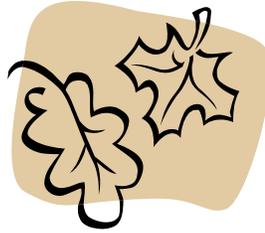


SWPWO



November 2010

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners

November 10 Meeting

Non-Timber Forest Products: Maple Syrup and Ginseng

Join us for our last meeting of the year. We will spend a small amount of time on some matters that will prepare us for the new year. Elections will take place and dues will be collected for the 2011 calendar year. Dues remain the same: \$10 for single and \$15 for the household. Pay up early so that you won't miss our 2011 calendar of events which will include a visit to a maple tapping facility in February or March (whenever the sap is running) that belongs to our speakers for this night- Vince Gillen and Wayne Fiola.

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. 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. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Time: 7:00 PM at the 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

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. The walking will be easier because this tree id course will take place in the park setting of Waynesburg Commons (the green space between downtown Waynesburg and Waynesburg University). Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Ret.) will guide us in this educational exercise. Be prepared to take notes and wear appropriate clothing for the weather and proper shoes for the walking. Binoculars are optional. We will meet at the gazebo. There is plenty of parking around the commons. The gazebo is near Richhill St. and across from the Waynesburg Presbyterian Church north of High Street. This event is free and open to the public.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Waynesburg Commons

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



A Little History

Ritchie Park (2 acres) which is part of Waynesburg Commons has open lawn and a gazebo. Waynesburg Borough was formed in 1796. The land that is Ritchie Park today was declared the commons to provide pasture for the lot-holders. It was converted to a park in 1883 by Petition to the court by J.G. Ritchie. Between 1987-1988, a major renovation included a construction of an octagonal Victorian bandstand in Ritchie Park, which replaced the original bandstand that was erected in 1901. This bandstand area is also known as "Gazebo Park". From the Greene County website

Slate of SWPWO Candidates for the 2011 Election of Officers

The election of Officers for next year takes place during the November meeting according to SWPWO bi-laws. The Nominating Committee has selected the following members as candidates;

To replace Bob Daley as president; Gay Thistle

To replace Gay Thistle as Secretary: Jessica Wise

To replace Jessica Wise as a member of the Board: Russ Orme

Please thank Bob Daley for his productive terms of service as our President. Bob is looking forward to being able to spend more time managing the SWPWO website. Thanks for your years of service.

SWPWO has an Award Winning Tree Farmer

The Pennsylvania Tree Farmer of the Year was awarded to one of SWPWO's founding members, John Burnham on September 11, 2010 at the Pennsylvania Forestry Association's annual meeting. Congratulations John.

Osage-Orange Notes

Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera*) is a dense wood. It is valued for making bows and is noted for its hardness, flexibility, durability, and rot resistance. The wood is twice as strong and harder than hickory. The heartwood of osage-orange is the most decay resistant of all North American hardwoods and has more BTU's per unit volume than any other dried wood. It is native to Oklahoma and east Texas. It has naturalized around the country because it was used as fencerows before the invention of barbwire.

Excerpt from *Forest Leaves, Autumn issue. Volume 20. No. 2*

Gift Ideas from a Woodland Owner

<i>From a Woodland Owner</i>	<i>To a Woodland Owner</i>
<p>Dark chocolate covered black walnuts Hammons Nut Emporium 1-800-872-6879 www.hammonsnutemporium.com</p>	<p>Black walnut nut wizard to pick up walnuts with ease Hammons Nut Emporium 1-800-872-6879 www.hammonsnutemporium.com</p>
<p>Membership to the American Chestnut Foundation 828-281-0047 www.acf.org</p>	<p>Membership to the PA American Chestnut Foundation 814-863-7192 www.patct.org</p>
<p>Dbh tape Forestry Suppliers 800-647-5368 www.forestry-suppliers.com</p>	<p>Cruiser vest Forestry Suppliers 800-647-5368 www.forestry-suppliers.com</p>
<p>A grapevine wreath</p>	<p>Glyphosate (the active ingredient in Round-up)</p>
<p>Hand carved jewelry made from gourds Artisans at 52 E. High St Waynesburg, PA</p>	<p>A spalted ash wood turned bowl Artisans at 52 E. High St Waynesburg, PA</p>
<p>Indoor Shiitake mushroom patch Fungi Perfecti 360- 426- 9292 www.fungi.com</p>	<p>Plug Spawn Kit for Hardwoods Inoculate your stumps for productive decomposing Fungi Perfecti 360- 426- 9292 www.fungi.com</p>

Executive Committee for the year 2010

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

Cold Season Chores in Your Woodland

1. Measure Growth: Take a dbh measurement on your selected trees and record. Calculate growth. I believe that this year was not good for growth. We had a very warm spring and summer.
 2. Prune: Winter is the best time to prune your crop trees. This should be done when the tree is dormant from December to early March (depending on the weather).
 3. Take inventory in your woods. Without the leaves and the underbrush the views in the forest are clearer. Select crop trees and plan a crop tree release to enhance the growth of those crop trees.
 4. Bundle up and take a walk on a clear winter night and listen for owls.
 5. Update your records of work and investments you made on your property this year to prepare for the upcoming tax season.
 6. Order tree seedlings. Talk to your State Forester to get the order form. The seedlings from the State Nursery are native, affordable and of decent quality.
 7. Cut up fallen trees for your woodpile. Compiled by Gay Thistle
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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.

Membership Information

For 2011

Membership dues for 2011 are due by January 30, 2011 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 2011 programs and to continue to receive the newsletter.

HOW TIMBER PRICES ARE DETERMINED

Timber price is equal to the log values less the logging costs and profit. Log values are determined by lumber prices less the milling cost and profit. But the true value of any stand or forest product is the price a willing buyer will pay to a willing seller for the timber. Buyers will always try to buy at the lowest price as sellers always try to sell at the highest price. Equilibrium is reached when there is an agreed price.

Lumber prices have the biggest impact on timber prices. However, hardwood lumber has several different grades - FAS, F1F, Select, 1 Common, and 2 Common (terms used in hardwood lumber grading from best to least quality). These lumber grades are governed by the amount of clear lumber which can be cut out of a board. Higher quality timber yields higher quality lumber - for a higher price. Veneer from high quality timber adds additional value.

Lumber prices are governed by supply and demand. Lumber prices will rise and fall as determined by the free market. Production capacity, availability of resource, market price, and weather all effect lumber supply. Weather can cause disruption in the log supply and it can be very localized. Heavy snow or rain can curtail logging in any area.

This disruption will affect the amount of logs that are available to be milled. If market prices are suppressed due to demand, mills will curtail operations to reduce inventory backlogs at the mill. If timber is scarce, mills will have no need to increase production capacity. If production capacity is static, lumber prices will rise when demand isn't met.

Housing makes the highest impact on lumber demand. The number of housing permits issued can predict which way housing starts are headed. Softwood prices will be the first to be effected because of its structural use in home building. Hardwood prices lag by another 6 months. This is due to hardwood being used in flooring, molding, trim, and furniture - the latter stages of new home completions and furnishings.

There is an industrial demand as well. Industry uses pallets. Railroads use ties, bridge timbers, and decking. Most industrial stock is produced at a price less than top stumpage value but is higher than chip and pulpwood prices.

Lumber demand cycles are largely due to economic conditions. As housing starts increase, more demand for the forest product creates a scarcity, which causes prices to rise. This will entice more production. Conversely, when demand drops, inventories at the mill level increase. Mills will reduce inventory by accepting lower prices.

Log demand cycles are more seasonal. Mills try to reduce inventory in the spring because logs can spoil in the summer. Sapwood can be stained by bacteria, fungi can attack woods left lay too long, and wood boring insects can degrade logs quickly. With the spring inventory

reduction excess inventory will depress lumber prices. In the fall mills will increase log inventory to prepare for poor logging conditions. This depletes timber inventory.

If the winter is mild and dry, expect lumber prices to dip in the spring as mills saw up their log inventory. If the winter is wet, expect lumber prices to rise as mills have a limited log inventory and there may be spot shortages. Printed with permission from the NE Ohio Forestry Association October 2010 newsletter



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Newsletter Info.

This newsletter is published about eight times each year. Articles written by our members are welcome. Please submit them to Gay at thistle@windstream.net
Next newsletter- 2011 Calendar of Events around February.

View photos of the Summer Tours on our SWPWO Website

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 wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

