

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

August 2019

Barrel Stave Factory Tour

Friday, Aug 9, 2019

Tour the Wilson Forest Products plant in Jefferson, PA, Greene County. Wilson Forest Products manufactures barrel staves and barrels from locally harvested white oak. This local agribusiness serves international as well as national wine and whiskey producers. See how barrels are made from stump to toasting, why white oak is the preferred species, and learn how barrels are prepared for wineries and distilleries around the world. Bring along close toed shoes in case they are needed for entry to the factory floor. Meet at the factory at 1216 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson, PA, before the 1 PM tour start. Please note the unusual day-Friday- that we will be meeting.

Coming up in September: Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social

Sept 14, 1 PM-Evening Tour of conservation practices of Brian Adair's woodlot in Conneaut, PA, where he manages his property for a variety of recreational uses with an emphasis of improved hunting. The tour will be followed by a social hour and dinner on the water at Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club just down the road. **RSVP** requested to burnhammaureen@yahoo.com or call 724-233-8781 and for driving directions

Apple Decline Reported

Apples are one of North America's most valuable fruit crops. To put it in perspective, in 2018 the apple industry was worth about \$4 billion. Scientist and orchardists in North America have noticed a rapid die-off in young apple trees. One common symptom in trees struck by this rapid decline is dead tissue at the graft union, where the hearty root stock is joined to the fruiting stock. Weather related stresses like drought and severe cold could be contributing to this decline. Early freezes are becoming more common in the eastern United States, and the tissue at the graft union is the last to go dormant. Observations from other apple growing areas suggest that severe cold is not the only factor. In Canada, a rapid decline was noted in British Columbia during the summer of 2018 after a few years of consecutively mild winters. Another common factor is it tends to effect certain M9 root stock. Orchards that have less weeds are also effected, which might indicate that the use of herbicides is having an issue. Also, a new practice of planting higher density orchards with the use of trellises appears to be one of the considerations for the cause of this decline in apples. Instead of 250 trees per acre, trellised orchards can have 1200 or more. With this density, trees have more shallow rooting symptoms and lots of competition for water and nutrients. Scientists have been looking for a pathogen and have discovered new viruses but have not been able to pinpoint if any of the pathogens are causing this decline. There are so many new practices in this industry, combined with the factors caused by climate change, that scientist have not yet been able to detect what may be causing this decline. Edited by Gay Thistle From *Science*, March 22, 2019, p1259.

SWPWO 2019 Calendar

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 style="text-align: center;">If sending in dues, please include name, address, phone number and an e-mail address.</p> <p>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