

SWPWO

Summer mini newsletter



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

August 2011

**Next Meeting: August 6 (Saturday) Summer Tour:
A Walk In The Woods with a Service Forester**

What is a forester looking for when examining your timber? Bob McBride, State Service Forester for Fayette, Greene and Somerset Counties. Description: Join DCNR Service Forester Bob McBride as he examines a variety of timber stands on a local, private forest property in western Greene County. Bob will explain each stand's primary characteristics, such as species combination, age (maturity), size (diameter and merchantable height), stocking level and quality. For each stand, he'll point out levels of natural regeneration, invasive plants to be concerned about, plus discuss competition and management options, including when and why to log (or not).

Please note an unusual meeting time and meeting place for this tour.

The Greene County Fair is preventing us from meeting at the fairgrounds this week so we will meet at the parking lot First Baptist Church parking lot at the corner of N. West St and High St (Main St in Waynesburg). The church is on the west side of town near the Belko Foods market. **At 1:00 PM** we will drive west 15 miles, out through Holbrook to Nettle Hill, then about 1 mile out Aleppo Rd, to the Whittam property."

Or (if you are coming from western Greene County, be at the Jackson Township buildings parking lot (on east side of Route 18) to follow the caravan at 1:15 PM.

Please wear appropriate shoes for hiking in the woods, proper clothing for the weather, and bring water (if this hot weather continues). Contact Gay Thistle at gaythistle@gmail.com if you have questions.

Travel Tips: 4th Annual Woodturner's Show

The Wayne Center for the Arts in Wooster will be the site for the Fourth Annual Woodturner's Show, Thursday, July 14 thru Saturday, August 27. This popular event will feature at least 100 exhibitor woodturners, plus another 100 will be competing for several coveted awards. Admission is free. The Center is located in Downtown Wooster at 237 South Walnut Street. The hours are Monday 12 Noon to 9 PM, Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM – 9 PM, Friday 9 AM – 7 PM, Saturday 9 AM – 2 PM. They are closed on Sunday. Take the fairgrounds exit off Route 30, turn left and follow the street into town, then turn right onto Walnut. If you would like more information, call the Center at (330) 264-2787. There are many other interesting places in the area (Lehman's Hardware, The Pine Tree Barn, Seacrist Arboretum, and lots of Amish restaurants), so this might be a good time to plan another overnight field day.

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What You Missed at Our July Tour

We had an informative tour of the work being done at the Appalachian Hardwood Center south of Morgantown, WV. The facility itself is a beautiful wood meeting place. Our hosts took time to explain their projects and interests to us then we toured a few of their research sites. Our first stop was a clear cut regeneration area, complete with deer fenced areas (that showed no difference in growth and diversity from unfenced areas!). The area was filling in nicely with few invasives and a good variety of species. The second stop was an area that was clear cut with the intent of encouraging regeneration of predominantly red oak. This was a younger stand but we could easily identify all the red oaks by their "red flag" top leaves. The last stop was a plot of forest where the goal was again to have a forest with predominantly red oak. But in this plot the undesired tree species were "weeded out" to give the red oaks more space to grow. What surprised me most was the difference in the forest species in this upland forest compared to ours here in SW PA. The forests we toured were made up of cherry, oaks, with some newer red maple. There were no hickories or sugar maples. Thanks to Harold Thistle for arranging this interesting summer tour and connecting our group to this another valuable resource. *By Gay Thistle*

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

2011 SWPWO Calendar of Events

September 7 (Wednesday) Meeting (Note new location)

The Habits and Habitats of the Furry Creatures in your Forest

Description: Ever wonder what those prints are in the snow? Richard Joyce from the Game Commission will talk to us about the habits of the furry creatures that live in our forests like bobcats, mink, coyote, and black bear. We will learn how to recognize the signs of the animals and places likely to find and view them. The Game Commission will also give us the annual update on any changes in the hunting season regulations and an update on deer populations.

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

September 10(Saturday) Field Trip: Recognizing the Signs of Macro-Fauna in Your Woods

Description: A follow up field trip will bring us into the woods to look for signs of wildlife and observe habitats of our native fauna.

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Place: PA Gamelands Area #223, Kirby, PA

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

October 22 (Saturday) Family Picnic with Woodland Field Day – host a PA tree Farm Workshop in combination with the picnic

Time: 12:30-6:00 PM

Place: To be determined

November 9 (Wednesday) Meeting

Reclamation of a Forest Land Gas Well Drilling Site:

A talk about what to expect after a gas well is drilled on your property.

Time: 7:00 PM

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

November 12(Saturday) Field Trip: Visit to Gas Well Forest Reclamation Sites:

Visit gas well reclamation sites in early and later stages

Time: 1:00 PM

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

Executive Committee for the year 2011

Officers

Gay Thistle - President

Mike Irvin -Vice Pres.

Jesse Wise- Secretary

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Board of Directors

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Bill Wentzel Arlyn Perkey

Michael DiRinaldo - Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

Bob McBride, - Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

Past Presidents

John Burnham, Harold Thistle

Bob Daley

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 2011

Membership dues for 2011 are due by January 30, 2011 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 2011 programs and to continue to receive the newsletter.