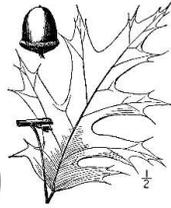


# SWPWO



**March 2010**

## ***Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners***

---

### **March 31 Meeting American Chestnut Revival**

The mighty chestnut was once a popular species in our Pennsylvania forests. A fungus wiped out all but small seedlings from our woodland mix. Remnants of this wood can be found in the beams of barns and older homes. In this month's meeting, we will learn about the efforts to return this species to our forests and how woodland owners can assist in this effort.

Gary Micsky from Penn State University 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. The following subjects will be introduced at the meeting and demonstrated 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. This meeting is free and open to the public.

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 will demonstrate on site planting and the aftercare of chestnuts. If you are interested in planting chestnuts on your farm, these meetings are the basic training and are essential. Wear proper clothing for the weather and shoes for walking in the muddy woods. This field trip is also free and open to the public.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: John Burnham's Tree Farm (directions will be given at the March 31 meeting)  
Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

.....

## What's in Your Woods?

*This is a new feature of the newsletter where members can contribute. We all spend time in our woods. If you'd like to share a particular experience, a musing, a new project or the progress of an old project, please e-mail me a paragraph or two ([thistle@windstream.net](mailto:thistle@windstream.net)). I will start it off this month.*

This year's heavy snowfall ("the snowmagedeon of 2010") has really taken a toll on many trees in our woods. I noticed that the black cherries were particularly hit hard. Many of the young ones lost their tops. Our largest American elm has fallen. As we went around to take tree measurements for this year, we added a note for the trees that were damaged by ice. The deer had a tough time this winter. They even chewed on the bark of the Osage orange branches and the multiflora rose! Since the snow was so deep and hard, the deer could browse at higher level in our seedlings. Arlyn Perkey sent me photos of deer browse above the 5' level. We found the remnants of one deer that did not make it through the tough season. On the bright side the water will be good for growth and spring is here at last. By Gay Thistle

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Growing Opportunity

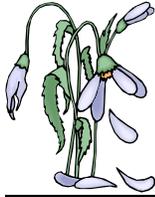
SWPWO has been granted monies to host a Field Day for the Pennsylvania Tree Farm system. The date for this event is Saturday, September 18, 2010. An all day meeting with talks, tours and demonstrations is being planned. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize this day. John Burnham volunteered to coordinate this committee. Email him by our next meeting (March 31) if you are interested. [burnhamjc@msn.com](mailto:burnhamjc@msn.com). This will be a great opportunity to showcase forestry in our area and the success of our woodland group.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Other Events in the Area

**April 7, 2010 Meet the New Greene County Service Forester:** The Greene County Cooperative Extension and the Farm Bureau will hold an annual dinner meeting at 6:30 PM on April 7, Wednesday. It will be held at the First Baptist Church in Waynesburg where Service Forester Robert McBride will advise woodland owners how to manage their forests. Cost is \$14 and the reservation deadline is April 1, 2010. Reservations can be made by sending a check to Extension Special Fund to: Greene County Cooperative Extension Office, 26 W High St, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

**April 13, 2010 (Tuesday) Beginning of the Red Cross Nurses:** A talk by Ann Ridgers of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette will be held by the Cornerstone Genealogical Society. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM in the library of the Log Courthouse on Greene Street in Waynesburg, PA. Call 724-627-5653 for more information.



**April 25, 2010 (Sunday) Enlow Fork Spring Wildflower Walk** At State Gamelands 304 in Richhill Twp in Greene County. The early spring wildflowers in this area are spectacular. The star of the show is the Blue Eyed Mary which blankets the forest edges in this area. Guided wildflower walks begin at 10:00 AM. A guided bird walk with the infamous Ralph Bell begins at 7:45 AM. Concessions are available for the day. Visit <http://enlowfork.tripod.com> for directions and photos. Don't miss this rite of Appalachian spring.

**May 11, 2010 (Tuesday) Amish of Mercer County, PA** by Rev. Donald Wilson will be held by the Cornerstone Genealogical Society. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM in the library of the Log Courthouse on Greene Street in Waynesburg, PA. Call 724-627-5653 for more information.

.....

### **Nuts of the Woods**

We had a good tasting gift under the tree this Christmas- black walnut bark and black walnut brittle. A company in Missouri processes black walnut and sells meats as well as candies. Both were very good. Black walnuts are native to our area. Missouri is considered a better place to grow black walnut. More information can be found at [hammonsnutemporium.com](http://hammonsnutemporium.com) or Write to Hammons Nut Emporium, P.O. Box 140, Stockton, MO 65785. 1-800-872-6879

.....

## **SWPWO 2010 Calendar of Events**

**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:

Time: 1:00 PM

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

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

**June 11 Tour 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. 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. 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. 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

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

**July 10 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 that was 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.

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**

Time: 1:00 PM

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

**September 8 Meeting Emerald Ash Borer Update Rick Turcotte, US Forest Service and Game Commission Update Rodney Burns, PA Wildlife Conservation Officer**

Time: 7:00 PM

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

**September 11 Field Trip Collecting Ash Seeds**

To be determined

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: To be determined

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

**October 23 Picnic with Plant Identification Competition and Potato Gun Competition (Members, Friends and Family)**

Time: To be determined

Place: To be determined

**September 18 Field Day with the PA Tree Farm Association**

Time: all day

Place: Burnham Woodlot

SWPWO will host a day in the woods featuring guided tours, information and demonstrations on crop tree management, growing quality hardwoods in PA, directional tree felling techniques, and small scale saw mill and drying kiln tour. Lunch will be provided.

**November 10 Meeting Non-Timber Forest Products**

More information will be forthcoming

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.)**

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. Be prepared to take notes and wear appropriate clothing for the weather and proper shoes for the walking.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: To be determined

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



## **Executive Committee for the year 2009**

### **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

## ***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 2010**

**Membership dues for 2010 are due now 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 2010 programs and to continue to receive the newsletter.**

**Our SWPWO Website [www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo](http://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**

### **Newsletter Info.**

This newsletter is published about eight times each year. The editors are Gay Thistle and John Burnham. Articles written by our members are welcome. Please submit them to Gay at [thistle@windstream.net](mailto:thistle@windstream.net).  
Next newsletter- around May 1,2010.