**

Time: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Place: Burnham Woodlot, East Finley, PA

**October 23 Picnic with Plant Identification Competition and Potato Gun Competition (Members, Friends and Family)**

Time: To be determined

Place: To be determined

**November 10 Meeting Non-Timber Forest Products: Maple Syrup and Ginseng**

**Speaker:** Vince and Wayne

More information will be forthcoming

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: First Floor Meeting Room, Courthouse Square Building, 100 W. Beau Street, Washington, PA. Free Parking: enter through the Beau Street B-Level entrance at the base of the Courthouse Square Building

**November 13 Field Trip Winter Tree Identification: the Basics**

**Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Ret.)**

This field trip will cover the basics of tree identification in the winter. The discussion will focus on trees common in our woods of SW PA and that have a particular value for hardwood. Be prepared to take notes and wear appropriate clothing for the weather and proper shoes for the walking.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Waynesburg Commons

Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

**Newsletter Info.**

This newsletter is published about eight times each year. The editors are Gay Thistle and John Burnham. Articles written by our members are welcome. Please submit them to Gay at [thistle@windstream.net](mailto:thistle@windstream.net).

Next newsletter- around November 1, 2010.

