

# SWPWO



Hickory Leaf

**Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Assoc.**

**Nov 2014**

[busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo/](http://busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo/)

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*Observing our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## NEXT EVENTS

**Nov 12 Meeting**  
**WED, 7 PM**

### Carbon Credits for Forestlands

Speaker: **Josh Parrish**, Director of *the Working Woodlands Program for The Nature Conservancy (TNC)*

*Carbon markets, whereby companies or individuals purchase “credits” for carbon emissions in exchange for sustainably managing their forests and the carbon contained therein, are becoming increasingly popular. Such markets can be very effective in providing economic incentives to conserve large forest tracts. How can landowners access this market? Through a combination of carbon markets, sustainable forest management and conservation easements, TNC is working with landowners to create financial incentives to ensure our forests of today remain intact forests long into the future.*

**Greene County Fairgrounds, Building #10**

**Nov 15 Field Trip**  
**SAT, 1- 4 PM**

### Woodlot Inventory Techniques & Carbon Markets

*An in-the-woods “work shop” to determine how to qualify your woodlands to participate in the carbon market. Led by Josh Parrish and Al Steele of The Nature Conservancy.*

**Meet by 12:30 at Greene County Fairgrounds, Bldg #10**  
**or, Go Directly to Perkey Tree Farm, near Rutan, Greene County**

## **SWPWO BY-LAW CHANGES**

With guidance from Maria Piantanida, the Officers and Board have undertaken a revision of our organizational by-laws. These are mainly technical amendments and clarifications, and some rearranging of duties and positions based on our experiences of the past 15 years. They will be voted on during the Nov 12 Meeting and can be viewed on the SWPWO web-site (see above, or google SWPWO) under the Members tab. It is the recommendation of the Officers, Board, and Advisors, who have discussed them thoroughly, that these changes be approved by the membership.

## **Allegheny County private forest awarded the 2014 Pennsylvania Tree Farm of the Year for its outstanding effort in forest ecosystem restoration**

The Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program Committee of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association has announced the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year: Beckets Run Woodlands, a 110-acre family owned Stewardship Forest 20 miles south of downtown Pittsburgh in Forward Township, Allegheny County.

In making the announcement, the committee cited Beckets Run Woodlands' unique approach to forest conservation "They are creating a model for improving severely disrupted forest areas, restoring and protecting the forest ecosystem so that it can again provide the services and products that are so basic to our lives".

Our forest provides services and products essential to our lives, from pure air and water to healthy trees and wildlife. Development, industrial pollution and poor resource management has led to fragmentation, parcelization and severe disturbance of forest ecosystems, especially in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The conventional approach to forest improvement focuses on areas with established timber production capacity, implementing practices to enhance timber quality and quantity, which are financed through timber commercialization, an approach that derives value from sustainable timber production.

Beckets Run Woodlands' approach focuses instead on severely damaged forest areas that are more abundant and have no immediate timber production potential, implementing practices to restore the ecosystem and protect biodiversity so the forest can eventually again sustain timber production, support wildlife and provide other products and services. Using multiple technical and financial resources available to Pennsylvania landowners, including government and university sponsored programs and the commercialization of recreational hunting and mineral development, forming partnerships with neighbor landowners and establishing a formal commitment to standards of conservation, Beckets Run Woodlands is creating a model that derives value not just from timber production potential, but from forest conservation itself.

**Beckets Run Woodlands is managed and owned by Raul Chiesa and Janet Sredy in co-ownership with Janet's brother Mark and his wife Patty.**

### **Tree Roots (a Primer)**

1. Most trees do not have a tap root.
2. Tree roots do not grow very deep. Most tree roots are in the top 12 inches of soil.
3. Tree roots often extend two to three times the width of the tree.
4. Roots do not have green chlorophyll.
5. Roots store more starch than the trunk.

6. Roots do not have a central pith (soft central tissue) while the trunk does.
7. The majority of tree roots are non-woody. These root hairs grow within days of when water, temperature, and nutrients are available to promote growth. These non-woody roots only live for a few weeks.
8. Non-woody tree roots can grow almost any time the soil is not frozen.

---Contributed by Arlyn Perkey

## **WALKING in the WOODS**

### *Going Grove*

There is something to be said for a grove of trees. From the vestigial patch of piney woods preserved in NW Pennsylvania's *Cook Forest* to the awe inspiring *Muir Woods* near San Francisco, we celebrate the old growth stands. The Native Americans utilized natural settings, often defined by trees, as monuments and tribal spaces; *Ash Cave* in SE Ohio is a prime example. Jefferson fashioned his grove at Monticello as a sanctuary of contemplation and intellectual pursuit. Numerous "Cathedral Woods" grace the American landscape. One of our favorites is on Monhegan Island, 15 miles off the coast of Maine. The kids there have taken to constructing wee villages for faerie folk-- using twigs, lichen and other detritus of the forest floor--lending scale and charm to the wooded room. (To those who make Maine a destination, an overnight stay on Monhegan is recommended. It has long been an enclave for painters, and a stage of special aura and singular doings. Ask Dave Cressey some time about the story of the seagull head.)

All this by way of saying that the most special grove may well be the one within walking distance of your back door. For you can grow, and oversee, your own.

It works this way: a part of pasture or a pitch of hillside escapes the plow and the blade and within a single tour of the seasons embarks upon a transformation. Weeds, bushes, saplings appear. You approach from various angles, repeatedly trod an interior abandoned cow path or wildlife trace. You study. You putter. You ponder. Within a few years, you can tell if you have the makings of a grove. Are the trees ahead of the invasives, are there a variety of saplings, are there the kinds of trees you favor? Now, mind you, this doesn't have to be a large tract. It doesn't have to be a football field; it can be the red zone. It doesn't have to be Camden Yards; it can be the right field corner. Do you like the slant of the ground, the angle of the sun, the proximity to other features of your property? Is this ground you can work on? Is it a place you are drawn to?

The rest, of course, is easy. It is the task of improvement, and time is on your side. In 5 years, an outline is apparent, choices can be made, the scale of effort is manageable. In 10 years, the poplars have raised the roof, the work is sheltered. In 20, the force and form of the trees are undeniable. All manner of mood and activity is possible. There is no stopping Her now.

Welcome to your grove.

---Carl Douglas

## NEWS & NOTES.....

Congrats to **Janet & Raul, PA Tree Farmers of the year**. This is the second such recognition for a SWPWO member: **Burnham Woodlot** snagged the honor in 2010. Changes are in store for the **PA Tree Farm Committee**, and Janet & Raul will be in the middle of them. (As a first step, a census of active tree farms has been updated.) They are also members of **Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association**, which will host a talk on **Tue, Nov 18**, in the Westmoreland Conservation District HQ, a discussion of IUP's **Harvest-to-Use program**, which uses trees felled on campus to build objects....**Jim Finley** shares my observation that **Joe Pye, Ironweed & Goldenrod** were especially lush this year. There are reports of a great **acorn crop** and bountiful black **walnuts** (are they ever not?). Met someone who actually shells walnuts; he displayed his stained hands with justifiable pride....Long time member **John Bernard**, of Hickory, has passed on. He was a gentle man of great accomplishment. His obit is in the *Observer-Reporter*, mid-Oct...The Fall issue of *American Forests* features a cover story paean to the **Wolf Tree**, with a plea that they be saved....How about **Madison Bumgarner**, ace Giant southpaw and son of the Appalachian foothills (W. No. Carolina, near Hickory; his extended family populates "Bum-town"). Madbum ended **Pirate hopes** and almost single handedly pitched SF to the Series crown; one gets the feeling, if only he had an advanced degree or two, he would fit right in at a SWPWO event.

Have a great winter everybody.

### SWPWO Officers

Gay Thistle - President

John Burnham -Vice President

David Cressey- Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Earl Novendstern - Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Russell Orme, Raul Chiesa, Ryan Egidi

### Advisors

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

### Past Presidents

John Burnham, Harold Thistle, Bob Daley

### ***Our 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.*

### **Membership Information**

**Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:**

**SWPWO  
2506 Hollywood Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

**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.**