

SWPWO



Tulip Poplar

Southwest PENNA Woodland Owners Assoc.

July 2013

www.busybeaver.cs.pitt.edu/swpwo/

NEXT EVENT

July 13 Field Trip

SAT, 1 to 4 PM

Visit to a Timber Sale Site

Our sojourn to Bob Brown's farm near Sycamore, Greene County is the follow-up to Consulting Forester Jim Elze's May 8 talk on conducting a timber sale. This is an excellent chance to sight-see a woods in the process of being harvested and to eavesdrop on the landowner-forester dynamic, as both Bob and Jim will be on hand to talk about their goals and concerns. A lumberjack special of dogs and beans will be served.

PLEASE RSVP, and ask directions, to Bob Brown [412-480-8313], Gay Thistle [724-499-5190] or Dave Cressey [724-447-2323]. WE WILL MEET AT THE GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, near Bldg #10, at 12:30 to CARPOOL.

Kids Day in the Woods a Manageable Success

We had a healthy turnout of 103 participants, including 47 kids, for the June 1 Tree-apalooza at John & Maureen Burnham's Tree Farm.



Thanks to Sarah Egidi for photos

Summertime: a Season for Loving Forests

It is summer and people love summer. They love the warm days. They love to have picnics. They love to stroll in forest shade. They love to hear the ripples in a wooded stream. People love summer outdoors.

Love is an interesting word and concept. What does it mean when we link love to the environment? We love summer weather. We love the outdoors. We love forests. How can we demonstrate such love?

Maybe, as a first thought, we try to do no harm. If we love the outdoors or the forests, we minimize our footprint. Go online and you can learn how to minimize your carbon footprint. In that process, you learn how your lifestyle contributes to global climate change. Or, if you love a forest, you can literally reduce your footprint by walking or hiking on designated paths. You make a commitment to carry out what you carry in to the woodlands. The intent is to leave no evidence of your journey -- thus minimizing your impact or footprint.

No matter what it is that we love, we demonstrate that we care by learning more about that which we love. In the process of learning we show another dimension of love, we are attentive. How we express attention will vary by what we love, but it will often invoke an understanding of change. We become sensitive to change. If we love a tree, we want to keep it healthy, growing, and improving. The concept of attention easily expands to a forest, a stream, the larger environment.

As love intensifies, there is an accompanying need for knowledge. To garner knowledge, we probe, we learn, we accumulate information, and integrate what we learn to better care for, maintain, or relate to the item of interest.

Without going too far afield, how do you love a forest? It is one thing to say that we love forests and to want to spend time there. The challenge is to demonstrate a commitment to forests -- to gain knowledge. In many places the forest we love is struggling. Human imposed environmental changes are accumulating and forests are changing.

For the past several weeks, fire in the nation's western states has been in the news. Those forests are partially at risk because of misdirected love. For too long, we have excluded fire because we hated to see our forests burn. In the process, they became overstocked with trees -- too much fuel. Recent dry summers, too many trees, and an explosion of bark beetles, has decimated many of these forests. Now, fire is much more common and much more intense.

Here, closer to home, there are other examples of loving forests, but not learning and understanding. Hunters love deer, yet we allow deer numbers to exceed carrying capacity and threaten the future forest. We now know that many of our forests lack sufficient

regeneration to replace them with a new healthy stand of trees. Exotic invasive plants, left unchecked, now threaten plant diversity. We are learning that those same exotic plants are affecting songbird reproduction and stream health -- connections we did not immediately understand.

Global climate change, a broad and troublesome concept, is changing local places in small but important ways. It is important to pay attention and learn about the things you love. Recognizing and striving to understand change, the complexity of a place or system, is an expression of love. As you begin to understand that place, you will gain knowledge that will help you appreciate the health and vitality of what you love.

Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, wrote, "One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise."

If you love forests, learn to show affection, speak out to show you care and build your love by increasing your knowledge. It will make your time in the forest more meaningful and rewarding.

-----**Jim Finley**

Walnut Council Annual Meeting, July 21-24, Morgantown, WV

See www.walnutcouncil.org for event schedule and information on this national event, which has landed in our vicinity for its 2013 incarnation. The Perkey, Thistle, and Burnham plantations are on the schedule as walnut-inclusive local hardwood attractions.

[SWPWO Classifieds]

Country Property for Rent

Seven room house on 52 acres seeking responsible individual or couple. One-half hour west of Waynesburg, Greene County, just this side of Beyond. This is a wonderful opportunity for the beginning and/or experienced forester, a chance to hone stewardship techniques on old farm field/woodlot landscape brimming with possibility. Will consider rent reductions in exchange for work on property. Amenities: indoor plumbing, backpack sprayer. Fun Neighbors.

Contact D. Cressey at 724-447-2323

Upcoming Schedule

- Sept 11 (Wed) 7 **Landowner Liability Issues** Old Concord Presbyterian
“What, me worry? I run a chain saw.”
- Sept 14 (Sat) 1 **Skills Day for Woodland Owners** Perkey Tree Farm, Rutan
Grading logs, directional felling, Alaska Mill demo
- Oct 19 (Sat) **Annual Picnic**
- Nov 13 (Wed) 7 **NRCS Cost Share Programs** Waynesburg
Suzy Funks-Petery, District Conservationist
- Nov 16 (Sat) 1 **Visit to Cost Share Site** Perkey Farm, Rutan
The wrap-up of SWPWO’s 13th season

Detailed 2013 Event Calendar, and plenty else, is available on our web-site.

Friendly Reminder Please keep your dues up to date to continue to receive the Newsletter.

Address correspondence and article submissions to: dcressey@nase.org, or
D.Cressey/ 239 Johnson Rd / Holbrook, PA 15341

SWPWO Executive Committee, Officers for 2013

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

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.