

# SWPWO



*Southwest PA Woodland Owners*

June 2019

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## **June 15, 2019 Summer Tour: Trees In the Watershed**

A busy tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM at the Thistle Tree Farm. Lamonte Garber, a representative from the Stroud Research Center will join us on a tour of Thistles' Tree Farm and the South Fork of the Tenmile Creek in western Greene County to discuss stream quality, tools for stream evaluation, and riparian buffers. Garber will share the results of research that Stroud has done on the effectiveness of the different types of tree tubes. There will be a hands on demonstration of crop tree release in a twenty year old walnut plantation along with a look at invasive control in another red oak and black walnut plantation. Wear appropriate gear for a hike. Assistance will be available for those who need a ride to sites. Call 724-499-5190 for directions or more information. This tour is free and open to the public. Pass this invite along to friends and family.

### **Share Your Woodlot Story**

Woodlot owners often have a story about their land—when it was bought, how it came into their family, what they love about it, how they spend their time on it, and their vision for the future. We are inviting SWPWO members to share their stories which can be featured either in the newsletter or the website. Perhaps you're thinking, "I'd like to tell the story of my woodlot, but I hate to write." That's okay. Here are two alternatives to writing. One, contact Maria ([mecp1942@gmail.com](mailto:mecp1942@gmail.com)) to arrange an interview. She'll take notes and draft a description for you to review and approve. Two, choose a picture that captures something you love about your woodlot and write two or three sentences about the picture. (Please note, pictures should be sent as a jpg file.) This is an open-ended series, so there is no deadline. But we do hope to hear from you with a story we can share. Send your story to Maria Piantanida at [mecp1942@gmail.com](mailto:mecp1942@gmail.com).

### **Forming the SWPWO Invasive Control Cooperative**

Having trouble managing the invasives on your land? Many hands make light work! We are starting an Invasive Plants Cooperative to pool resources and work together on invasive plant projects on our private woodlands. We will create an online poll to find times and dates that work best with our schedules and create an event calendar. We will take turns going to each others' properties to eradicate Garlic Mustard, Autumn Olive, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Barberry, Tree of Heaven, or any other invasive plant you are having problems with. To be added to the email list, please send an email to Gloria Mahin at [gomahin@yahoo.com](mailto:gomahin@yahoo.com)

## Review of May Meetings

Our May meetings were very informative. Dr. Jim Finley always gives a great talk that motivates us to continue our work on maintaining our woodlots and to support local woodland owner groups, like SWPWO, to encourage more woodlot owners to take ownership of managing their properties, also. He made an interesting point that while the number of woodland owners in PA is increasing, the size of the woodlot is decreasing. This makes it even more important to work with your neighbors on controlling invasives and coordinating management plan tasks. Serendipitously, new SWPWO member, Gloria (see article above) is trying to organize such a group.

Finley pointed out evidence for our changing environment that struck me to be a great example that demonstrates the changing state of the ecological world. He asked us when was the last time we had to clean off our windshield because of the amount of bugs that were squashed on it? This really points out the critical state of our insect populations. Bugs don't have a great reputation but this is because of a few bad apples like ticks, mosquitos, roaches, Emerald ash borer, etc. These few ruin it for all bugs, of which most are beneficial to humans. They pollinate our food crops. They eat other bugs. They aerate and fertilize our soils. They are a major food source for songbirds, bats, and many other mammals. So consider before you use general insecticides on your property. Many insecticides on the market do not discriminate which insects it kills, they kill them all.

The Gregors hosted a great tour of their woodlot on the following Saturday. We toured a variety of sites where different wildflowers were found. There were blue eyed Mary's, larkspur, blue cohosh, Dame's rocket, and wood sorrel, to name just a few. The little purplish aster we were seeing was fleabane (the earliest showy aster). It was a great day in the woods, and it ended with a tasty meal on the porch with an unexpected guest in the form of a young racoon.



Wood Sorrel

Image from: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/81/Violet\\_Wood-Sorrel - Oxalis violacea.JPG/1200px-Violet\\_Wood-Sorrel - Oxalis violacea.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/81/Violet_Wood-Sorrel_-_Oxalis_violacea.JPG/1200px-Violet_Wood-Sorrel_-_Oxalis_violacea.JPG)

## Summer Travel Idea: 2019 Timber Expo Spotlights Pennsylvania's Forest-Products Industry

Businesses and individuals connected to Pennsylvania's forest-products industry -- and anyone interested in sound management of the state's renewable natural resources -- can learn about goods, services, best practices and industry trends at the 2019 Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition, Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site at Rock Springs. Known as [Timber 2019](#), the biennial trade exposition is aimed primarily at loggers, sawmill operators, value-added processors and forest landowners. The event is hosted by the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association. Parking and admission are free.

### SWPWO 2019 Calendar

July 13, Sat Evening	<b>Owl Walk-</b> Take a walk in the woods and learn how to call and spot local owls (if we are lucky). Learn from the experts.
Aug 9, Friday 1 PM	<b>Barrel Stave Factory Tour-</b> Visit to Wilson Forest Products in Jefferson, PA-a local agribusiness that serves international customers from Greene County, PA. See how barrels are made from local white oak and learn how they are prepared for wineries and distilleries around the world. Meet at factory at 1216 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson, PA before 1 PM
Sept 14, Sat 1-evening	<b>Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social</b> -Tour of conservation practices of Brian Adair's woodlot in Conneaut, PA, where he manages his property for a variety of recreational uses. The tour will be followed by a social hour and dinner on the water at Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club just down the road.
Sept 28, Sat	<b>2019 PFA Annual Symposium: Wildlife &amp; Woodlands</b> , Toftrees Resort & Conference Ctr, State College ( <a href="http://paforestry.org/">http://paforestry.org/</a> ) Join other PA woodland owners for educational sessions that will assist you in managing your woods, water and wildlife.
Oct 6, Sun 1PM	<b>Annual Walk in Penn's Woods-</b> This is a statewide program where walks in the woods are offered all over the state. Visit this site to find a walk for you: <a href="https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/">https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/</a> or stay local and walk on the Burnham Wood lot where the tour will take you by vernal ponds, a variety of tree plantings of different age classes, and beautiful Fall foliage on and around the country road.
Nov 13, Wed 7 PM	<b>Forest Management Practices Using Drones:</b> This meeting will focus on recent developments in the world of UAS (otherwise known as drones). We have some exciting work going on locally and will present the technology and various applications of the technology to woodland management. This will be a follow-up to our meeting of two years ago. The technology is really flying along (pun intended). So I will stop droning on (pun intended) and hope to see you there. Greene County Airport hanger

Nov 16, Sat  
1-4 PM

**Demonstration of Forest Management Practices Using Drones-** visit a site where drones have been used as part of forestland management practices. Location to be determined.

### **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.*

#### **Membership Information**

**Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:  
SWPWO**

261 2nd St, Oakmont 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.**

#### **SWPWO Officers (year elected)**

**President – Mark Fajerski (2018)**

**Vice President – John Gregor (2018)**

**Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018)**

**Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position)**

**Director – Melissa Gregor (2018)**

**Director – Harold Thistle (2019)**

**Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018)**

**Advisor-Bill Wentzel**

**Advisor- Arlyn Perkey**

*Editors: Gay Thistle and Bobbi Cressey-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome Please send them to [gaythistle@gmail.com](mailto:gaythistle@gmail.com)*