

SWPWO

Southwest PA Woodland Owners

June 2011



June 11(Saturday) Summer Tour: Explore the Mysteries of the Forest: Family Day in the Woods

John Burnham's woodlot in East Finley, PA will be the site of our first summer tour. This tour is aimed geared for families to take their children to the woods for a day. The program begins at 1:00 PM. The registration desk will be open from 12:30 -1:00 to sign up for the activities of choice. Registration is necessary to participate.

Planned activities for this Saturday event include:

1. Let's talk habitat. Build a bluebird house with Rich Joyce of the PA Game Commission.
2. How are boards made? See a sawmill and drying kiln in action with John Burnham, Tree Farmer.
3. Discover the lore of the woods. Hike in the woods with Mike DiRinaldo, PA State Service Forester.
4. All trees are not created equal. Let's take a walk in the forest with Arlyn Perkey, USDA Forest Service- Ret.
5. Bats are good for you. Review the life of a bat and their place in the world with Maureen Adair, Third grade teacher.
6. Work on your Boy Scout Forestry merit badge (1) with Mark Fajerski, Merit Badge Coach. (Points 3,4 and 6)
7. Work on your Cub Scout WEBELOS Forestry Pin with Bob McBride, PA State Service Forester. (Forestry pin points 3,4,6,7,9)
8. Talk to a tree farmer and a forestry professional with John Burnham and Bob McBride. (Boy Scout merit badge)
9. Step into the Penn State Woodmobile thanks to our sponsors 84 Lumber and Waynesburg Lumber (Ace)

A snack and drink will be provided at the conclusion of the programing and the day should conclude at about 4:00 PM. Call Gay Thistle (724)499-5190 for directions to John's farm.

2011 SWPWO Calendar of Events

(note there are some changes and updates from the original)

July 9 (Saturday) Summer Tour: Tour of the Appalachian Hardwood Center

Shawn Grushecky, Assistant Director AHC

Description: We will take a tour with an associate from this organization and learn about current and past projects that relate to growing quality hardwoods. The vision of AHC is to provide relevant, natural resource-based outreach and extension programs, technical assistance, and research for businesses.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Coopers Rock State Park, south of Morgantown, West Virginia

Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

August 6 (Saturday) Summer Tour: Field Trip A Walk In The Woods:

What is a forester looking for when examining your timber?

Bob McBride, State Service Forester for Fayette, Greene and Somerset Counties

Description: Join DCNR Service Forester Bob McBride as he examines a variety of timber stands on a local, private forest property. Bob will explain each stand's primary characteristics, such as species combination, age (maturity), size (diameter and merchantable height), stocking level and quality. For each stand, he'll point out levels of natural regeneration, invasive plants to be concerned about, plus discuss competition and management options, including when and why to log (or not).

Time: 1:00 PM

Place:

September 7 (Wednesday) Meeting

The Habits and Habitats of the Furry Creatures in your Forest

Description: Ever wonder what those prints are in the snow? Richard Joyce from the Game Commission will talk to us about the habits of the furry creatures that live in our forests like bobcats, mink, coyote, and black bear. We will learn how to recognize the signs of the animals and places likely to find and view them. The Game Commission will also give us the annual update on any changes in the hunting season regulations and an update on deer populations.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: First Floor Meeting Room, Courthouse Square Building, 100 W. Beau Street, Washington, PA. Free Parking: enter through the Beau Street B-Level entrance at the base of the Courthouse Square Building

September 10(Saturday) Field Trip: Recognizing the Signs of Macro-Fauna in Your Woods

Description: A follow up field trip will bring us into the woods to look for signs of wildlife and observe habitats of our native fauna.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: To be Determined

Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

October 22 (Saturday) Family Picnic with Woodland Field Day – host a PA tree Farm Workshop in combination with the picnic

Time: 12:30-6:00 PM

Place: To be determined

November 9 (Wednesday) Meeting

Reclamation of a Forest Land Gas Well Drilling Site:

A talk about what to expect after a gas well is drilled on your property.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

November 12(Saturday) Field Trip: Visit to Gas Well Forest Reclamation Sites: Visit gas well reclamation sites in early and later stages

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Meet at 12:30 PM at Building #10, Greene Country Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Purpose</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership Information</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 2011</p> <p>Membership dues for 2011 are due by January 30, 2011 and 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 receive a calendar of the 2011 programs and to continue to receive the newsletter.</p>
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GO BATTY THIS SUMMER - COUNT BATS FOR CONSERVATION!

Now's your chance to be the most creative host in your neighborhood – host a bat count this summer! Pennsylvania's two most common bat species, the little brown bat and the big brown bat, use buildings as their summer roosts. Abandoned houses, barns, church steeples – and even currently-occupied structures – can provide a summer home to female bats and their young. Monitoring these “maternity colonies” can give biologists a good idea of how bat populations in an area are doing from year to year. With the occurrence of White Nose Syndrome in Pennsylvania this year, monitoring these colonies is more important than ever.

Please join the PA Game Commission in monitoring the health of Pennsylvania's summer bat colonies through the Appalachian Bat Count. Colonies can be monitored by conducting a “bat count” at a summer colony in your area. We ask that you count bats as they exit their summer roost at dusk in June, then again later in the summer to see how the colony has grown as pups begin flying. The attached documents provide all of the information you need to get started. So please, grab a friend or two and go batty this summer for conservation. Go to this link for more information and to download the forms <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=712212&mode=2>

Executive Committee for the year 2011

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Bob McBride, - Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

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