

SWPWO 2010 Calendar



- **February Field Trip (Exact date TBD)**
Tapping Maple Trees—Making Syrup
Vince Gillen, and
Wayne Fiola

Description: Many Pennsylvania woodland owners have sugar maples on their property. If you have ever wondered about the process for tapping your trees and making your own maple syrup, this field trip is for you. You will have a chance to see how the trees are tapped, visit a "sugar shack" where the sap is reduced to syrup, see the equipment used in the process. This is a small scale operation that others can adopt if they are interested in homemade maple syrup.

Description: There will be a bonfire with hot cider, cocoa, cookies, and marshmallows at the end of the tour. This is a perfect field trip for the whole family and a good opportunity to introduce the concept of forest stewardship to children and grandchildren.

Description: Sign up: Because tapping the trees and collecting the sap is determined by weather conditions, it is not possible to set a date for the field trip in advance. Those who plan to attend, should contact Maria Piantanida by phone (412-241-2747) or email (mariap@pitt.edu). Once the sap starts to flow, we will contact all those who have expressed an interest to give them the date, time, location, and directions. Vince and Wayne will try to arrange their schedule so that they are reducing the sap on a Saturday. They cannot guarantee this, however, because of uncertainties about when and how much sap starts to flow.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Fiola and Gillen Woodlands north of Burgettstown

- **March 31 Meeting**
American Chestnut Revival
Gary Micsky, Penn State University

Description: Basic chestnut culture: We will briefly discuss the history of American chestnut and how the chestnut blight nearly eliminated the species from our forests. We will talk about the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation and other scientists to develop blight resistance, what is currently happening in PA, and ways local people can get involved. We will spend time explaining why we encourage people to begin by planting open pollinated American trees even though we know that they will eventually develop blight.

Description: We will introduce the following subjects in the classroom and follow-up with actual demonstration at the Saturday field day: Importance of Site Selection & Preparation, Soil Fertility Issues & Testing, Soil Amendments to Improve Seedling Establishment, Direct Seeding vs. Transplants, Proper Planting Depth, Seed/Seedling Protection Techniques, Tree Aftercare, Record Keeping & Follow-up Evaluations

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

- **April 3 Field Trip**
Chestnut Planting
Gary Micsky, Penn State University

Description: On Site Planting and aftercare will be demonstrated. If you are interested in planting Chestnuts on your farm, these meetings are the basic training and are essential.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: John Burnham's Tree Farm

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

- **May 12 Meeting**
Sustainable Forestry: How do you know when you see it?
Dr. Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, Penn State University

Description: How do you know if the timber harvesting decisions you make (or others make for you) are likely to lead to a sustainable outcome. Learn about the critical variables to consider as you plan a timber harvest to create a productive forest with future management options.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

- **May 15 Field Trip**
Sustainability Assessment: Practical Application
Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Ret.)

Description: WHAT WILL YOU SEE ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010?

Description: Catherine's Knob was "timbered" about 2 months before we purchased it in 2000. Yes, it was "select cut." Every tree that had a decent market value at the time was selected and cut. Every tree that didn't have was left to grow, expand its crown, and occupy more growing space. Using cost-share assistance, initial rehabilitation work in the harvest area was completed between December 2001 and May 2003. Since then, additional treatment of invasive species and tree tubing (placing tree tubes over germinating acorns and natural seedlings to protect them from deer browsing) has been done to establish desirable regeneration where it is needed most. Additional work is needed and is planned for this spring.

Description: We will look at various sample locations and evaluate their sustainability using the SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA'S TREATMENT UNIT SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM. We will visit one location where no post-harvest treatment was done and evaluate how it has fared during the first 10 years following the "select cut." We will look at other locations where a variety of

rehabilitation treatments have been applied, and evaluate their sustainability. They include:

Description: 1. residual overstory removal, invasive species treatment, and tubing of acorns and chestnuts

Description: 2. residual overstory removal without treatment of invasive species or tree tubing

Description: 3. treatment of undesirable stems, with retention of some potential crop trees

Description: 4. traditional crop tree management treatment

Description: Besides observing the results of the past 10 years of treated, untreated, and partially treated areas, we will discuss relating observations on-the-ground to answering questions on the form.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Arlyn Perkey's Tree Farm in Monongalia County, WV

Directions: From the Junction of Routes 21 and 218 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania: Travel south on Route 218 to the town of Blacksville, WV, just across the PA/WV border. Route 218 joins with Route 7 for a short distance. From 218 turn left, going east on combined routes 218 and 7. At the eastern edge of Blacksville, within sight of the Dollar Store, Route 218 again splits from Route 7 and turns south toward Daybrook and Fairview. Daybrook is the first community south of Blacksville. The Daybrook Elementary School on the left is a prominent landmark. After the school, 218 curves sharply to the left and crosses a small stream. On the right is the Daybrook Church of Christ. At the road junction, adjacent to the church parking lot, angle to the right onto Upper Days Run Road, route 18. There are three opportunities to turn right off Upper Days Run Road. Do not take any of them. Travel up the hollow about 3 miles. You will see a white farm house on the right and a truck/school bus turn-around on your left. This is the end of state road maintenance. There is a Tree Farm sign and Forest Stewardship sign between 2 green metal gates. You can also see tree tubes and a Perkey Tree Farm sign, to confirm that you have arrived. Please park on the grass behind either gate to avoid blocking the turn around.

Meet at: Foundation Coal Aquatics Center parking lot (across the street on Rt 21 from the fairgrounds) at 12:30 PM to carpool

- **June 11 Tour** [Photos]

- **Visit to Keystone Cooperage Barrel Manufacturing Plant**

- Brian and Mike Wilson

- Description: Roll out the barrel. We're going to have some fun! Come see, from beginning to end, how white oak logs are cut into staves (narrow strips of wood) and then made into wine barrels.

- Description: The Wilson Forest Products Company has been making barrel parts (the staves) in Greene County since 1931. But in 2001 the owners Brian and Mike Wilson, grandsons of the company's founder, decided to get into the actual barrel-making side of the business, which they named Keystone Cooperage. The white oak tree grows well in SW PA and it is the wood of choice for barrels, since its individual cells are impervious to liquids.

- Description: Once cut, the staves go through a process of assembly, a hot water bath, application of steel bands, toasting of the inside of the barrel, and sanding the outside to an even surface.

- Description: The company sells over 5,000 52-gallon barrels each year and hopes to increase this number in the near future.

- **Note Unusual Day Friday**

- Time: 1:00 PM

- Place: Keystone Cooperage Barrel Manufacturing Plant

- Directions: From I79 South from Washington PA, take the Ruff Creek exit (the exit before Waynesburg). At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto US 19 South and then take the next left onto PA 221 East. Take PA 221 East until it ends at PA 188. Follow PA 188 East (Jefferson Road) for approximately 1.5 miles. The address of Wilson Forest Products (Keystone Cooperage) is 1216 Jefferson Road.

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

- **July 17 Summer Tour**

- **Other Agricultural uses for Property: Tour of Winery , Wine Tasting, and Social**

- Description: The Thistlethwaite family farm is in a beautiful setting. The land has been farmed for many years, in a traditional sense. Eight years ago the Thistlethwaite's started a new agricultural adventure- viticulture. From their own grapes, they now produce a nice variety of red, white and sparkling wines. We will be given a tour of the vineyards and the wine making facility. We will be offered a wine tasting in a tastefully remodeled barn that has a bar made from cherry wood harvested from their property. We will also share an assortment of hearty appetizers in the outdoor gazebo. There will be a cost associated with this tour and we will have to have reservation from those who want to attend. Directions can be given at the time of the reservation. More information will be available later in the year. Wear sturdy shoes for walking and appropriate clothing for the weather.

- **Note change from original date**

- Time: 1:00 PM

- Place: Thistlethwaite Winery, Jefferson, PA in Greene County

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

- **August 7 Field Trip**

- **Tour of Maple Hills Tree Farm**

- Description: At Maple Hills they've planted several hundred seedlings in an open field overlooking I-70 which include red oak, chestnut oak, white ash, and black walnut. There are geodetic survey stones located at 1400 ft. and there is a fabulous view of the highway. One of the original settlers to the area is buried on the property and his tombstone is in relatively good condition. There is also a sugar maple that is almost 5' dbh.

- Time: 1:00 PM

- Place: Home and woodlot of Mark and Debi Fajerski, outside of Claysville, Washington County

- Directions: From Washington, take I-70 west and get off at the Claysville exit (exit 6). At the bottom of the ramp, turn right. Turn right again on Route 40 (Exxon here). From the Exxon, drive approximately 200 yards then turn left

onto the asphalt driveway. The house is a stone ranch.

Meet at 12:30pm at Sears Parking Area, Crown Center Shopping Mall, Washington, PA

- **September 8 Meeting**

- **Game Comission Update**

- Rodney Burns, PA Wildlife Conservation Officer

- **Emerald Ash Borer Update**

- Rick Turcotte, Ph.D., US Forest Service Entomologist

- Time: 7:00 PM

- Place: Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

- **September 11 Field Trip**

- **Collecting Ash Seeds**

- Description: They say the emerald ash borer will eliminate ash trees from our forest populations. 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.

- Time: 1:00 PM

- Place: Thistles's Tree Farm in W Greene County, PA

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

- **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 [\[Website\]](#)

- **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**

- Vince and Wayne

- Description: What does it take to produce a gallon of maple syrup? What is involved in cultivating ginseng? Join us tonight as Vince and Wayne share their experiences with these two non-timber forest products. Several years ago, Vince and Wayne began working together to tap sugar maples, collect sap, and boil it into maple syrup. They will explain how they got started, what is involved in the sugaring process, and tips for avoiding mistakes.

- Description: More recently, Vince and Wayne have begun to incorporate ginseng patches into their wood lots. They will discuss what motivated them to undertake this project and explain where they bought starter plants, how to select and prepare areas for planting, and what type of on-going maintenance is needed.

- 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.)

- Time: 1:00 PM

- Place: Waynesburg Park, Waynesburg, PA

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