

SWPWO



June/July 2008

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners mini newsletter

Summer Tour June 14 Field Trip Native Wildflower Tour and Picnic

Raccoon State Park
Wildflower Reserve (Entrance from
Rt. 30)

Tour: The 314-acre Wildflower Reserve contains one of the most diverse assortments of wildflowers in western Pennsylvania. Over 500 species of plants have been identified in the Reserve. Trails lead through a variety of habitats such as, oak-hickory forest, pine plantations, woodland meadows and flood plain forest along Raccoon Creek.

Shane Miller, Consultant to Raccoon State Park, will be leading a walking tour of this special area of the park. Shane has documented 750 plants in the reserve—650 natives and 100 introduced from Europe. About 20 of the latter are invasive species, and Shane is working with park personnel to eradicate these. Shane earned a Bachelor's degree in Botany and Ecology and a Master's degree in Biology from the University of Akron. Several SWPWO members have had an opportunity to hear Shane speak and found him to be extremely knowledgeable and informative. If

you are a photographer, remember to bring your camera.

Picnic Option. Everyone is invited to a post-tour picnic at the Piantanida-Novendstern property located about 10 miles from the Wild Flower Reserve. If you are a long-time SWPWO member, this will be an opportunity to visit more leisurely than is usually possible at the formal meetings. If you are a newcomer, this will be a chance to get acquainted with other woodland owners. Maria and Earl plan to provide hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Please let them know if you plan to attend by email (mariap@pitt.edu). Directions from the Wild Flower Reserve are provided on the next page and on the website.

Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather. We will meet at 1:00 PM at Raccoon Creek State Park or meet at 11:30 AM at the Crown Center Mall Parking lot at the Sears car service area in Washington to carpool or caravan. *By Maria Piantanida*



Chainsaw Safety Course Offering

SWPWO is organizing a chainsaw safety training that will be available to members. The class will benefit novices as well as experienced chainsaw users. The dates for the class are **July 25 and 26th, 2008**. The class will meet over two days. On Friday from 6-9:30 PM, the class will cover maintenance and safety issues of chainsaws. Participants need to bring their chainsaws and gloves. A chainsaw will be provided to those who do not have one. On Saturday, tree and limb felling will be covered in an all day class. Participants will need to have their own safety equipment including chainsaw chaps, hard hat, eye protection, ear protection, and sturdy boots. There are special logging hardhats available that have an eye shield and ear protection attached. The class on the 25th may take place at the Greene County Fairgrounds, building #10 and the Saturday class will be taking place on state forest lands near Uniontown. The cost for the class will be about \$60.00. There is a limited enrollment so if you are interested in taking this class, please **RSVP by June 27, 2008 to Bob Daley at daley@cs.pitt.edu with subject "SWPWO"** with your name and contact information. We urge every member who owns a chainsaw or plans to own one to take this class.

Find most recent updates and links for directions on our website www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo

Gas and Oil Lease

Leasing of land for natural gas development is a hot topic in SW Pennsylvania. Leasing terms are becoming more favorable to landowners. It is generally recommended that you consult a lawyer before you sign a lease. Many landowner groups are forming to negotiate better deals. I encourage you to attend meetings. Penn State Cooperative Extension will be holding an informational meeting called "Fundamentals of Natural Gas Exploration and Leasing" at the Carmichaels school in Greene County on July 21, 22, or 23. A website that is very informative is www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu
by Gay Thistle

Directions to June 14 Field Trip

Directions to Wild Flower Reserve from south (482 Route 30, Imperial, PA 15126)
I 79N

Take 59B Rt. 22/30 toward airport
Exit onto Rt. 22/30 West toward Weirton
Exit onto Rt. 30 West at Imperial
Follow Rt. 30 for ~9.5 miles
Entrance to Wildflower Reserve is on right

Directions to Wild Flower Reserve from south (Rt. 18 from Washington, PA)
Follow Rt. 18N.

Where Rt. 168 intersects with Rt. 18 bear right to stay on 18.
Turn right onto Anderson-Hozak Road (go ~4.6 miles)
At T intersection turn left onto Rt. 30W

The Wildflower Reserve is a few feet on the right.
Meet at the Wildflower Center Building.

Next newsletter will be sent shortly after August 1, 2009.

Last Chance: July 19 Field Trip

A bus has been reserved for the Field trip to the Slippery Rock area for July 19. Sixteen people have signed up for the trip and we still have a few seats available. The fun will include: **a guided trip through a PA prairie ecosystem in full bloom and lunch at a green restaurant and brewery in the Slippery Rock area.** The bus will leave the Greene County fairgrounds at 7:30 AM, stop in Washington (the Park and Ride off Beau Street?) and stop in Crafton (at the King's parking lot) to pick up participants. How much easier can it get? There will be a cost for a portion of the bus and your lunch. Call Gay Thistle if interested.

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

2008 SWPWO

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Joe McNaney
Dave Cressey
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Advisors

Bill Wentzel **Arlyn Perkey**
Ralph Campbell
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Membership Information

Membership to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association is \$10 per year for an individual and \$15 per year for a household. Dues are expected to be paid by January in order to ensure a timely receipt of the newsletter and notice of the next meeting. To join, please send name, address and phone number to: SWPWO, 195 E., High St Waynesburg, PA 15370

Calendar of Events for 2008

July 19 Summer Tour: Environmental Education and Green Businesses

Jennings Environmental Education Center near Slippery Rock, PA to tour a prairie ecosystem. We will continue on to North Country Brewing Company, a green business, and have lunch. Space is limited. Please let Gay Thistle if you are interested.

August 9th Field Trip: Tour of Orchards.

Tour of the Gregor's Orchards in eastern Washington County. Meet at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, building #10 to carpool or follow.

September 10 Meeting: Timber Harvest: Planning and Execution

with Robert McColly and Tony Quadro, Professional Consulting Foresters. 7:00 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10

September 13 Field Trip: Timber Harvest Site Visit.

Time and place to be determined

October 18 Picnic with Plant Identification Competition and Potato Gun Competition

(Members, Friends and Family) Time and place to be determined. Save the date.

November 12 Meeting: Forest Land Taxation Issues

with speaker Lloyd Casey, retired USDA Forest Service. 7:00 PM at the Washington County Courthouse Square building.

November 15 Field Trip: Creating an Inventory of Your Forest.

1:00 PM, Lloyd Casey's Tree Farm in NE Greene County. Meet to carpool or follow at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds Building #10