

SWPWO



Southwest PA Woodland Owners

Sept 2018

Next Meeting: Wed. Sept. 5 – New Tools for Tree Identification – Please note the new time and place for this meeting (the last line). Tony Knaus, SWPWO member, will introduce the use of the app iNaturalist.org as a tool for tree and plant identification. iNaturalist.org is a citizen science project and social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists. iNaturalist is built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations. In the Wednesday meeting, he will give an overview of the iNaturalist project and how you can join the social network, share your observations and knowledge, and learn from many of the others on the network. Bring your phone or wireless device. There is free wifi available at Panera- the meeting location. **7:30 PM at Panera Bread, Washington -108 Trinity Pointe Drive Washington, PA 15301, Phone: (724) 225-9778**

Follow up Field Meeting: Sat. Sept. 8 – On the Ground Tree ID with Tony Knaus and Mark and Debbie Fajerski. This tour is a follow-up to the September 5th meeting. The iNaturalist app will be put to use at Maple Hills Tree Farm near Claysville, Washington County. We will tour the property and use the app and the more traditional way to identify the many types of trees. Tony will demonstrate the use of the iNaturalist smartphone app for taking and posting observations to iNaturalist.org for tree and plant identification. Tour is 1-4 PM. Meet at 12:30 PM to carpool in the parking lot in front of the garage doors of the Sears store in Washington, PA. Wear proper shoes for hiking.

New PA Deer Management Strategy Group

In response to the over-abundance of deer that cause problems with forest regeneration in Penn's Woods, a Deer Management Strategy Group has formed and held its first meeting on June 21, 2018. The meeting was attended by folks representing the following groups: Forest Health Collaborative, Society of American Foresters Deer Committee, PA Forest Stewards, Deer Work Group, PA Tree Farm, Quality Deer Management Assoc, and the Kinzua Quality Deer Management Cooperative. The objective of the meeting was to find a unifying message and come up with specific, targeted recommendations that could be brought to the PA Game Commissioners.

The main topics of discussion included:

- Solutions for deer eradication inside forest regeneration enclosures

- Suggestions to improve effectiveness of the PA Game Commission DMAP
- Ways to expand/increase hunting opportunities, especially for young hunters
- Ideas to improve hunter retention and recruitment
- Chronic Wasting Disease

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the meeting notes and/or helping to craft the message for better deer management, please contact Dave Jackson, Forest Resource Educator, Penn State Extension- Centre County at drj11@psu.edu or call at 814-355-4897. *Submitted by Dave Jackson*

Using Phone App to Locate American Chestnuts for Database

The American Chestnut Foundation is doing great work to bring chestnut trees back into the forests after a devastating fungus nearly wiped them out. They have spent many years and dollars to accomplish this mighty task and still, it has a long way to go. But it is a hopeful endeavor that is seeing results. It is still important to locate existing American chestnuts that have hung on in some sort of survival form. To this end the American Chestnut Foundation has a free app called TreeSnap which has the goal to make it easier for citizen scientists to contribute to forest related research projects. The aim here is to identify and locate American chestnut trees that can resist invasive threats. Besides chestnuts, the app also allows you to transmit information on locations of hemlock, ash, elm and white oak. Below is a quick look at the difference between American and Chinese chestnut leaves. *By Gay Thistle, information taken from the Spring 2018 Journal of American Chestnut Foundation*



From: <https://www.acf.org/resources/identification/chinese-american-chestnuts/>

Tips for Developing An Active Management Plan

Putting together a working management plan for your forests can be an overwhelming task, but an important one, one that can prioritize and accomplish sustainable forestry. In order to start a working plan, it is important to divide your property into plots that have different physical aspects, species, and objectives. To assist in this endeavor, here are a few resources and actions to help determine the different plot boundaries.

First, determine the different physical aspects of your property. Use the Web Soil Survey (<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>) to identify the soil types on your farm. Knowing the soil type is one factor that can help determine what trees grow best. The different soil types might give you a way to start dividing your property into different plots. And for further divisions, look at the aspect or sunlight exposure of the site. Southern and western exposures tend to be drier, northern and eastern exposures tend to be wetter. This does not take into account natural springs or creeks in the area, so add the hydrology. Now you have a rough outline of different physical sites on your property.

Take your map out onto the property. If the site has established forest on it, look at the species that grow within the boundaries. What is the dominant species (the tallest), what is the co-dominant species (next tallest)? Identify and mark these trees.

Now, back at the ranch, put all the information together. Do the physical site characteristics match the species of trees growing on the site? What can you do to favor the preferred species? Do you have an open site that would favor a tree species that you want to add to your land? Establish a planting plan. Is there enough food, habitat, and shelter for your wildlife objectives? What sites would be best used for wildlife? And don't forget to inventory invasives in each plot and include a strategy on how to manage them in your plan.

Research or ask your Service Forester to help you further define the boundaries and help determine specific objectives and tasks for each site. Breaking your land into plots helps a landowner not feel so overwhelmed with the tasks of managing the land. *Adapted by Gay Thistle from "Boots on the Ground: Seasonal Checklist for Active Landowners" printed in National Woodlands, Spring 2018.*

PA Forestry Association Annual Meeting

On Saturday, Oct 6, join PA Forestry Association (PFA) members for their annual meeting titled "Managing and Conserving Pennsylvania's Forested Waters". Program runs from 8 Am- 3:45 PM at the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College, PA. For more information visit: <http://paforestry.org/event/pfa-annual-meeting> or call 800-835-8065 to register.

2018 SWPWO Calendar

Sun. Oct. 7 – [Walk in Penn's Woods](#) - Fajerski Farm – Washington Co. This walk is part of a statewide event to get citizens out into the woods. This year, our group will offer a tour of Maple Hills Tree Farm near Claysville, Washington County. We'll visit plantings of maturing red oak and black walnut as well as new plantings of pitch x loblolly hybrid pines. We'll also view a

small cemetery from the 1800's and one of the largest sugar maples in the state (Big Daddy) that's registered with the Champion Trees of Pennsylvania web site. This is a walking tour so be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Tour begins at 1 PM

Wed. Nov. 7 – **New Tools for Planning your Woodlot – My Land Plan** -Washington's Citizens Public Library – Ryan Egidi and John Burnham, SWPWO members. This workshop will show landowners how to use MyLandPlan.org which is a free online tool used to map your land, establish goals and objectives, and plan for the future. MyLandPlan.org is a user friendly web site provided by the American Forest Foundation (AFF). This workshop will help landowners learn a new tool to explore different conservation and management opportunities. During the first class, we will meet in a computer lab where we will work with all attendees to set up accounts, map your land and explore stewardship opportunities. Note different location: At the Washington's Citizens Public Library (55 S. College St, Washington, PA)

~~Sat. Nov. 10 – **Using GPS as a Planning Tool on your Woodlot** – THIS FIELD DAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED~~

Please visit our website, <http://www.swpwopa.com/> for more information and links to resources for woodland owners

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><u>Membership Information</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>SWPWO Officers (year elected)</u> President – Mark Fajerski (2018) Vice President – John Gregor (2018) Secretary – Ryan Egidi (2018) Treasurer – Maria Piantanida (at large position) Director – Melissa Gregor (2018) Director – Tony Knaus (2015) Director – Wayne Kraeer (2018) Advisor-Bill Wentzel Advisor- Arlyn Perkey</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