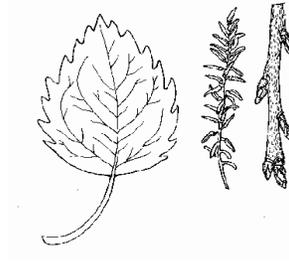


# SWPWO



*Bigtooth aspen*

**Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Assoc.**

**August 2012**

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

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## ***NEXT FIELD TRIP***

**August 18 Summer Member Tour**

**SAT, 1 to 4**

**Beckets Run Woodlands**, a 110 acre property of SWPWO members Janet Sredy and Raul Chiesa near Monongahela PA, is our destination. The property is actively managed according to integrated Forest Stewardship, Wildlife Habitat Management and Conservation Plans in compliance with the American Tree Farm System certification standards.

Approximately one year ago, the first round of invasive species control treatment was implemented in the North half of the property followed in some areas by tree stand improvement, early successional habitat establishment, and tree and shrub planting.

We will see and discuss the early promising results of these practices, and have an opportunity to compare treated and untreated areas of the property. Janet and Raul will also discuss the management of the property's natural gas pipeline right-of-ways in accordance with their stewardship and conservation efforts.

**Beckets Run Woodlands GPS coordinates:** Lat 40°12'47.70"N, Lon 079°50'43.63"W.

**Driving directions** from I-70: Take the State Route 51 North exit, travel north on SR 51 for approximately 6.5 miles to the SR 136 exit. At the top of the exit ramp turn left, onto SR 136 west, travel approximately 0.25 mile to Rodney Lane, (first road on the left). Turn left onto Rodney Lane, you will see the blue painted property border trees on the right. Park along border at Rodney Lane near the Glades Trail Hunting Club sign, 500 feet from the SR 136 intersection.

Janet & Raul would like a rough idea of attendance numbers. Please contact them if you plan to attend: **[becketsrunwoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:becketsrunwoodlands@gmail.com) or (724)208-9317.**

We had an outstanding turnout of 21 members for the tour-- thank you, Bly--of The W.A. Young & Sons Machine Shop and Foundry last month. It is not always about the trees. But, for the record, the Shop has a choice riverside setting in a classic mixed sumac-ailanthus grove.

## ***WALKING IN THE WOODS*** ***Property Lines***

Thirty years ago, a previous owner of our property broke off a five-acre corner and sold it to a buddy as a hunting camp *cum* housing lot. The boundary between the two properties was never clearly marked as a parade of owners and tenants passed this way. What a collective *ménage*: poachers, hucksters, Nittany Lions, vigilantes, Sunday hunters, Tories, arsonists, serial spot-lighters, exhibitionists, late-shot artists, stalkers, barberry sowers, horse traders, bingo players and beaver slayers!

With that 5 acres about to change hands once more, and again no interest on the part of the buyers or their financiers in arranging a survey, I took matters into my own hands. Now, there is a Line through the woods—lit up with fluorescent flagging, painted posts, woody debris, mud slides, pointed stakes, barber poles, rifle pits—that would do Maginot proud.

A massive change of attitude occurs after you finally learn what ground is yours and what is not. We like to say we control for both our own and our neighbors' invasives, but once the line was drawn, it was no contest. The crap on my side didn't stand a chance. It was a savage attack, conducted with a focus and fury reserved for the long overdue. And, you concoct plans for the land on your side of that line: the makings of a trail astride a shelf, a landing that deserves attention, a closer appraisal of any half-promising trees. Over there? Whatever, nature will surely take its' course.

In reality, there is an opportunity here to create a more natural boundary than the overgrown and faded farm fences that mark so many of our property lines: a row of distinctive trees perhaps, or a corridor of native grasses or plantings.

Living fences, anyone?

----**Carl Douglas**

### ***EAB ID***

[For the acronym-phobic, the topic here is the Emerald Ash Borer and its anticipated appearance in our woods with devastating consequences. But a certain number of our ash have looked sickly (thinning canopies, the "ash yellows") for years, keeling over regularly, bark pocked with holes (kinda D-shaped I guess). How will we know when the dreaded bug settles in? Consider the following from Ohio Forester **Jim Elze**.]

I have often wondered if the Ash Borer was really here or not. I would see ash trees in the throes of decline, with borer holes in the trunks, but it always looked like the same old ash problem I had seen for decades. We were doing discovery plots in ash stands back in 1979 trying to figure out what was causing ash trees to decline back then. EAB was just discovered in Ohio 10 years ago. Now I know that what I thought was the same old ash decline problem, was the same old ash decline problem. But....what I have seen twice in the last few months presents very differently.

It's the woodpeckers that should be credited with showing me the way. Without them I may not yet know that the EAB is really here. The trunks of the ash trees stand out like a sore thumb. The woodpeckers have worked the bark over so aggressively in their efforts to feed on the EAB larvae that you'd have to be blind not to notice – even from a

football field away. The bark looks like someone shaved off the outer layer, completely changing the color tone of the trunk. It's kind of like spotting a white birch in a stand of maple trees. It just stands out as being markedly different.

Probably the borers have been there at least a couple of years. But until the population built up enough to attract the woodpeckers, well....you know the rest of the story. No doubt this is just the beginning here in NE Ohio. Now the ash trees are battling 2 major pests. It doesn't appear that they stand much of a chance. Be on the lookout and consult your forester for help in choosing a plan of action or, should I say, reaction. If you have much ash in your woods, hold onto your hat.

### ***HOW DO TREES AFFECT THE WATER CYCLE?***

Trees are part of the water cycle. A tree's leaves and branches create a tree crown. The crowns of many trees together make up a forest's canopy. When it rains, most of the raindrops hit a leaf or branch surface and remain there awhile in "temporary storage" before they are released by evaporation into the atmosphere or by drops falling to the ground.

The brief retention of rainwater by the tree canopy is called rainfall interception. Studies of rainfall interception indicate that interception rates are primarily dependent on the type and amount of leaves. Studies have shown that a mature deciduous tree can intercept 500-700 gallons of water per year. Mature evergreen trees can intercept more than 4,000 gallons per year. Rainfall interception also varies based on tree density, the types of plants growing under the tree canopy, and climate. The time of year that rain falls is also important.

Water that is stored on tree canopy surfaces may either be returned to the air by evaporation or transmitted to the ground via the leaves and bark for root absorption. The tree uses some of the absorbed rainfall and eventually releases the unused portion back into the atmosphere through a process called transpiration.

Water in the canopy that is not evaporated or absorbed will drip down to the ground as the canopy fills with water. Rainfall flowing from the trunk (stem flow) reduces the impact of the raindrops and prevents some of the ground and soil displacement that causes erosion. The leaf litter underneath the tree serves as a sponge for the water. Trees can also absorb water in the soil by root uptake. Together, the roots and leaf litter stabilize soil and reduce erosion.

Thanks to the Northeast Ohio Forestry Association (NEOFA) for reprint rights to material from their Newsletter.

### **2012 Remaining Calendar of Events**

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

**September 12 Meeting**  
**Herbicide Use 101**

**WED, 7 PM: Waynesburg, PA**

Christina Becker, Penn State University, will speak about the safe use of herbicides on common woodland invasives.

**September 15 Field Trip** SAT, 1 to 4

**War in the Woods: Controlling Invasives**

A field demonstration of spraying techniques for the control of multiflora rose, honeysuckle, barberry, grapevine, olive, et.al.

**October 6 Family Picnic** SAT, 1 to.....

Rain or shine, the annual SWPWO Pig in a Poke.

**October 24 Meeting** WED, 7 PM: Washington, PA

**Hobby Arboretums: Planting a Sampling of Trees**

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

**October 27 Field Trip** SAT, 1 to 4

**The Urban Wood-scape**

We will venture to the city of Pittsburgh to Shenley or Frick Arboretums.

**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.**

**Executive Committee, Officers for 2012**

Gay Thistle - President

Mike Irvin -Vice President

David Cressey- Secretary, Newsletter Editor

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