

SWPWO



February 2008

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners



Cooperative Order of Chestnut Seedlings

As an experiment in cooperative buying, SWPWO is organizing a collective purchase of 1 yr old chestnut seedlings from Empire Chestnuts (Dr. Greg Miller, proprietor, gave us a presentation last year). We will be ordering enough to receive the bulk discount given to orders >100 trees. Greg has let us know that he has three types still available:

*Wildlife Hybrids Small, tasty nuts great wildlife mast.

*Allegheny Chinkapins Smaller, bushier tree with small nuts. Native to the region.

*Chinese Chestnuts Selected for large nuts.

All of these varieties are blight resistant. To get more details go to www.empirechestnut.com

We are under a tight time constraint to get this order in. The 100 lot price of these trees is \$4.00 a piece. We need minimum orders of ten trees (\$40.00) to participate but you can mix and match trees among the three available types within your order. I will need a check in hand by Feb. 15 to place an order for this

season. The trees will arrive late March or early April and must be picked up at the Thistle Tree Farm. Please make checks out to Harold Thistle and mail them to 3033 W. Roy Furman Hwy., Waynesburg, PA 15370. Call 724-499-5190 with questions. Please provide an email or phone contact number with your order so I can contact you when the trees arrive. *By Harold Thistle*

New Faces of SWPWO

Elections were held at our November meeting. We thank Harold Thistle for serving as President and Nadine Obermiller for serving as Secretary of SWPWO for the last four years. We also thank Max Loughman for serving on the Board of Directors. We appreciate the time that these members have volunteered for the organization.

We welcome Bob Daley as our new President. Maria Piantanida was elected as Vice President, vacating her last year on the Board of Directors. Gay Thistle is back as Secretary and two Board of Director positions were filled by Dave Cressey and C. Michael Irvin.

The Executive Committee met

at the Old Greene County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 23rd to discuss the calendar for 2008. You can find our schedule of events in this newsletter. It looks like another interesting year. We look forward to another year of learning and sharing. If you have not paid your 2008 dues, please hurry so that you will be kept up to date on the latest information. Our 2008 executive committee is as follows:

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Joe McNaney
Dave Cressey
C. Michael Irvin

Advisors

Bill Wentzel **Arlyn Perkey**
Ralph Campbell

Past Presidents

John Burnham
Harold Thistle

Award Winning Member

On December 4, 2007, SWPWO member and officer, Joe McNaney was awarded the 2007 Wildlife Conservation Award by the Greene County Conservation District. Joe was recognized because of his work on his 112 acre Walnut Springs Farm in Waynesburg. Joe has participated in the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). With the help of this program he created a 13 acre riparian buffer, planting red oak, white oak, tulip poplar, black walnut and sugar maple. He also had Partners for Wildlife plant 16 acres of warm season grasses. Joe collected about 52 bushels of walnuts this year for the State Nursery. Congratulations Joe!

SWPWO Calendar of Events for 2008

March 12 Meeting:

Tree Identification by Bark, Branch and Bud

Speaker(s): Arlyn Perkey and Students

Would you like to walk through your woods and recognize each species you encounter by glancing at the bark and in some cases looking at the branch and bud characteristics? Eight determined fellow SWPWO members have been pursuing that goal since mid-January 2008. They invite you to share their learning experience by hearing a portion of what they learned while attending 4 Saturday classes in the woods during January and February. Also featured: **Game Commission Update: Deer Disease** Roxane Palone, President, PA Game Commission and Rodney Burns, PA Game Officer. 7:00 PM at the Washington County Courthouse Square building. Parking for the Wednesday evening meeting is free: enter through the Beau Street B-Level entrance at the base of the Courthouse Square Building.

March 15 Field Trip: Tree Identification by Bark, Branch and Bud

Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service. This field trip is a follow-up to the March 12 presentation where we will watch 8 SWPWO members display their skills in the woods. This demonstration will be at the Core Arboretum in Morgantown, West Virginia, where they started this learning adventure.

This natural learning lab has a wide variety of species that are labeled with aluminum name tags to welcome the novice tree identifier to the woods. Of course the students will be shunning those labeled trees to show they can correctly identify 18 species that have been the focus of their course work 1:00 PM at the Core Arboretum in Morgantown, West Virginia To carpool meet at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, building #10

April 2 Meeting: Invasive Species of SW Pennsylvania Speaker:

Andrew Liebold, US Forest Service. 7:00 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10.

April 5 Field Trip: Tree Planting Tools and Techniques. Time will be 1:00 PM. Place to be determined. Members and friends of SWPWO are encouraged to bring tools of the trade (of tree planting and care) to share and demonstrate with others. The trip will include demonstrations of the proper technique to plant trees for successful growth and also provide hands-on opportunities for members to practice the art of tree planting.

May 14 Meeting: Managing Hardwood Forests for Value

Speaker: Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Retired). Arlyn Perkey will share his experience managing a 10-acre portion of his tree farm during the past 17 years. He will describe some of the characteristics of the woods that initially attracted him and how he has made decisions by selecting and managing crop trees

that had the potential to accomplish his goals and objectives. He will use photos that show 2 silvicultural treatments and how they, 2 years of gypsy moth defoliation, and the assault of invasive vegetative species have affected the appearance and vitality of the forest. For people who love trees, the choices are often difficult to make, but to Arlyn, this stand of trees is a testimony to what can be gained by pursuing a planned course of action. 7:00 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10

May 17 Field Trip: Visit to an Oak and Maple Stand

with Arlyn Perkey, US Forest Service (Ret). Arlyn will lead us on a tour of the managed forest described on May 14. We will see timber, wildlife, and aesthetic crop trees. We will discuss monitoring crop tree growth, invasive species, oak regeneration, and utilization of cut trees. There is a good walking trail through the area that will traverse topography typical of Greene County. 1:00 PM at Arlyn Perkey's Tree Farm in SW Greene County. To carpool or follow, meet at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, building #10.

June 14 Field Trip Native Wildflower Tour. Speaker:

Shane Miller. 1:00 PM at Raccoon Creek State Park Website: Meet at 11:30 AM at the Crown Center Mall Parking lot at Sears to carpool or follow.

**July 19 Summer Tour:
Environmental Education and
Green Businesses**

Jennings Environmental Education Center near Slippery Rock, PA to tour a prairie ecosystem (yes in PA!) where during the month of July many unusual wildflowers, such as the blazing star, will be at their peak. The Jennings Environmental Center is also home to the last remaining habitat of the Masasauga rattlesnake in PA. We will learn how the park is maintaining this species. From the tour of the environmental center we will continue on to North Country Brewing Company (in downtown Slippery Rock) and have lunch at this unusual facility where they purchase all their electricity from renewable energy sources. Their decor includes unusual woodcraft from local artists and their beers are brewed from locally grown grains. We are looking into chartering a vehicle for this trip. We will require payment for the vehicle at the time that you register for this trip and individuals will be responsible for purchasing their own lunch. We will have the van or bus meet at three different places; 7:30 AM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10, At 8:00 AM in Washington, PA and 8:45 near Pittsburgh. More details will be printed in upcoming newsletters.

August Field Trip: Tour of Orchards. Place to be determined. Meet at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds, building #10 to carpool or follow

September 10 Meeting: Timber Harvest: Planning and Execution Speakers to be determined. 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 to be determined. 7:00 PM at the Washington County Courthouse Square building.

November 15 Field Trip: Creating an Inventory of Your Forest. 1:00 PM , place to be determined. Meet to carpool or follow at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds Building #10

Find most recent updates and links for directions on our website

www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo



Online Resource for Tree Identification

A useful resource for tree identification and information is published by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The publication is called "Common Trees of Pennsylvania" and is available in book form at some of the DCNR events or offices. As a book it is printed in small form which is handy for carrying around in a pocket on a hike. But if you cannot get a copy of this book, it is also available online on the following site:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/commontr/index.aspx>. This information is good because it is focused on the common trees in PA only. Other taxonomic publications include many more species that do not even grow in our area. Written by Gay Thistle

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

REAP Applications Available

Applications are now available for this new program for woodland owners, as reported in the last newsletter. Applications will be accepted by the State Conservation Commission on a first-come, first-served basis beginning **January 2, 2008 through February 8, 2008** during the normal business hours of

8:00 am through 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Applications may be delivered in person, via US Postal Service, or via a private carrier. Applications can be downloaded from this site:

<http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=145155>. Act 55 of 2007 created the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). REAP allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for "Best Management Practices" on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources.

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

SWPWO Website

The SWPWO official website can be accessed at the following address www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo.

This website is available to us because of the talents and time of webmaster and officer, Bob Daley. The SWPWO website has the calendar of events for 2007, current information about our group, and photos from our outings. If you find a website that may interest others in our group e-mail Bob Daley at daley@cs.pitt.edu and give him the web address.

March Newsletter

The next newsletter should be mailed the week of March 4. The editor is always looking for contributions of articles of interest or your stories of the time you spend in your woods.

Deadline to submit is February 25,
2008. Please e-mail to
thistle@windstream.net. from Gay Thistle