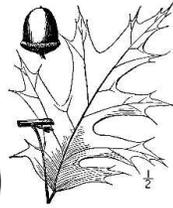


# SWPWO



November 2009

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

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### **Next Meeting: November 4 Managing Your Forests: Where to Begin**

Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Ret.), and John Burnham, Past President SWPWO are our featured speakers. Do you have a Stewardship Plan, but still find yourself struggling with the questions of what should I do, where should I do it, and how should I do it? Or maybe you're new at forest management and need direction on how to get started. Starting to manage a few acres with good access will help you build your confidence. Arlyn will offer directions for beginning a management plan and John will share his experiences and choices with us. Please note the unusual date (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month). 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. Take elevator to the first floor meeting room.



### **November 7 Field Trip Comparison of Recently Treated and Untreated Forest Land**

This field trip will visit the woods discussed at the Wednesday, Nov. 4th meeting. We will walk through both a treated portion of John's woodlot and an untreated portion. We will discuss observations about the site and alternatives for landowners to consider. We will look at what John decided to do and talk about how he did it. You can decide how it looks to you. We will discuss how it is likely to change in the next 20 years. Time: 1:00 PM. Place: John Burnham's Woodlot in SW Washington County. Directions will be given at the Wednesday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting or meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA.

**Tuesday, November 3,  
is Election Day.  
Don't forget to Vote**



## **SWPWO Business**

Another year of SWPWO events is coming to an end. At the November meeting we will be holding elections for 2010. Please thank Joe McNaney and Earl Novendstern for their productive years of service to this organization. The Executive Committee has prepared nominations for next year's Executive Committee. Maria Piantanida will step down from the position of Vice President in order to run for Treasurer. Michael Irvin has agreed to run for Vice President and step down from his position as a Director. Jessica Wise will run for Mike's position and Mark Fajerski will run for the second Board of Director position.

We will be collecting dues for next year at this meeting. Dues will remain the same at \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a household. The Executive Committee is finalizing the calendar of events for next year. This calendar will be sent to our members early next year. Another exciting year for SWPWO will begin with a tour of a maple sugaring facility when the weather is right in February and our first formal meeting will be in March. SWPWO will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary in 2010 (time flies when you are having fun!). Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our organization a success.

**For more information, please refer to the SWPWO Website at [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**

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

### **Officers**

Bob Daley- President  
Maria Piantanida-Vice Pres.  
Gay Thistle- Secretary  
Earl Novendstern - Treasurer

### **Board of Directors**

Joe McNaney  
Dave Cressey  
C. Michael Irvin

### **Advisors**

Bill Wentzel Arlyn Perkey  
Ralph Campbell  
**Past Presidents**  
John Burnham  
Harold Thistle

## **Who's There?**

Rodney Burns, PA wildlife Conservation Officer for Greene and Fayette County gave a fabulous talk about the eight types of owls found in our area at our September meeting. I learned that great horned owls are the top predator bird. They are known to attack hawks and crows.

We visited the wildlife viewing area just off the Kirby exit on Rt. 79 and actually heard 2-3 barred owls calling back and forth. It was great. Thank you, Rodney.

The day of our annual picnic was raw and rainy. Fifteen dedicated members and friends attended the event and enjoyed a Cuban roasted pig and all the fixings that were brought. John Burnham challenged Harold Thistle in the tree identification contest and John proved that he did study and won the event. Thank you, John Burnham for hosting this picnic. *By Gay*

*Thistle*

## Project Feederwatch Seeks New Watchers

Cornell Lab of Ornithology is seeking backyard birdwatchers to help in Project Feeder Watch, which provides data for scientists to track changes in bird numbers and movements from year to year. Watchers are Asked to report which birds visit their feeders between Nov. 14 and April. Visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab at 866-982-2473



### **Pest Alert: Walnut Twig Beetle and Thousand Canker Disease of Black Walnut**

A decline in walnut populations has been noted in Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and parts of California. These declines have been attributed to the walnut twig beetle which brings in a fungus called thousand canker disease, that further weakens the trees. It is important to make note of this infestation even though the disease is confined to the western part of the country at this point because we have all seen how quickly a pest like this can spread. Initial symptoms are shown by a yellowing and thinning in the upper crown. The final stages are marked by wilted foliage. The trees are usually killed

within three years of the initial symptoms.

The walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) is a small (1.5-1.9 mm), yellowish brown beetle. The adult beetle will tunnel commonly in branches bigger than 2" in diameter and sometimes even in trunks. Adults enter through bark *crevices* and begin tunneling in early May. The fungus (*Geosmithia*) is introduced by the beetle and spreads through the tree cells in advance of the bark beetle. A single generation of beetle is produced within two months. It is believed that two or more generations are produced annually.

The fungus forms two types of cankers. Small, dark brown to black cankers form around the chambers of the beetle in the branches, twig and trunk. The cankers may not be visible until the bark is peeled away. Cankers expand rapidly and develop longitudinally, not circumferentially, along the stems. On large branches the cankers can be found only on the outside of the bark but eventually affect the cambium. Eventually, multiple cankers join and girdle the branch which results in dieback. The number of cankers that forms on each affected area is huge therefore the name thousand canker.

Control of the insect does not always prevent the spread of the fungus. Further study is needed to develop fungicides that will be effective on preventing the growth of this fungus.

*By Gay Thistle. Information from this article was taken from an article written by Whitney Cranshaw and Ted Tisserat from the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management of Colorado State University.*

## **Products from the Woods: Shagbark Hickory Syrup**

A couple in Trafalgar, Indiana produces 1000 gallons a year of syrup made from the bark of the shagbark hickory. The syrup is said to have a complex nutty flavor and is used by chefs around the country in barbeque sauces, beer, cakes, and glazes for game meat. The bark can start to be collected from the hickory after about seven years of growth. A hickory extract is produced from the bark and then the extract is flavored, sugared and aged before it is bottled and sold. Sounds like an interesting business venture with lots of possibilities in the kitchen. For more information contact [www.hickoryworks.com](http://www.hickoryworks.com). By Gay Thistle

## **Shitake Update!!**

Two years ago SWPWO had a talk on mushrooms and the speaker was very informative and also quite a cook and food photographer. Anyway, after his talk, he offered shitake mushroom inoculums and suggested that it be put into an oak log. Well, Harold and I followed the directions but had not seen shitake mushrooms until this year. Before we consumed them, we confirmed the species with an expert. Oh the fun and tasty things we do with SWPWO!

## ***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 2009**

**Membership dues for 2009 will be collected at the 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.**

## **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- March 2010

**Happy Holidays!**