

# SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

2019

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## Everything You Want to Know About Land Conservation Easements

**April 10, Wed:** Chris Beichner, President/CEO, Allegheny Land Trust, will cover: What is a conservation easement? What are common misunderstandings about easements (e.g., the owner “gives up” ownership of the property or can no longer use the property for personal purposes)? What costs are associated with establishing a conservation easement? What is the process for establishing an easement and how long does it take? What should a landowner look for when choosing a land trust to hold an easement? There will be time for questions.

**Location:** Washington and Jefferson College, The Burnett Center at 292 East Wheeling Street, Washington, PA 15301. **Room 103**

**Time:** 7 PM

## Field Experience: April 13, Sat, 1-4 PM Two Years After Harvest

Return visit to Bob Brown’s farm to view his property two years after the timber harvest. See how the land has recovered from this managed harvest with the guidance of his Consulting Forester, Jim Elze Spring is a great time to evaluate the state of your forest. At Bob Brown’s Tree Farm in Greene County. Directions will be given at the Wednesday meeting or meet to caravan at 12:30 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4H building #10 parking lot (west side of Fairgrounds).

## Planning for Your Forest’s Future

Forest owners, of all people, appreciate the importance of long-term thinking and planning. How we tend our woodlots today results in healthier, more productive forests not just for years, but for decades into the future. Often, our work is a labor done, not necessarily for financial gain, but for love of our land, the trees, and the wildlife. These special places are a gift many of us want to pass on to our children and grandchildren. For this reason, several sessions at the 2019 Forest Landowners Conference focused on the financial and legal issues we need to tend to as carefully as we do our forests. Inheritance taxes, fragmentation of ownership, lack of a will, and similar issues can undermine our intentions to allow future generations to enjoy our woodlands. All of the ideas and information provided during the conference cannot be summarized here, but there are several key messages. Talk with family members about your wishes and goals for the land. Work with a knowledgeable financial advisor and an attorney who can help you create an estate plan that will fulfill your goals. Consider using a conservation easement as a safeguard to assure that the land is used as you want it to be. Fortunately, the April SWPWO meeting will provide more detailed information about conservation easements. This legal tool might not be right for everyone, but learning what it entails is an important step in the planning process. *Written by Maria Piantanida*

## Review of the 2019 Private Landowners Conference

A few SWPWO members attended the [2019 Biennial Private Landowners Conference](#) in State College, PA this past weekend and have this to report. This conference was attended by over 600 people from PA, NY and NJ.

Rebecca Trigger and her son, Mark, and I had a wonderful time at the 2019 Forest Landowners Conference. We both felt the variety of topics offered and the location at the Penn Stater Hotel were outstanding. She especially enjoyed and learned much about pollinators and wild honey bees by attending the following two sessions:

1. Planting for Pollinators: how to plant and maintain native wildflower meadows by Laura Jackson. The photos of pollinators taken by Mrs. Jackson were amazingly up close and spectacular along with all the many little tidbits of information she gave about the behaviors of pollinators. What really pulled together the world of pollinators for her was this 1st session along with the 2nd Session called:
2. Bees in the Trees: Biodiverse Pollinators in the Early Spring Flowering Forest Canopy by Katherine Kass.

She had no idea the U. S. has over 400 species of wild bees and, though Rebecca knew they liked flowers in meadows, it's the trees they love in the spring for the nectar and to live in. Bees only fly in a range of about 350 feet and having the pollinator meadows close to the forest or wind break of trees is essential to their life cycle. The photographs and study results presented by Ms. Kass were outstanding. Rebecca now feels she has enough knowledge to start a pollinator meadow near her woodlands. She is excited about starting this new venture and searching for the clues and behaviors she learned of the bees and other pollinators. Yet another connection to nature!!

Mark Fajerski was also impressed by the quality of the sessions offered at this conference. Notable sessions for him included one using drones equipped with remote sensing technologies like Lidar to assess the physical and biological state of forests. Presentations by Wayne Bender of the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council talked about issues, markets and trends for timber sales, and attorney Thomas Hoffman who discussed estate planning. All were very enlightening.

Gay and Harold Thistle attended separate sessions about PA mushrooms with presenter Bill Russel. They tried to get his book, "Wild Mushrooms of Pennsylvania" but he sold out. Check out his website <http://brmushrooms.com/> for his book and more useful information about mushrooming and cooking mushrooms from PA. Other notable sessions they attended were on pond management, managing a sugar bush (maple sugaring), and medicinal plants of PA. They do have to mention that they had to make choices because there was definitely more than one talk that interested them in each time slot. Gay enjoyed the talk given by the keynote speaker after the banquet. David George Haskell is a biologist and writer of "The Song of Trees". He presented a wholistic view of how the trees interact with other organisms and humans from a scientific standpoint.

## **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**

Yep, you read that correctly! Yellow-bellied sapsuckers. They are real, and while sapsuckers aren't often seen, they do frequently leave behind signs of their tree-drilling activities. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are small migratory woodpeckers that can be found year round in SW PA. They look like downy woodpeckers. The females can have a yellowish belly patch. Sapsuckers are aptly named as they create small round or square holes in trees called sap wells from which they lick tree sap and insects. To learn more about this fascinating bird species, visit the species page on Cornell Lab's All About Birds website ( [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-bellied\\_Sapsucker](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-bellied_Sapsucker)). Adapted from: [https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/Missouri\\_FH\\_Highlights.pdf](https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/Missouri_FH_Highlights.pdf)



Yellow-bellied sapsucker damage



Male yellow-bellied sapsucker

### SWPWO 2019 Calendar

<p>May 8, Wed 7PM</p>	<p><b>“Forestry: Where? What? Why?”</b> with Jim Finley If you own woodland, you hold shared values with a community of people who find satisfaction in the practice of forestry. To ensure that our forests continue to provide for our needs today and for future owners, it is important that we share our commitment to conveying our experiences and knowledge, and thus demonstrate how we value forests. Through our shared commitments to forest health and vitality, we are building a community of people who care about the place where they live and the people who live there. Location: Panera Bread Meeting Room, 108 Trinity Pointe Dr, Washington, PA</p>
<p>May 11, Sat 1-4 PM</p>	<p><b>Wildflower in the Woods:</b> Join the Gregors’ Tree Farm in eastern Washington County for a wildflower walk in the woods near their house and along a small stretch of Ten Mile Creek. The Blue-Eyed Marys have been abundant in previous years and hopefully won't disappoint this spring! Will follow with a drone tour of other areas of their property and refreshments on the porch. Walking conditions are likely to be somewhat wet so please wear appropriate footwear. Directions will be given at the Wednesday meeting or meet at Sears at the Crown Center Mall, Washington, PA- in the parking lot in front of auto repair area.</p>
<p>June 15, Sat 1-4 PM</p>	<p><b>The Value of Trees for the Watershed:</b> a representative from the Stroud Research Center will join us on a tour of Thistles’ Tree Farm in western Greene County to discuss his experiences planting trees in watershed restoration work. We will do demonstration plantings and look at invasive control. Dave will begin with a discussion of the work at Stroud and we will then head off onto the farm to look at work in progress and plant some trees. We will do both tree and invasive ID as we go along and focus on control of invasives. Wear appropriate gear for a hike. Call 724-499-5190 for directions.</p>
<p>July 13, Sat Evening</p>	<p><b>Owl Walk-</b> Take a walk in the woods and learn how to call and spot local owls (if we are lucky). Learn from the experts.</p>
<p>Aug 9, Friday 1 PM</p>	<p><b>Barrel Stave Factory Tour-</b>Visit to Wilson Forest Products in Jefferson, PA-a local agribusiness that serves international customers from Greene County, PA. See how barrels are made from local white oak and learn how they are prepared for wineries and distilleries around the world. Meet at factory at 1216 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson, PA before 1 PM</p>
<p>Sept 14, Sat</p>	<p><b>Wood Lot Tour and Dinner Social</b> -Tour of conservation practices of Brian</p>

1-evening	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	<b>2019 PFA Annual Symposium: Wildlife &amp; Woodlands</b> , Toftrees Resort & Conference Ctr, State College ( <a href="http://paforestry.org/">http://paforestry.org/</a> ) Join other PA woodland owners for educational sessions that will assist you in managing your woods, water and wildlife.
Oct 6, Sun 1PM	<b>Annual Walk in Penn's Woods</b> - 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: <a href="https://sites.psu.edu/walkingpennswoods/">https://sites.psu.edu/walkingpennswoods/</a> 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	<b>Forest Management Practices Using Drones:</b> 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	<b>Demonstration of Forest Management Practices Using Drones-</b> 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><b><u>Membership Information</u></b>  <b>Membership dues will be collected at meetings or can be sent to:</b>  <b>SWPWO</b>          261 2nd St, Oakmont 15139  <b>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.</b></p>	<p><b><u>SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u></b>  <b>President – Mark Fajerski (2018)</b>  <b>Vice President – John Gregor (2018)</b>  <b>Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018)</b>  <b>Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position)</b>  <b>Director – Melissa Gregor (2018)</b>  <b>Director – (2019)</b>  <b>Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018)</b>  <b>Advisor-Bill Wentzel</b>  <b>Advisor- Arlyn Perkey</b></p>
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*Editors: Gay Thistle and Bobbi Cressey-Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome Please send it to [gaythistle@gmail.com](mailto:gaythistle@gmail.com)*