

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

July 2020

Wildlife Habitat Management of Hunting Hills Shooting Clays Facility Tour

July 17 (Fri) from 1-4 PM at Hunting Hills Sporting Clays, 181 Hunting Hill Rd, Dilliner, PA

We will visit a beautiful property in SE Greene County owned by Roy Sisler and his son "Raz". They operate the Hunting Hills Sporting Clay Shoot facility used each year by hundreds of youths and adults. The Sislers have developed a wildlife haven on an old strip mine by planting shrubs and trees, along with warm season grasses, and by creating several watering facilities. They have built many nature trails and roads throughout the property, which also includes a nice blend of forests and open areas. As an added feature to our tour, we will visit a beautiful hunting lodge the Sisters have built. Inside there are many educational wildlife displays as well as mounted animals. This tour will be held outdoors. While the lodge will be open, entering it will be at your discretion. Wearing facemasks is optional. Meet at the facility for a 1 PM start of the tour. This program is free and open to the public. Wear appropriate walking shoes.

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Living a Dream

Perkey Tree Farm at Rutan, PA is a 77.5 acre property located along Claylick Run Road in Greene County; including 62 wooded acres enrolled in the Pennsylvania tree farm program. The remaining 15.5 acres are planted with warm season grasses and forbs with ribbons of savannah and shrubs along meandering Claylick Run.

For me, Arlyn, owning this property is a childhood dream come true. I grew up in central Iowa where my parents worked very hard on two farms; land they rented but were never able to own. Although this lack of ownership never seemed to bother them, I felt that the rights of ownership created a stronger, more complete connection to the land. Time spent in the woods along the Des Moines River nurtured my desire to own forest land.

In high school, intense interest in the natural world blossomed into a land conservation ethic and desire to study forestry at Iowa State University. After graduation in 1968 I began working with the U.S. Forest Service, but my fledgling career was soon interrupted by a call from Uncle Sam to serve in the jungles and former Michelin rubber plantations in Vietnam. Wounded in combat, I was discharged from the army with a modest pension. I resumed work with the Forest Service in the Eastern Hardwood Forest.

I committed half of that pension to achieve the goal of acquiring my own land. In 1990, after approximately 20 years of saving and investing, my Iowa farm-boy dream became reality. Situated on the site of a 1950s dairy farm, Perkey Tree Farm reflects my many years in the woods. Claylick Run

is similar in size to Prairie Creek that passed through one of the farms my parents rented. Like the silver maple, elm and walnut that grew along the Des Moines River, walnut flourishes on the bottomland along Claylick Run. The pastureland oak and hickory on the former Claylick dairy farm reminded me of the oak-hickory savannahs that were converted to intensely grazed livestock pastures of Iowa. Sugar maple on the north-facing slopes and white pine on the west facing slope remind me of time in New England. Walking through a small red pine planting is like a quick trip back to work in northern Minnesota.

For over 29 years Marial and I have worked to achieve our timber, wildlife and aesthetic goals. From the outset, increasing the volume of high value hardwoods has been a priority. Federal cost-share incentives administered by the state and implemented by us were used to accomplish pre-commercial investments. Meticulous monitoring of tree growth provides a record of progress towards this goal as well as guidance on treatments needed for our continued enjoyment of a well-managed and maintained tree farm.

Hands-on management increased after I retired in 2002. In addition to our never-ending battle with invasive species, I have worked with a chainsaw and farm tractor to cut and remove trees interfering with the accomplishment of goals. With help from a contracted operator and portable sawmill, logs were sawed and the boards kiln-dried, planed, and crafted into cabinetry and furniture for our house. We relish seeing trees in the woods, but also enjoy the beauty of finished wood in our home.

We have enjoyed the company of many who have visited the farm and shared our passion for the natural world in our intensively managed forest. *Submitted by Arlyn & Marial Perkey*

We encourage all our members to share the story of their farm and forest experiences. Please email your write up to Maria at mecp1942@gmail.com

Interesting Listening and Watching: Learning About Your Woodlot

Here is a short list of interesting watching and listening options to learn during the hot summer months with limited live programming actually happening. If you miss any of these webinars, look for the recording, which can be watched at your convenience. If you have watched or listened to a particularly interesting program, please share it with me so I can include it in the next newsletter for all of us to enjoy and learn from. (gaythistle@gmail.com).

Ailanthus Control and Spotted Lantern Fly Trap Tree Approaches- from Penn State Extension, July 15, 2020 at 3-4:30 PM <https://www.cvent.com/events/ailanthus-control-and-spotted-lanternfly-trap-tree-approaches/event-summary-6371734598ec4d629ebd427b6d91ba96.aspx?i=dcad741a-ea79-4e82-89d3-39e8135f258b>

Advise from the Woods: Ask Out Experts- from Penn State Extension. July 16, 2020, 7-8 PM Free, <https://extension.psu.edu/advice-from-the-woods-ask-our-experts>

Ginseng Stewardship Basics- from Penn State Extension, August 26, 2020 at 8 PM Free, <https://extension.psu.edu/ginseng-stewardship-basics>

Amphibians and Reptiles in Your Woods-watch on demand for free: <https://extension.psu.edu/amphibians-and-reptiles-in-your-woods>

Learn About Your Woodlands with Cornell University: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/cceforestconnect/learn-about-woodlands/> which has a combination of online publications plus learning modules

Forestcast- a podcast series from USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station. The first season is available along with information about it at this link:

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2020/06/22/new-podcast-forest-invaders/>. Search for the “Forestcast” podcast on whatever platform you use.

2020 SWPWO Calendar

<p>Sept 16 (Wed) Greene County Fairgrounds, Building 10, lower floor meeting room</p> <p>7 PM</p>	<p>Update on Carbon Markets for Woodlot Owners with Al Steele, Physical Scientist with USDA Forest Service. Carbon markets have been operating for more than a decade now. Despite that, few small landowners have benefitted from them. This talk will briefly discuss different types of markets and some of the challenges in participating in them. There will be a discussion on efforts to make markets more user friendly for small landowners. We'll conclude with a discussion of policy developments with respect to global efforts in the Trillion trees initiative and what it might mean for small landowners.</p>
<p>Sept 19 (Sat) 1-4 PM, Scenery Hill area, Washington County Meet at 12:30 at the Kopper Kettle parking lot to caravan 2 Kopper Kettle Rd, Washington, PA</p>	<p>Tour Wherry's Farm in Washington County: Larry George Wherry is the owner and operator of Wherry's Farm. The farm has been in the family since the 1800s. It consists of 270 acres with about 20 acres of trees and another farm of 90 acres that is mainly used for hay. The varieties of trees consist of oak, maple, ash, walnut and cherry. The view of the farm is breathtaking. Mr. Wherry has over 500 plus breeding ewes with also 15 head of beef cattle. His daughter, Lisa, helps out on the family farm. The tour will begin with a talk about the farm. An informal social dinner at the Scenery Inn will follow if there is interest.</p>
<p>Oct 4 (Sun) Fajerski Tree Farm</p> 	<p>Walk in Penn's Woods at the Fajerski Tree Farm in Washington County. Celebrate Penn's woods with a tour of a tree farm. Over 80 tours will be offered all over PA on this day . All tours are free and open to the public. Bring your friends, neighbors, grandchildren to learn about our special forests. For more locations and information visit: https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/</p>
<p>Oct 17 (Sat) Thistle Tree Farm- tour at 1 PM, eat at 4 PM</p>	<p>SWPWO Pig Roast- pot luck picnic and a brief tour. Arlyn Perkey will take us on a trail for a tree ID review. This activity will be for both beginners and the veterans of his past tree ID classes. SWPWO will supply pork, bread, condiments, water, plates, and silver. Bring a dish to share and BYO drink of choice.</p>
<p>Oct 26-30 Online rom noon to 1:00 Pm daily</p>	<p>Impacts on Penn's Woods. PA Forestry Association Annual Symposium is online and free this year. Join PFA for lunch and a guest speaker. Each day will have a new topic. Registration information will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>Nov 18 (Wed) Washington Jefferson College- Burnett Hall, room 103 7 PM</p>	<p>Old Growth Forests A presentation by Dr. Joan Maloof, founder and Executive Director of The Old Growth Forest Network. Learn about old growth forests in temperate climates and their importance as part of our ecosystems.</p>
<p>Nov 21 (Sat) Ohiopyle State Park Visitor Ctr., Rt 381, Ohiopyle, PA 1-4 PM</p>	<p>Tour an old growth forest Ferncliff Peninsula Natural Area - Ohiopyle State Park. A guided tour of Fern Cliff Old Growth Forest at Ohiopyle State Park. Meet at Visitor's Center in Ohiopyle Park. The tour will be led by Barbara Wallace, the Environmental Education Specialist.</p>

Who Owns Penn's Woods?

The forests of Pennsylvania provide benefits to society while having diverse ownership patterns:

- 70 percent -- or 12 million acres -- are privately held by approximately 750,000 landowners.
- 30 percent -- or 5 million acres -- are publicly owned by either the federal, state, or local governments.
- The 2.2 million-acre state forest system, managed sustainably for current and future generations by the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, is the largest single landholding in the commonwealth.

Source: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/Pages/default.aspx>. Accessed 7/2/20

<p><u>Membership Information</u> Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to: SWPWO 261 2nd St, Pittsburgh PA 15139 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.</p> <p>Our website: http://www.swpwopa.com/</p>	<p><u>2020 SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u> President – Mark Fajerski (2018) Vice President – John Gregor (2018) Secretary – Maureen Burnham (2020) Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position) Director – Melissa Gregor (2018) Director – Harold Thistle (2019) Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018) Advisor-Bill Wentzel Advisor- Arlyn Perkey Past Pres: J. Burnham, B.Daley, H. Thistle, G. Thistle</p>
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Editors: Gay Thistle and Bobbi Cressey-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome. Please send them to gaythistle@gmail.com.