

SWPWO



Dogwood Leaf

Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Assoc.

March 2015

busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo/

It is THAT time of year. Welcome to our 16th consecutive year of woody programming.

OPENING EVENTS, '15

March 25 Meeting

Preserving Genetic Diversity in Our Forests

WED, 7 PM

Dr. Cynthia Morton from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History will define forest biodiversity and discuss why it needs us and we need it, and ways to sustain the relationship.

This program will be held at our new venue in Washington County, also the site of the September Meeting. The Washington County Conservation District office—2800 N. Main St. / Suite #105--is accessible from I-79, north of the I-79/ I-70 junction, exit 40 (if arriving from the south) exit 41, (from the north).

See [Washington County Conservation District meeting room / Contacts](#)

March 28 Field Trip

Tree Planting Workshop

SAT, 1- 4 PM

We will assist Carmichaels High School Environmental Science students in planting hardwood seedlings along their Nature Trail. The seedlings are grown from local seed sources, to preserve genetic diversity, in the school greenhouse.

Teacher Kevin Willis oversees an award-winning program that consistently scores high, and often wins, in School Envirothon competitions. You might recall his and his students' booth at last July's American Tree Farm Field Day.

Bring shovels, gloves and any techniques you may have developed to ensure seedling viability, and be prepared to learn a few new tricks as well.

In **Carmichaels**, the meeting place will be the lower parking lot, north of the elementary school, beside the softball field. Enter from Route 88. Coming from Waynesburg, Route #21 East, to W. George St., left onto #88 North.

Or,

Meet by 12:30 at Greene County Fairgrounds, Bldg #10

To Caravan to Carmichaels

2015 SWPWO Calendar

April 22, Wednesday: 9 AM to 3PM

Tour of Perkey and Thistle Properties, from the perspective of Pesticide Use Coordinators. [For SWPWO members only.]

A national pesticide organization will instruct in the identification of invasive plants and understanding how they grow and spread. Invasive control strategies will be discussed and demonstrated. Tour starts at 9 AM at the Perkey Greene County, PA Tree farm; then will move to the Thistle Tree farm. Lunch is included.

Call Harold or Gay Thistle for more info: 724-499-5190.

April 29, Wednesday: 7 PM

Songbird Habitat Development

Tammy Colt, Wildlife Diversity Biologist with the PA Game Commission, will talk about creating and maintaining young forest/ early successional habitat--and improving established forest habitat--for songbirds.

Greene County Fairgrounds 4H Building #10: Downstairs room

May 2, Saturday: 8 AM to 1 PM

Bird Watching, with the Ralph Bell Bird Club

At the Muddy Mountain Woodlands (the Egidi woodlot) near Clarksville, PA, eastern Greene County. At 10 AM, the birding will be followed by a **Tour of Ryan and Sarah Egidi's woodlot**. They are 3-year owners of this property—a river runs through it--and have been working proactively to establish and maintain a high quality woodlot.

Optional group lunch at **Laverne's** in Jefferson, PA, after the tour.

June 13, Saturday 1 to 4 PM

Summer Tour: Woodland Skills Day

Dave Planinsek, DCNR Forester at Forbes State Forest, in a joint event with the Westmorland Woodland Improvement Association, will demonstrate tools and strategies to assist landowners in working safely in their woodlots.

To be held at [Forbes Forest](#). in the Laurel Highlands east of Uniontown.

July 18, Saturday: 1 to 4 PM

Summer Tour: Becketts Run Woodlands

SWPWO members Raul Chiesa and Janet Sredy are the 2014 PA Tree Farmers of the Year and will showcase their extensive planning and systematic efforts to reclaim a degraded woodland, located near Monongahela. They are having excellent results!

For directions, contact: becketsrunwoodlands@gmail.com, or (724)-208-9317.

Becketts Run Woodlands **GPS coordinates**: Lat 40°12'47.70"N, Lon 079°50'43.63"W.

August 8, Saturday: **Summer Tour**

[Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens](#)

We have arranged a private tour of this newly created pastoral landscape near Pittsburgh (the first phase, 60 acres, has been complete and open to the public only since Aug 2014). A former strip mine totaling 460 acres is being transformed into five woodland areas: Appalachian plateau, cove forest, eastern European woodlands, English woodlands, and Asian woodlands. There is also a 1784 farmstead on the property. SWPWO members will learn about this historically significant site, and hear about plans for its on-going development. Special emphasis will be on the Garden's efforts to create and manage its diverse woodlands. The cost of this tour is \$10 each, advance registration required.

RSPV FORM—PLEASE RETURN BY AUGUST 1, 2015

Name(s): _____

Number in Party: _____

_____ I plan to attend the tour of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden and have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (cost is \$10 each)

_____ I plan to attend the Post-tour picnic

Send the form below along with a check (payable to SWPWO) to SWPWO, c/o Maria Piantanida, 2506 Hollywood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

September 16, Wednesday: 7PM

Vehicle Safety in the Woods

Gary Micsky--Sustainable Agriculture/ Natural Resource Educator of Mercer County, Penn State Extension--will review hazards and safety recommendations that forest landowners utilizing tractors should consider when planning to clear fence rows, cut firewood, or transport farm wood products. Additionally, we will identify important differences between the farm/utility tractor and professional equipment designed to operate in the forest. Learn how to safely handle vehicles for typical chores on your woodlot. [Washington County Conservation District meeting room](#)

September 19, Saturday: 10 AM to 6 PM

SWPWO Field Day and Picnic

The Burnham Woodlot

A full day of activities is planned:

10 AM **Share your Favorite Woodlot Tools-** A grown-up show and tell to share what tools work in your woodlot. As a bonus, Gary Micsky may be present with his vehicle simulator for everyone to try.

12 PM **Bring your own brown bag lunch**

1 PM **Wildflowers in your Woodlot** with Bill Paxton We will "take a hike", identify wildflowers, and luxuriate in the lore of the Burnham woods.

4 PM **SWPWO Picnic-** MEAT, water, and utensils supplied. Bring a side dish to share. BYOB

November 11, Wednesday: 7PM

Tax Filing Strategies for Woodland Owners

Yes, Virginia, there can be financial advantages accrued by those who tend their woods.
Speaker to be determined. **Greene County Fairgrounds**, 4H Building #10: Downstairs

November 14, Saturday: 1 to 4 PM

Strategies for Growing High Quality Hardwoods / Winter Tree ID

Tour of Maria Piantanida’s and Earl Novendstern’s tree farm in Washington County to observe the effects of a tree harvest from five years ago; and to consider steps to best prepare for the next harvest. With most leaves off the trees, we will attempt to refresh our tree identification skills. Just for fun!

Meet at the Crown Center Mall, Washington, PA, to caravan at 12:15 PM

CHECK the *SWPWO Newsletter* for updated information on locations for meetings. The Newsletter is published about a week before each meeting and is available at:

[Google] [SWPWO Newsletter](#)

E-mail reminders are also sent to those members not receiving a mailed copy, a week in advance of meetings. Generally, we meet at Greene County Fairgrounds, Bldg #10, 12:15 to 12:30, to caravan to Saturday Field Trip sites.

You are welcome to contact the Editor at ddcressey23@gmail.com / 724-447-2323

SWPWO Officers 2015

- Gay Thistle - President
- John Burnham -Vice President
- David Cressey- Secretary, Newsletter Editor
- Earl Novendstern - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Russell Orme, Raul Chiesa, Ryan Egidi

Advisors

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

Past Presidents

John Burnham, Harold Thistle, Bob Daley

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.