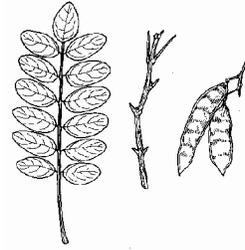


SWPWO



Black Locust

Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Assoc.

Sept 2012

www.busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo

NEXT MEETING and FIELD TRIP

September 12 Meeting

WED, 7 PM: Waynesburg, PA

Herbicide Use 101

Sandy Feather, Commercial Horticulture Educator (Allegheny County Extension), will speak about the safe use of herbicides on common woodland invasives. She will demonstrate proper techniques, tools, and best practices for herbicide use, and will touch on the benefits of becoming a certified pesticide applicator and how to do so. Safety issues will be stressed, as well as technical considerations for successful eradication: timing, mixology, weather conditions, spray coverage, leafage, interrupting the reproductive cycle, etc.

Location: Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg

September 15 Field Trip

SAT, 1 to 4

War in the Woods: Controlling Invasives

We will participate in a field demonstration of spraying techniques in the control of multi-flora rose, honeysuckle, barberry, grapevine, olive, bittersweet, et.al. Please dress in protective clothing--long sleeves, long pants, gloves, hat—for we are dealing with a form of poison. The SWPWO Backpack Sprayer Expeditionary Force, Brevet General A. W. Perkey commanding, will be conducting drills! The theater of battle is **Burnham Crossroads** on Birch Rd off Rte #231, just north of the Greene/Washington County line. Meet at John's Picnic Pavilion near the Burnham Tree Farm sign.

Car Pooling: Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds at 12:30

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 Family Picnic Burnham Tree Farm

[Note the new time of month for our annual get-together. It has been moved up 2 weeks to the beginning of Oct.]

The main dish of roast pork is provided, with utensils and soft drinks. Bring a covered dish; BYOB. Cider press, woods walk, tree ID, bragging/lamenting, comparing notes, dissecting the passing scene (might the Bucs still be playing?), are among the activities beginning about 2. Dinner served at 5.

Arlyn Perkey is perhaps our foremost proponent of the necessity of herbicide use for the committed tree-grower. He offers the following, which we include here as an introduction to, and example of, the topics to be covered in our September events.

Mixing Herbicide Solutions Using a Concentrate

It is usually much cheaper to purchase herbicide in a concentrated form and mix the solution that is needed for specific applications.

For example, my last herbicide purchase was for 2.5 gallons of glyphosate that has the brand name Ranger Pro. It has a concentration of 41%. I can use this one product to accomplish the 2 applications I most commonly use on my tree farms. I apply herbicide to the cambium of cut stumps to prevent re-sprouting. I also do foliar application of this same herbicide. The cut stump treatment to the cambium requires a much higher concentration than a foliar application to the leaves. Since I mix my own solutions, I have the flexibility of using 1 product to do 2 tasks.

To mix any herbicide solution, it is important to read and follow the directions printed on the label. This label is attached to the container of herbicide, or in my case, was also available on the internet.

CUT STUMP TREATMENT SOLUTION

The label for Ranger Pro recommends using a 50% to 100% solution of the 41% concentrate. For years, I mixed a solution that was 50% concentrate and 50% water. With most targeted species, I have achieved satisfactory results. However, recently I have encountered some species (sycamore) where I have not achieved the desired level of control with this mixture. I may need to move closer to using 100% concentrate on plants that are less susceptible to glyphosate applied to the cambium.

FOLIAR APPLICATION SOLUTION

The label for Ranger Pro recommends solutions for several species commonly targeted in forest management treatments. For example, multi-flora rose can be treated with a 1% solution. Most species I need to treat have a recommended solution of 1% to 2% for foliar application. The label has a table that shows that a 1% solution can be obtained by mixing 1 1/3 ounces of concentrate with 1 gallon (128 ounces) of water. Since a 1%-2% solution will be effective with most of the species I want to treat, I usually mix 1.5 ounces of concentrate with each gallon of water. I generally mix 2 gallons of solution at a time in a 2.5 gallon container. This gives me room to add 3 ounces of concentrate to 2 gallons of water in the container and then swish it around to obtain good mixing. Then I pour the solution into my back pack sprayer to apply it to vegetation. If I am going to be treating a less susceptible species, I increase the solution to 2% by using 2 ounces per gallon (4 ounces/2 gallon).

With any herbicide you want to use, it is important to find the label, read the instructions, and heed all precautions. You can only kill the target species once. There is no need to apply more herbicide than needed to accomplish that goal. You don't get extra credit for overkill.

Becket's Run Woodlands Redux

On August 18, Janet Sredy and Raul Chiesa hosted 16 people, including members of the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Assoc., Appalachian Forest Consultants, and PA Game Commission (PGC) Wildlife Diversity Biologist Tammy Colt.

Janet and Raul reviewed the history of their 110-acre former farmland, which was abandoned after the 1948 Donora Smog Incident and in recent years has sustained negative impacts from natural gas development. The property exemplifies the devastating effect on natural forest succession of exotic invasive plant species and irresponsible off-road vehicle use by trespassers. In an effort to reverse these trends, Raul & Janet in 2007 secured the ownership of the property and began to implement forest and wildlife habitat conservation plans designed to fight invasive plant species and trespassers, and improve the health of their forest.

The walking tour started on an untreated area on Route 136 dominated by oriental bittersweet and wild grapevine, making it virtually impenetrable by foot. Next, we visited the North side of the property (62 acres) which was treated 1 year ago with a broadcast foliar herbicide application. Here, the spice bush and multi-flora rose are dead and oriental bittersweet and wild grapevine have been severely set back. The forest is now walk-able. We saw early signs of native hardwood and conifer regeneration, and a second targeted herbicide application is scheduled for next week.

We then visited a 1.5 acre area planted in the Spring with a tree and shrub mix for wildlife, especially bird habitat. This entire planting site is protected from deer browsing by a baited electrified fence, planting tubes, and cages around selected hardwood seedlings. We moved to a one acre area where a 34 year-old stand of aspen was clear cut last fall after the herbicide treatment. The coppice regeneration of aspen is attracting new birds and is a good area to spot wildlife.

Janet & Raul certainly face a challenge managing their property and protecting the Becketts Run Biodiversity Area within which it is located. They have found remarkable encouragement from fellow Woodlands Owners, technical support from DCNR and the PGC, and financial support from the US Dept. of Agriculture/NRCS, and from gas companies through pipeline right-of-way agreements with special provisions for reforestation, right-of-way management as wildlife habitat, and invasive species and trespass control. Janet & Raul most recently enrolled a landowner of a bordering 500-acre parcel in a wildlife habitat management program with the PGC.

This community-wide effort promises to be a success story in the making.

Brown Leaves on Verdant Hillside

This has been an interesting summer. Across Pennsy, temperatures have set new record highs. Many hillsides display splotches of subtle brown foliage. It was not that heavy brown of a dead oak or maple. It was more of a lacy brown; you could almost see through it. Along roadsides and field edges it was easy to see that locust leafminer had been busy hollowing out the inner workings of individual black locust leaves. Surprising was the distribution of locust across the forested landscape -- they often extended from the easy to see places up the hills to show where, maybe, there were once fields.

Black locust grows in diverse places and often seems to tolerate relatively hostile conditions -- strip mines to dry stony old fields. Often, it seems to produce its leaves late in the spring and lose them early, even before fall begins. Locust leafminer often terminates its growing season. That is to say, the browning of black locust leaves is common in Pennsylvania. It seems to happen, to some extent, every year. What seemed unusual this year was the timing and extent of activity. It seemed to reach a peak several weeks earlier than usual.

-----**Jim Finley**

2012 Remaining Calendar of Events

All meetings, field trips, and tours are free and open to the public

October 24 Meeting

WED, 7 PM: Washington, PA

Genetic Diversity in our Forests

Cynthia Morton, Botanist, Carnegie Museum, will discuss the implications of monoculture tree planting, including tree cloning, as practiced in urban settings as well as in the countryside.

October 27 Field Trip

SAT, 1 to 4

The Urban Wood-scape

We will venture to the city of Pittsburgh to visit Schenley Arboretum. Philip Gruska, Director of Park Management, Maintenance & Policy with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, will lead the tour.

Our 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.

Membership Information

Membership dues 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 continue to receive the newsletter and yearly calendar.

Executive Committee, Officers for 2012

Gay Thistle - President

Mike Irvin -Vice President

David Cressey- Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Maria Piantanida - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Mark Fajerski, Russell Orme, Raul Chiesa

Advisors

Bill Wentzel, Arlyn Perkey, Russell Gibbs - Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

Past Presidents

John Burnham, Harold Thistle, Bob Daley