



November 2017

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## **Next Meeting: Unmanned Aerial Systems- (Drones) and their Potential Uses in Woodland Management**

Wednesday, **November 8, 2017** beginning 7 PM at the Greene County Airport Community Hanger (directions below)

Unmanned aerial systems or drones and their accessories like high resolution cameras, have become affordable and widely available for purchase by the general public. This talk will focus on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and woodland management possibilities which will include monitoring and treatment options that this new technology allows. Speakers will be Dr. Pete Gall, from West Virginia University and Dr. Harold Thistle, U.S. Forest Service. This meeting is being sponsored jointly by SW PA Woodland Owners

(<http://www.swpwopa.com/>) and SOAR (<https://www.soarofgreenecounty.org/>).

Greene County Airport Community Hanger

421 E. Roy Furman Hwy, Waynesburg, PA

Directions : From Route 79 in Waynesburg take Roy Furman Hwy (Rt 21) east- go past Airport Restaurant, take first left (east of restaurant) onto "Hanger Way" , take 2<sup>nd</sup> road to the right and the meeting location is at the last hanger on your left. There is plenty of parking.

## **Saturday, November 11, 1:00-4:00 – *Tour Ryerson State***

***Park*** with Park Ranger Alan Johnson and see the status of plans to recover its natural diversity and attraction to the public. Meet at the [Ryerson State Park](#) Main Office building at 361 Bristoria Road, Wind Ridge, PA

**SW PA website has the latest information about our events, contact information and also other news of interest for private woodland owners. Bookmark it today:**

(<http://www.swpwopa.com/>) or just google SWPWO.

## **SWPWO Year's End Wrap-Up**

The November SWPWO meetings mark the end of another year of SWPWO. The Executive Board is busy planning the event calendar for next year which will begin again in April 2018. We will be sending out the calendar sometime during the winter.

At the November meeting we will collect dues for 2018. The prices have not changed- \$15 per single member and \$20 for a household. We will also hold elections for Officers. The nominating committee has put forth the following slate:

President: Mark Fajerski

Vice President: John Gregor

Secretary: Ryan Edigi

Director at Large (2 positions open): Melissa Gregor  
Wayne Kracer

Thanks for being part of another great year of SWPWO and hope you join us in 2018 for another year of learning and forest fellowship.

### **O Canada**

by Dave Cressey

In September, I trekked a 50-mile (79 km) loop trail through Canadian woods during a week of backpacking on the northern edge of Lake Huron, in Ontario's Killarney Park. A favorite of painters, who led the way to protect it after early 20<sup>th</sup> century loggers had had their way, it is an astonishing landscape, buttressed with pink granite, white quartzite ridges, picturesque lakes (our campsites), all dropped into a regenerating forest. The proverbial North Woods: wet, wild, remote, brimming with mosses and lichens, bear and moose country.

I was fascinated by the contrast with our central Appalachians hardwoods "ecosystem". Sure, there were the familiar maples--red and sugar--but evergreens clearly had dominance in the highlands and were holding their own in the valleys. The lower elevations had a pleasing mix of silver and white birch, maples--just starting to turn color in mid-September--hemlocks, the pines and spruces, some northern white cedar.

Three species were particularly intriguing. The white pines, in all sizes, steadfast, called out to me. There were some fairly big boys, getting bigger, but my attention was drawn to the saplings, the poles, the shoots and outcroppings that were everywhere, some resembling green feathered boas. Killarney is festooned with rocky ground, smallish balds strewn all about, the bouldered lakes--which come in all shapes and sizes--rimmed with ledge and cliff. The white pines intrude upon the rock, small examples extending their needles from barest soil, sometimes seemingly growing out of the rocks themselves. How do they do it? They appear so healthy, tiny perhaps, but somehow plump.

We liked to loiter in the hemlock groves. There, behemoths grew straight and true, well placed, clear of branches three or more stories up, creating a sense of spaciousness and peace. In one area, between peaks, an event of some kind--perhaps a fire, or windstorm--had decimated the mature trees, a few snags left standing. All over the forest floor, however, was a profusion of regenerating hemlock (and only hemlock), the delicate boughs a waist high, if uneven, carpet. I am reading that the wooly adelgid has doomed the hemlock but, in Killarney at least, that day is not at hand.

And then there is the red oak. The Park literature mentions oaks should not be present but that somehow they are, struggling mightily to claim a niche. I was on the lookout for them. There would be, here and there, two together, kind of skinny, slanting up through the birches and maples, making it. I came to see myself as a special envoy, passport in pocket, from the Perkey School of Red Oakery on a fact-finding mission. (There is a lot of time to "think" while slogging along the trail 8 hours a day unplugged). On the rocky ridges would be the spindliest, most tortured specimens--of a size that indicate less than 10 years of age should we spy them in our woods--displaying stupendous crops of acorns. How old, really, were these miniaturized, bonsai-like oaks: 40 years, 60? The wild life appreciated the bounty; we saw much animal sign thereabouts. I did come across a single giant red oak channel side--never saw a white or a chestnut or, for that matter, a hickory anywhere--a wolf tree perhaps.

And so the week went: among our wonderfully adaptable northern neighbors, a nice walk, unspoiled.

## **Fall is a Good Time to Treat Woody Invasives**

While mowing or cutting can be used as a management strategy, most deciduous trees and shrubs will re-sprout vigorously following cutting. Some woody invasive plants, tree-of-heaven for example, can re-sprout from underground lateral roots several feet from the main plant. For effective control, these species should also be treated chemically.

### **Chemical Control Methods**

1. Cut Stump Treatment - Cut the plant near the ground and treat the cut surface (inner bark and sapwood) immediately with a labeled herbicide.
2. Frill Applications (Hack and Squirt) - Use a hatchet or similar device to make frills, or cuts at a downward angle, at proper spacing around stem. Cuts must penetrate into the sapwood. Spray herbicide into cuts.
3. Low Volume Basal Spray - Using an oil carrier and herbicide, thoroughly wet the bark and any exposed roots from ground line up 12 to 18 inches.
4. Foliar Application - Mist the herbicide mixture onto the foliage of targeted plants. Do not spray to the point of runoff. Spray leaves to wet around the entire tree. Avoid spraying non-target plants.

For more detailed information on forest herbicide application methods see the publication entitled: **Herbicides and Forest Vegetation Management** (<https://extension.psu.edu/herbicides-and-forest-vegetation-management>) from Penn State Extension. Always read and follow label directions, wear recommended protective clothing and avoid contact with non-target plants. The label directions will list plants controlled, areas where the herbicide can be used, and application methods. Before purchasing a brush control herbicide, read the label to verify the product is labeled for your site and will control the plants you want to eliminate.

Two of the most successful and commonly used active ingredients are glyphosate and triclopyr. Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) is a non-selective herbicide which can injure any green plant. Triclopyr is a selective herbicide active on broadleaf plants. Triclopyr has two formulations: amine, or water base, (e.g. Vastlan formally Garlon 3A) and ester, or oil base (e.g. Garlon 4 Ultra). Even after treatment with an herbicide, re-sprouting and seedling sprouts may continue for years. Monitor sites for re-growth annually and retreat as needed. Excerpt of article taken from October 2017 *Forest Leaves*, <http://centralpaforest.blogspot.com/2017/10/woody-invasive-plant-control-in-fall.html>, October 29, 2017

## **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**  
**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.**

*Editors: Gay and Harold Thistle- We always welcome content or ideas for this newsletter. Please send it to [gaythistle@gmail.com](mailto:gaythistle@gmail.com)*