

SWPWO



May 2007

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners newsletter

Birdhouses, Bathouses and Wildlife Management May 9th Meeting

Tammy Colt, Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the PA Game Commission will speak to us about attracting and maintaining wildlife to our woodlots and homes. The meeting will be held on Wednesday at the Greene County Fairgrounds facility in Building #10 at 7:00 PM. Tammy will tell us how to attract different types of wildlife to our properties and how to provide them with proper housing. Landowners of Pennsylvania are in a unique situation to help maintain wildlife diversity.

A field trip will follow on **Saturday, May 12th** where Doug Donkerley, the Land Manager for the Washington County Bird Sanctuary, Buffalo Creek Bird Area will lead us on a tour of this sanctuary. Please dress for the weather and wear proper walking shoes. Directions will be given at the Wednesday meeting or meet at the Greene

County Fairgrounds, building #10 at 12:30 PM to car pool or follow. Our meetings and field trips are free and open to the public.

Summer Travel Plans?

I joined the Arbor Day Foundation (again) this year and in their newsletter I found an interesting travel idea that our members of SWPWO may be interested in. Arbor Day Farm is the historic 260 acre property of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day, in Nebraska City, NE. It now serves as living laboratory to test and demonstrate conservation techniques that improve the environment. The new Tree Adventure attraction, which includes the Nature Explore Classroom, Lied Greenhouse, Woodland Pavilion and the Tree House and Exploratory Trails is helping visitors of all ages discover the wonder of trees. Arbor Day Farms has its own Lied Lodge and Conference Center where one can stay overnight. It is a 144 room Adirondack style lodge with a dramatic fireplace entrance. Find out more or book your stay by

Pennsylvania's Privately Owned Forestlands

By Seth P. Cassell, Service Forester, DCNR
Bureau of Forestry

When people talk about Pennsylvania's forest, they often refer to State forestlands--the Susquehannock, Elk, Tioga, Bald Eagle, Gallitzin, and others. The vast State Forests and other public lands are indeed the backbone of Pennsylvania's forests. However, many are surprised to learn that a vast majority (75%) of the state forestland is privately owned. Private forests surround hunting cabins, cover hillsides, and dot farm fields throughout the state. With an average of 23 acres, these forests comprise most of Penn's Woods.

In many respects, we are fortunate to have the forest we enjoy so much today. Throughout most of our state's history--from the time the first settlers prodded into the wilderness, to when the last logging railroad chugged out of the mountains-- people have used the forest without much consideration for the future. At the dawn of the twenty first century, as our forests push forward to maturity and timber harvesting increases, we, as a community, are again faced with important management decisions

that will ultimately shape the future of Penn's Woods.

With maturing forests and high hardwood timber prices, many landowners are considering the decisions involved with harvesting timber. Most do not own their land as a timber investment, but instead for aesthetic and recreational purposes. Still, most do not want to ignore the economic and management opportunities that timber harvesting offers. Unfortunately, many do not adequately consider the long-term management of the resources on their land before harvesting. Service Foresters with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of forestry, assist landowners in managing their woodlands. All too often, they receive telephone calls from landowners who say, "I just had a timber harvest on my property. Could you come out and see if i did the right thing?" However, preparing for the right outcome starts well before the first tree is cut.

It all begins with a plan. Few people would consider going on vacation, investing, retiring, or building a house without a plan. The benefits of having a plan in these instances--helping achieve goals, setting a course of action, setting priorities, and so forth--also apply to managing your forest. Plans written by natural resource professionals will help

you learn more about your property and schedule management activities, whether they include timber harvests or not. Management plans also help you identify and consider special ecological features on your property, such as vernal ponds (seasonal woodland ponds), stream buffers, and rare species and communities. They can incorporate aesthetic and recreational goals, as well.

The Forest Stewardship Program assists landowners in establishing resource plans for their woodlands. The program is designed to account for all forest values--wildlife, timber water, aesthetics, and recreation, to name a few. The program links landowners to a wealth of technical assistance to manage their woodlands according to their objectives. To find out more about a Forest Stewardship Program or request a free publication, Forest Stewardship Bulletin #6 Planning Your Forests Future, call 1-800-235-WISE (9473) or contact your local Service Forester or Woodland Owners Group. (Editor's note: Ask any of the SWPWO members, many of them are in the Stewardship Program).

Submitted by Bill Wentzel

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

Calendar of Meetings for the 2007 Year

- **June 9 Field Trip
Observing Bats and Exploring Wood Art**
Burnham's Tree Farm
Time: 12:00 PM
Meet at: Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA
- **July 14 Summer Tour
Diamonds in the Brush and Cubic Zirconium: Young Tree Plantations**
Time: 12:30 PM
Thistle's Tree Farm
Meet at: Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA
- **August 18 Summer Tour
Woodland Plant Identification**
Raccoon Creek State Park
Time: 12:00 PM
Meet at: Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA
- **September 12 Meeting
Mushrooms and Decomposers**
Speaker to be determined
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA
- **September 15 Field Trip
Identifying Mushrooms in Your Woodlands**
Place to be determined
Time: 12:00 PM
Meet at: Building #10, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA
- **October 20 Picnic with Plant Identification Competition and Potato Gun Competition (Members Only)**
Time and Place to be determined
- **November 14 Meeting
Successful Management of Woodlands Through Low Impact Logging**
Jim Finley (??)
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Courthouse Square Building
Washington, PA
- **November 17 Field Trip
Tree Felling, Horse Logging, and Timber Sawing**
Burnham's Tree Farm



Logging is the Most Dangerous Job

Logging is the most dangerous occupation in the United States. Loggers experience the highest on-the-job mortality rate in 2002, and their mortality rate was 26 time higher than the average U.S. worker. The mortality rate among loggers was 118 deaths per 100,000 workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. One hundred and four loggers were killed in 2002.

The fishing industry was second on the agency's list of the 10 most dangerous jobs with 71 fatalities per 100,000 workers; the most common cause of death was drowning. Commercial pilots were a close third with 70 fatalities per 100,000 workers. More truck drivers, 808, died on the job than in any other vocation in the top ten list. However, because there are so many truckers, their fatality rate is only 25 per 100,000 workers, which puts the occupation tenth on the list. *Reprinted with permission from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative newsletter. Submitted by Bill Wentzel.*

Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition 2007

The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association and Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences invite you to **Timber 2007**. This exposition will be held June 1-2, 2007 at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site at Rock Springs, PA, nine miles southwest of Penn State's main campus in State College, PA on Rt 45. Attendees will be able to explore equipment and services of over 100 exhibitors that are focused on serving the needs of the forest products industry. See machinery demonstrations, experience new and emerging technologies, visit with business assistance specialists and attend seminars to learn about new ideas. For more information call 814-863-2873 or visit the website <http://patimbershow.cas.psu.edu/>.
Submitted by Bill Wentzel



Game of Logging Training

With the previous articles in mind, SWPWO wants to make sure that our members are safe in their day to day operations in their woodlots. The game of logging is a chainsaw safety and tree felling program that a few of our members took about two years ago. We are putting out feelers to see if there is any interest in having another class. The time commitment is approximately 3 Saturdays. It is useful to have your own chainsaw so that you can learn the safety features on it and practice using it properly. Please let Harold Thistle or Bob Brown know if you would like to take this class. The members

who participated previously really enjoyed the class and learned a lot about chainsaws and directional tree felling. Written by Gay Thistle

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. He is looking for interesting links and photos to post on our site.

SWPWO Committee for the year 2007

Officers

Harold Thistle- President
Bob Daley - Vice Pres.
Nadine Obermiller- Secretary
Earl Novendstern- Treasurer

Board of Directors

Joe McNaney
Max Loughman
Maria Piantanida

Advisors

Bill Wentzel` Arlyn Perkey
John Burnham- Past President

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Information regarding the Pennsylvania Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) might be of interest to many SWPWO members. Info can be found under Pennsylvania Game Commission - State Wildlife Management Agency: DMAP. Deadline for applications for 2007 is July 1. "The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) helps landowners achieve deer impacts consistent with their land use goals. Through DMAP, landowners can receive permits for hunters to take additional antlerless deer during antlerless deer seasons." The landowner applies for "Coupons", which are then given to hunters. The hunter completes the Coupon, attaches a check for \$10 for residents, \$35 for nonresidents, and mails it to the Game Commission, which mails a DMAP Harvest Permit to the hunter. The hunter can then harvest an antlerless deer on the specific DMAP property. One Coupon for properties from 1 to 50 acres: one Coupon for every 5 acres where "material destruction of commercial or agriculture cultivated crops, fruit trees, Christmas trees, nursery stock, hayfields, pastures or vegetables by deer has been or can be documented. On other lands, including plantings for wildlife such as food plots and trees, one DMAP Coupon will be allocated for every 50

acres enrolled." *written and submitted by
Nadine Obermiller*

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

This newsletter is produced about 8 times per year. It is published about two weeks prior to the meetings. Articles and/or ideas are welcome. Contact the editors John Burnham at 724-223-8781 or e-mail at burnhamjc@msn.com or Gay Thistle at 724-499-5190 thistle@windstream.net