

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

July 2019

OWL PROWL



Our next summer tour is on **Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 7:45 PM (*Note the evening time)**. SWPWO members as well as bird and nature lovers are invited to join Ryerson State Park Manager, Allan Johnson, DCNR, for a fun summer evening outing. Our July dusk to after-dark guided tour will include a walk in the woods while learning how to call and spot, if we are lucky, owls.

Meet at 7:45 PM at Ryerson State Park's office located at 361 Bristoria Road, Graysville, PA 15337. The program begins promptly at 8:00 PM. Wear good walking/hiking boots for this night-time hike. Participants should dress for the weather. Try to choose non-reflective quiet fabrics. Darker colors and dark camouflage are good options for owling. This program is free and open to the public.

*Note: Moon Phase (Looks like we may have a moonlit night!), Waxing gibbous, Visible: 89%
Next full moon (Buck Moon): July 16 at 5:38*

FIELD BAG IDEAS: BRING A FLASHLIGHT with extra batteries, insect repellent, binoculars, spotting scope, field guide

Getting There: GPS Info. (Latitude, Longitude):

39.88614, -80.44549

39°53'10"N, 80°26'44"W

ROAD CLOSED ADVISORY: Please be advised that visitors to the park traveling from the east should NOT travel Route 18 south to Bristoria Road, but rather remain on Route 21 through the town of Wind Ridge. Bristoria Road is closed and motorists cannot access the park via this route

From 1-79, take PA 21 west through the town of Wind Ridge, turning left onto Bristoria Road, the park will be on both sides of Bristoria Road with the park office located 1.5 miles on the right, from PA 21.



Happy 75th Birthday Smokey Bear!

Smokey Bear, Smokey the Bear, Smokey- no matter how you say his name there's no mistaking the identity of this iconic figure that symbolizes our nation's longest-standing advertising campaign. Grandparents, parents and even today's youth can easily identify the brawny brown bear that declares "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires". While his image has evolved through the years, this endearing figure is a simple message that has stood the test of time.

On August 9, 1944, the character of Smokey Bear was born. From the beginning, Smokey urged the public to "take care" highlighting potential risks for careless behavior around fires. The first Smokey poster illustrated a bear pouring a bucket of water over a campfire stating: "Care will prevent 9 out of 10 fires." It wasn't until 1947 that Smokey's wildly popular phrase was coined: "Remember... Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!" Smokey was a fictional mascot until 1950, when a real Smokey Bear was rescued from a wildfire in the Captain Mountains of New Mexico. A helpless cub found its way into a raging fire and took refuge in a tree. The cub survived the fire but suffered severe burns and required extensive veterinary aid. After several months of recovery, Smokey Bear was given a permanent home in the National Zoo in Washington D.C. where he became the living symbol of forest fire prevention.

In 1952, Congress enacted the Smokey Bear Act to place this symbol under the USDA Forest Service. The Smokey campaign raged on, spreading new initiatives and educational tools to children and families. The first Smokey costume was created in 1951, a song was written a year later causing the confusion of Smokey Bear vs. Smokey the Bear. Additionally, the Junior Forest Ranger program was started and a children's book was written just a few short years later. Change throughout Smokey's campaign was ever-present. In 2001, Smokey's famous fire prevention line was changed from "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." This was done in an attempt to distinguish prescribed burns from wildfires. Smokey has joined Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, continuing to spread his message on social media. Although his look and message have evolved over the years, Smokey has been a powerful and effective way to spread the message of wildfire prevention across the nation. Happy 75, Smokey (the) Bear! Suggested article from Bill Wentzel and adapted from "Happy Birthday Smokey Bear: Celebrating 75 Years of Wildfire Prevention" by Rachael Mahoney, Environmental Education Specialist, Forbes Forest District, DCNR

SWPWO Ongoing Programming 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 that 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) 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.

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

SWPWO 2019 Calendar

Aug 9, Friday 1 PM	Barrel Stave Factory Tour -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	Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social -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	2019 PFA Annual Symposium: Wildlife & Woodlands , Toftrees Resort & Conference Ctr, State College (http://paforestry.org/) Join other PA woodland owners for educational sessions that will assist you in managing your woods, water and wildlife.
Oct 6, Sun 1PM	Annual Walk in Penn's Woods - 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: https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/ 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	Forest Management Practices Using Drones: 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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership Information</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWPWO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">261 2nd St, Oakmont 15139</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u></p> <p>President – Mark Fajerski (2018)</p> <p>Vice President – John Gregor (2018)</p> <p>Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018)</p> <p>Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position)</p> <p>Director – Melissa Gregor (2018)</p> <p>Director – Harold Thistle (2019)</p> <p>Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018)</p> <p>Advisor-Bill Wentzel</p> <p>Advisor- Arlyn Perkey</p>
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Editors: Gay Thistle and Bobbi Cressey-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome Please send them to gaythistle@gmail.com