

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

May 2018



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2016649125/>

Invasive Species – Why bother? – Advantages of Early Identification & Perkey Tree Farm Field Day

On Wed. May 9 – Speaker Cynthia Huebner, PhD, Research Botanist for the US Forest Service Northern Region Research Station-The talk will cover the use of strategic management to make invasions by exotic plants less likely to occur. Such management involves maintaining ecosystems that are relatively resilient to disturbance. Cyndy will describe what a resilient forest looks like. Discussion will also include how land managers may restore invaded land such that it is less likely to be re-invaded. **7 PM at the Concord Presbyterian Church basement, 155 Old Concord Rd, Prosperity, PA**

Perkey PA Tree Farm of the Year Field Day

On Sat. May 12 – The Perkeys have engaged 11 presenters to explain numerous forestry and wildlife habitat treatments, share minerals management experiences, discuss forest regeneration practices, and relate road construction and maintenance history. Forestry and natural resource professionals will be stationed along pre-planned walkways discussing various relevant management activities and observations. Visitors will tour the property, spending as much or as little time as they wish at the educational stations they choose to visit. Volunteer ambassadors will help visitors locate and join presentations as they are in progress. Dress appropriately for the weather and your walking ability. **The program is from 9:30 AM-3:00 PM. Lunch, refreshments and educational materials will be included and registration will be required. There is a \$20 fee. To register please contact the Pennsylvania Forestry Association at 1-800- 835-8065 or email thePFA@paforestry.org. Register by May 7th (Monday).**

Hope for the Hemlocks

SWPWO member Tony Knaus recently attended the Spring Chestnut Growers meeting at the Mount Alto Penn State campus and passed along a slide show and white paper with information that there appears to be some hope for hemlocks. Since the infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid into hemlock stands and the devastation that this pest causes in the eastern forests of the U.S., scientists have been studying natural predators of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and recovery of hemlocks from multiple year infestations. The studies for this article have taken place in northern New Jersey. Starting in 2005 a predatory beetle (*Laricobius nigrinus*) native to the northwestern U.S., was released into infected hemlock stands. This beetle appears to be reproducing on its own in the environment and also lessening the effects of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on these trees. While monitoring the hemlocks, it was discovered that there are some hemlock stands that appear to be resistant to the effects of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. These stands (and there is more than one identified!) have withstood numerous infestations without the mortality rate of other less resistant stands!!

Information for this article was compiled by Gay Thistle. Resources: White paper: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/hemlockreport.pdf> and slide show: <http://njisst.org/documents/2015Conference/MaverHWA2015.pdf>

Deer Tick Information

We have started finding deer ticks once again. Both Harold and I have been on the prophylactic dose of antibiotic for Lyme already this season. If you have been out in the woods and fields of your land, please be sure to do a "tick check." Deer tick bites can cause Lyme disease, and according to the nurses, doctors, and veterinarians, the occurrences of Lyme disease are on the rise in SW PA. One interesting fact that I learned from my doctor visit is that the disease is transmitted from the stomach of the tick, not the mouth parts. So in order for the disease to transfer to the human the tick has to have started feeding. This stage is indicated by the gorged body of the tick. Ticks do not start feeding until 24-48 hours after the bite. So, if you are diligent in "tick checking," then your chances of infection go down. Remember to TICK CHECK!

Axe-in-Hand

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, but He is no longer the only one to do so. When some remote ancestor of ours invented the shovel, he became a giver: he could plant a tree. And when the axe was invented, he became a taker: he could chop it down. Whoever owns land has thus assumed, whether he knows it or not, the divine functions of creating and destroying plants. (*Excerpt from "A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There" by Aldo Leopold*)

SWPWO Calendar of Events for 2018

Sat. June 9 –**SWPWO Picnic**– Burnham farm in Washington County. Michael Pate with Penn State Extension will offer a program on tractor safety. The farm tractor is a

useful tool for a tree farm. It helps with brush hogging to control invasives, road building and maintenance, and with lumbering. Michael will be bringing the Penn State tractor simulator so participants can get hands-on experience with a variety of tractor handling experiences. Learn from Michael the safest way to handle this important forestry tool. Stay and enjoy our pigroast. SWPWO members and certified tree farmers are free but there will be a \$5 charge for all others. More information and registration can be found at <http://www.swpwopa.com/>. Tractor safety starts at 1 PM. Dinner served around 4:30 PM

Sat. July 14 – **Wayne & Rose Marie Kraeer Farm Tour** in the Avella area. We will be touring their efforts to raise beef cattle along with maintaining their quality hardwoods, their procedures to combat invasive plants, and maintain a small cherry stand. Tour is 1-4 PM. Meet at 12:30 PM to carpool in the parking lot in front of the garage doors of the Sears store in Washington, PA. Wear proper shoes for hiking.

Sat. Aug. 11 – **Bob Brown Farm Tour: One Year After the Harvest**. We toured Bob's farm in Greene County last year during a timber harvest. We will return to his farm to see what it looks like one year after the harvest. The Forest Consultant for this harvest, Jim Elze, along with owner, Bob Brown, will guide us through the area. 1-4 PM. Meet to carpool at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10 parking lot. Wear proper shoes for hiking.

Wed. Sept. 5 – **New Tools for Tree Identification** – Tony Knaus, SWPWO member, will introduce the use of the app iNaturalist.org as a tool for tree and plant identification. iNaturalist.org is a citizen science project and social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists. iNaturalist is built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations. In the Wednesday meeting, he will give an overview of the iNaturalist project and how you can join the social network, share your observations and knowledge and learn from many of the others on the network. Bring your phone or wireless device that is connected to your cell data (you will be using your own data for this). 7 PM Location to be announced.

Sat. Sept. 8 – **On the Ground Tree ID** with Tony Knaus and Mark and Debbie Fajerski. This tour is a follow-up to the September 5th meeting. The iNaturalist app will be put to use at Maple Hills Tree Farm near Claysville, Washington County. We will tour the property and use the app and the more traditional way to identify the many types of trees. Tony will demonstrate the use of the iNaturalist smartphone app for taking and posting observations to iNaturalist.org for tree and plant identification. Tour is 1-4 PM. Meet at 12:30 PM to carpool in the parking lot in front of the garage doors of the Sears store in Washington, PA. Wear proper shoes for hiking.

Sun. Oct. 7 – **[Walk in Penn's Woods](#) - Fajerski Farm** – Washington Co. This walk is part of a statewide event to get citizens out into the woods. This year, our group will offer a tour of Maple Hills Tree Farm near Claysville, Washington County. We'll visit plantings of maturing red oak and black walnut as well as new plantings of pitch x

loblolly hybrid pines. We'll also view a small cemetery from the 1800's and one of the largest sugar maples in the state (Big Daddy) that's registered with the Champion Trees of Pennsylvania web site. This is a walking tour so be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Tour begins at 1 PM

Wed. Nov. 7 – **New Tools for Planning your Woodlot – My Land Plan** -Washington Public Library – Ryan Egidi and John Burnham, SWPWO members. This workshop will show landowners how to use MyLandPlan.org which is a free online tool used to map your land, establish goals and objectives, and plan for the future. MyLandPlan.org is a user friendly web site provided by the American Forest Foundation (AFF). This workshop will help landowners learn a new tool to explore different conservation and management opportunities. During the first class, we will meet in a computer lab where we work with all attendees to setup accounts, map your land and explore stewardship opportunities. Note different location: At the Washington County Citizens Library (55 S. College St, Washington, PA)

Sat. Nov. 10 – **Using GPS as a Planning Tool on your Woodlot**– Ryan & Sarah Egidi Farm in eastern Greene County. The follow-up meeting will occur in the field to discuss coordinate systems using GPS locations to more accurately map trails, property boundaries, roads, hunting stands, camps and other points for better integration into MyLandPlan.org. and for better management of your property. 1-4 PM. Meet to carpool at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10 parking lot. Wear proper shoes for hiking.

Please visit our website, <http://www.swpwopa.com/> for more information and links to resources for woodland owners

SWPWO 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.

<p><u>Membership Information</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u> President – Mark Fajerski (2018) Vice President – John Gregor (2018) Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018) Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position) Director – Melissa Gregor (2018) Director – Tony Knaus (2015) Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018) Advisor-Bill Wentzel Advisor- Arlyn Perkey</p>
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Editors: Gay Thistle-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome Please send it to gaythistle@gmail.com