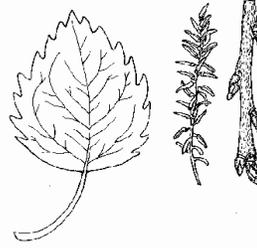


SWPWO



Bigtooth aspen

Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Association

June 2012

www.busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo

NEXT FIELD TRIP

June 9 Summer Member Tour **SAT, 1 to 4**

Debbie and Bob Hanes's Property

We will be visiting the 55-acre Hanes farm in Hickory. The property includes pastureland reverting to woodlands, small areas of various hardwoods, and a planting of spruce and hardwoods. A distinctive feature is a stand of paw paw trees. You'll have an opportunity to test your knowledge in identifying a wide range of [somebody else's] invasives!

Meet at PA Trolley Museum near Wash County Fairgrounds to leave at 12:45. Directions to Museum: www.pa-trolley.org/page5/page5.html
Anyone driving directly to the site contact Deb at melonehanes@gmail.com

REVIEW OF MAY FIELD TRIP

Eight of us gathered at Cooper's Rock State Forest (W.Va.) on May 12 for a roving colloquy on forest succession. After a brief tour of the road system – the parking lots were full and the environs enticingly green – led by John Burnham, we joined Prof. Perkey at the appointed site, a crop tree demonstration area, which had last been clear cut about 1934. Among our discoveries:

The shade intolerant trees that pop up first on an abandoned field or a clear cut tend to be outcompeted over time if nature is allowed to run its course. These early succession species include yellow poplar and black cherry (see chart below).

The size and age of a tree do not necessarily co-relate. Depending on growing conditions for that species, a good-sized tree can be young and a small tree can be old. Two trees of vastly different girths standing side by side can be the same age.

Trees have varied life expectancies. A scarlet oak figures to live 75 years, a white oak 125 or more, which is a factor in harvesting decisions.

We saw widespread evidence of "black knot" fungus on the (beleaguered) cherry trees, which are also subject to leaf-eating tent caterpillars.

The role of yearly precipitation totals in a tree's growth is complex and not clearly understood. If a site gets good rainfall in August but not in March, has it been helped much? Is there a lag factor, of a growing season or more?

20-year measurements of growth rates after tree release show accelerating and substantial rates after the first few years, until about year 16 when the refilled canopy results in diminishing growth.

The presence of wildflowers indicates a site that has not been disturbed by agricultural practices. An example is Indian cucumber root, which appeared to us initially as a mystery plant before being unveiled as a euphoric aid to memory and sign of vitality.

The more trees released in a forest plot the messier the appearance of that plot, its understory denser and more tangled.

While always advisable to engage a consulting forester when conducting a timber harvest, the quality of the relationship can vary widely. Like all professionals, foresters have specialties and points of view. Having an idea of your objectives going into the harvest and clear communication with the forester is crucial.

The cookies were chocolate all the way through. Thanks, Arlyn.

Shade Tolerance Ratings

(more tolerant equates to later succession)

VERY TOLERANT	Hophornbeam, Beech, Sugar Maple, Dogwood
TOLERANT	Red Maple, Basswood, Black Gum
INTERMEDIATE	White Ash, Oaks (ex. Scarlet), Slippery Elm, Hickories
INTOLERANT	Scarlet Oak, Butternut, Walnut, Yellow Poplar, Sassafras, Black Cherry
VERY INTOLERANT	Bigtooth Aspen, Black Locust

[from Geo. R. Trimble, "Characteristics of Appalachian Hardwoods", 1975]

Overheard on the Skid Path

News and Notes from our Fellow Outdoors Oriented Non-Profits

Warrior Trail Association Lead Warrior Llew Williams reports that a recent hike into W.Va. from Greene County reveals gas drilling and coal mining activities in the nearby vicinity of the Trail. The WTA maintains the 67-mile ridge trail that connects the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers across Greene County and Marshall County WV. It presents monthly a program pertaining to regional history. Yearly dues: \$10
P.O. Box 103 / Waynesburg PA 15370

Greene County Watershed Alliance Visit www.greenewatersheds.org for up-to-date information on water issues. The Alliance, founded in 2001, promotes stewardship of our area's natural resources.

West Virginia Woodland Owners Association A Walking Tour of the W. Va. Tree Farm of the Year for 2010 is set for SAT June 23 from 10 to 2. This is in Lewis County about 1 and ½ hours from Waynesburg and near the Stonewall Resort State Park, off I-79 Exit 91, featuring outdoor dining overlooking the Lake. RSVP & directions: Dan Magill, 304-293-9419, dmagill@wvu.edu

2012 Remaining Calendar of Events

All meetings, field trips, and tours are free and open to the public

July 14 Summer Tour

SAT, 1 to 4

W.A. Young & Sons Foundry in Rice's Landing, PA

Our group will receive a private tour of this historical gem in Greene County. The Foundry is a well-preserved machine shop on the Monongahela River that serviced the boating traffic from 1900 to 1965. A step back in time.

Aug 11 Summer Member Tour

SAT, 1 to 4

Becket's Run Woodlands

Janet Sredy's and Raul Chiesa's 110 acres near Monongahela PA is part of a biodiversity area recovering from the 1948 Donora smog incident and the fragmentation caused by three active gas pipelines and a State Highway. Raul & Janet will focus on their Forest Stewardship Plan and the opportunities they found to meet this forest's challenges.

September 12 Meeting

WED, 7 PM: Waynesburg, PA

Herbicide Use 101

Christina Becker, Extension Specialist with the Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University, will speak about the safe use of herbicides on common woodland invasives. She will demonstrate proper techniques, tools, and best practices for herbicide use, and will touch on the benefits of becoming a certified pesticide applicator. **Location:** Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

September 15 Field Trip

SAT, 1 to 4

War in the Woods: Controlling Invasives

A field demonstration of spraying techniques, and a practical consideration of attendant issues, in the control of multiflora rose, honeysuckle, barberry, grapevine, olive, et.al. Site: [To Be Determined] Some lucky landowner's briar patch. Start making your case.

October 6 Family Picnic

SAT, 1 to.....

Rain or shine, the annual SWPWO Pig in a Poke. With Field Events. Perhaps the potato gun competition will be revived. Suggestions for activities are welcomed.

October 24 Meeting

WED, 7 PM: Washington, PA

Hobby arboretums: Planting a Sampling of Trees on a Small Plot

Guidance for the property owner of limited acreage who nevertheless is interested in tending and presenting a pleasing variety of trees and woody plants.

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Courthouse Sq. Building, 100 W. Beau St.

October 27 Field Trip

SAT, 1 to 4

The Urban Wood-scape

We will venture to the city of Pittsburgh to take in either Shenley or Frick Arboretums. Philip Gruska, Director of Park Management, Maintenance & Policy with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, will lead the tour.

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Purpose</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Membership Information for 2012</p> <p>Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWPWO 2506 Hollywood Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15235</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>
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Executive Committee, Officers for the year 2012

Gay Thistle - President

Mike Irvin -Vice Pres.

David Cressey- Secretary

Maria Piantanida - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Mark Fajerski, Russell Orme, Raul Chiesa

Advisors

Bill Wentzel, Arlyn Perkey, Russell Gibbs - Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

Past Presidents

John Burnham, Harold Thistle, Bob Daley