

SWPWO



August 2006

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners

August 12

Summer Tour

"Plans Change"

We will be touring our member, George Marinchak's Woodland in SW Washington County on Saturday August 12. George has many projects going on that we can view. He has an orchard and honey operation. We'll learn about tupelo honey. There will be two different meeting points for this tour. Bill Wentzel will meet people at the Greene County fairgrounds, building #10 in Waynesburg, PA and will plan to leave at 12:00 PM noon.

George Marinchak will meet people in Washington County at Sears Parking Area, Crown Center Shopping Mall, Washington, PA at 12:30 PM. Both will offer car pools or you can follow.



July Summer Tour A Success!

On July 8th we headed to Arlyn Perkey's tree farm in western Greene County to learn everything that we wanted to know about woodland roads and culverts. We were surprised and overjoyed to be joined by 19 other members. I have to admit, that I have not attended every summer tour since our existence - but this was a very good turn out. Anyway, it was an enjoyable day in the woods of western Pennsylvania. We all learned how many of our own paces it takes to walk 100 feet. We tromped over the river (creek, really) and through the woods and looked at roads and culverts built by large equipment and small equipment. We even visited one culvert built by a couple at the beginning of a budding romance (Was it a test, Arlyn?). The tour ended with a photo, a test, a view of the wildflowers and Marie!' s chocolate chip cookies. What a day!

The Society of American Foresters is holding their annual meeting in Pittsburgh this year from October 25-29, 2006. Visit www.safnet.org or call 1-866-897-8720 for more information.

A Guide for Alternative Landscape Plants to Replace those Pesky Invasives

It's time to plan for Fall plantings of landscape plants. Fall is a good time to plant most trees and shrubs if you make sure that they get enough water in case September happens to be dry. As woodland owners, we should be aware that many popular landscape plants that are easy to grow also can escape into the wilds of our woodlands and replace native plants. If you visited John Burnham's farm for the field trip where we talked about old field regeneration in May of this year, you may remember seeing Japanese Barberry (*Barberis thunbergii*) growing in the woods. John did not put this plant there. Japanese Barberry has been known to "hop" into the woods from landscape plantings. Barberries are prolific seed producers and birds like to eat them. Most probably, birds deposited these particular seeds. Barberries are a popular landscape plant. They are broadleaf evergreens which produce bright red berries in the fall. Their foliage comes in a light green or a burgundy red. Every chain restaurant, shopping mall, and housing plan has at least one- usually more. As woodland owners, we need to help educate our neighbors about the problems with this plant and others like it. There are alternatives that one can use to get a similar effect. Suggestions include plants from the holly family like Ilex glabrous (inkberry holly) an evergreen plant with small shiny dark green foliage and black-blue berries in the fall (Make sure you buy one plant of

each sex to get the berries on the female). Another suggestion is *Buxus spp.*(boxwood). Boxwood does not have to be pruned but can be when its size gets out of hand. One of my favorites and a native to Pennsylvania is *Myrica pennsylvatica* (Northern bayberry). This shrub has interesting fall color as well as persistent grey green berries that are used to produce bayberry scented candles.

Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is another invasive plant with prolific seeding mechanisms. Again, this plant is easy to grow and gives you wonderful fall foliage color. An alternative to this plant may be *Clethra anifolia* which has a nice golden red fall foliage with a persistent white flower head. These keep some of their leaves year round. A less common choice would be *Callicarpa japonica* (Japanese Beautyberry). This plant looks nice when planted in groups. Its Fall foliage is yellowish to purplish. The spectacular thing about this plant is its purple berries that show in the Fall.

Another commonly used landscape plant that is easy to grow and is considered to be invasive is the Butterfly bush (*Buddlea*). This plant attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, but so do many other plants with bright red and purple flowers. If attracting nature is your goal, please consult the many plant lists for this purpose and avoid this plant.

As woodland owners, we need to be informed about invasive plants. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has an extensive

guide on their website. The plants I mentioned above are not considered noxious, like multiflora rose, but are considered pests in our woodlands. If you are hiring a landscaper be sure to request that they not use any of these commonly used plants. *By Gay Thistle*

CREP Program

CREP stands for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. There currently is money in this program at this point for the Ohio River watershed. Many of you may have noticed stream bed restoration work on Route 18, between Waynesburg and Washington. This is CREP at work. CREP is a voluntary conservation program which rewards producers and landowners for installing conservation practices on their land and offers 100% cost share reimbursements for installation, annual rental payments and cash incentives. SWPWO is trying to set up an informational meeting about this program in September or November. If you are interested sooner, you can call 1-800-941-CREP for your local Farm Service Agency or visit www.CREPPA.org

Committee for the year 2006

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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 2006.

SWPWO 2006

Calendar of Events

September 13 Meeting

Forest Stewardship Plans: How To

Bill Wentzel, Service Forester, PA

Bureau of Forestry

Panel: Maria Piantanida, Bob Daley,

John Burnham

PA Game Commission Deer Management Program Update

Roxane Palone, PA Game

Commissioner

Time: 7:00 PM

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

September 23* Field Trip**

Forest Stewardship in

Action Sunset Woods Tree

Farm in SW Washington

County, PA

October 21 Picnic

Time and Place to be

determined

November 9 Meeting

Growing Chestnuts: Seed Management, Grafting, and Planting Greg Miller, Empire Chestnut Company

Note Unusual Day: Thursday

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.

