



# Not Just Fishermen

The April 12, 2012 news release by DCNR urged anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to take extra care in the woods this spring to help prevent forest fires. The release came at the start of the annual trout season. The rating at the time for most of Pennsylvania was high to very high. DCNR Secretary Richard Allan said “one act of carelessness could prove disastrous among tinder-dry conditions in some of our forests, where wildfire dangers climb with each day of sun and wind.”

We may not hear in Mercer County when 500 acres burn in Luzerne or Cameron Counties, But we will always get news reports on California fires. But in 2012 over 1201 acres have burned in Pennsylvania by mid April.

We are in the peak of the wildfire season. According to DCNR 85 percent of all fires will occur in the months of March, April and May. And on average 10,000 acres burn each year.

Use caution when burning outdoors. As the camping season gets

underway, follow best care methods to have a safe and contained fire area. Clean debris and dead materials such as leaves and fire wood away from your home. Trim overhanging branches and clean gutters.

An acquaintance of mine in California gets a visit from the local fire department each spring. They have a specific deadline in her housing area, as to when the spring clean-up of dead palm branches and other such debris must be completed and hauled away from their yards. Fines starting around \$500 are imposed if the standards are not met on the day of inspection, and penalties until completed.

The Bureau of Forestry is responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires on Pennsylvania’s 17 million acres of private and state-owned woodlands. For more information on prevention, contact local district foresters: Call the Bureau of Forestry at 717-787-2925; or visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us) and select “find a forest” then “wildfire”.

Remember those famous words...”Only you can prevent...”

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Relax  
with  
MCWOA  
News



What winter???

# From the President

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**Travis Sere day, MCWOA Presient**

## **Board Meetings**

As a reminder, all members may attend board meetings. The remaining board meetings for 2012 are scheduled for May 9, July 11, and September 12. These meetings are held at the Mercer County Extension office at 7 PM. I encourage member participation and feedback.

## **Nominating Committee**

This year, the offices of president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer will be up for re-election. There may also be openings for board members. Bob McGhee and Chuck Kite have been appointed as a nominating committee. Please contact either one with your nominations. Chuck may be reached at (724) 662-2847 and Bob may be reached at (724) 301-0066.

## **Website**

At our last board meeting, we chose to hire out the duties of updating our website. For a one time fee, our website will be professionally designed.

Additionally, updates to the website will be free. Not only will the website outline upcoming events, but it will serve to educate the public as to what MCWOA is about, and also provide an easy avenue for new individuals desiring to join our organization. Keep an eye on mcwoa.org in the coming months.

## **Dates and Deadlines**

We all enjoy hearing other members' stories regarding their activities and experiences managing their woodlots. As you know, the newsletter is put out quarterly. The remaining 2012 issues will be sent in July and October. If you would like to submit an article to be put in the MCWOA newsletter, please have articles in by 7/2/2012 for the July issue and 9/24/2012 for the October issue. You may email them to

Pat at [cowbell99@windstream.net](mailto:cowbell99@windstream.net).

The MCWOA fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31. Annual dues are payable on or before November 30 for the new fiscal year.

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The male **American Woodcock** has an elaborate display to attract females. He gives repeated "peents" on the ground, often on remaining patches of snow in the early spring. After a time he flies upward in a wide spiral. As he gets higher, his wings start to twitter. After reaching a height of 70-100 m (230-328 ft) the twittering becomes intermittent, and the bird starts chirping as he starts to descend. He comes down in a zig-zag, diving fashion, chirping as he goes. As he comes near the ground he silently lands, near a female if she is present. Then he starts peenting again.

The male **American Woodcock** gives no parental care, but continues to display long after most females have laid eggs. Some males display at several, widely separated singing grounds and will mate with several females. A female may visit four or more singing grounds before nesting, and she may keep visiting even when she is caring for her young.

Unlike many birds that leave their nests at hatching, newly hatched woodcocks cannot feed themselves. They are dependent on the mother for food for the first week. The chicks start to probe in dirt at three or four days after hatching.

## **American Woodcock**



## LEARNING EVENTS

### MCWOA

**July 22, Sunday, Farm Tour & Picnic**  
*Campbell Tree Farm. 778 Sunol Rd.*

**August/September, Caring for your Woodlot I. 2 day presentation**

*Thursday Evening 6-9PM Class discussion—Saturday morning Field Demos. \$10 fee*

### October , Annual Dinner

*We strongly encourage you to attend one or more of these events. If you are a regular participant of these conferences, please consider bringing a landowner with you that has never attended one of these events before. It provides a great opportunity to talk to forest professionals as well as other landowners.*

### *OTHER events of INTEREST*

**May 18—Allegheny College, Vukovich Center Theater** *Speaker Wendell Berry, Renowned Author, Sustainability Advocate.*

Presented by the Foundation for Sustainable Forests 7 pm—no charge

**MAY 19, Saturday**, FFSF Blooming Valley Forest (North of Meadville)  
9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. No Charge

#### **AM Sessions**

**For the Birds:** Managing for Birds and Non-Game Wildlife

**Reading the Understory:** The Understory and Forest Health

**Taking Hints from Nature:** An overview of the Foundation's forestry techniques using nature as the guide.

Afternoon Session 1:30 p.m.

#### **Forest Management as a Land Ethic**

From the practical to the philosophical, a discussion of how landowners can and should work to benefit the land.

Pre-registration is required all sessions, which are free. Register by e-mailing

[Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org](mailto:Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org).

## On the WEB

### AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

New e-Newsletter—visit and sign-up at  
[www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org)

Welcome to the inaugural issue of AFF's e-newsletter in which we are excited to announce [MyLandPlan.org](http://MyLandPlan.org), a new online tool for woodland owners! Plus, learn about our work in [Wisconsin's Driftless area](#) to help landowners conserve their forests, and why Tree Farmers want Washington to ['Fix the Estate Tax!'](#)--vital to ensuring they can pass on their forest legacy to the next generation.

## Our Woodcock.

Woodcock or Timber Doodle have utilized our brush-covered field since we purchased the property eleven years ago. We see them in the spring doing their unique mating flight during the months of March and April. Twice a day at sunrise and sunset the male does it routine trying to attract a female. Through out the summer I would see them in the older timber and sometime in the brush-covered field. In the spring of 2010 one of our dogs routed a female off of a nest with four eggs in it. Unfortunately the female abandoned the nest.

Last summer was the first time I saw an adult bird with several young. The first time I was mowing the grass covered path that I have throughout the field using our brush hog. I thought I was going to run over them as the female stood her ground, so I skipped that area. The second time I saw the young I was using the string line grass trimmer to mow around our American chestnut trees, and they were walk from one aspen stand to another during a dry spell.

I always assumed that they were rearing young on our tree farm but they dispersed their young when danger approached. This past summer during a short three-week dry spell I kicked out at least one adult several time after I watched it probe for earthworms in mud puddles on our trails. The bird made row after row of fairly evenly spaced holes that looked like a pegboard.

The aspen stand we cut 10 years ago is where they are nesting and brood rearing. It should serve their needs for another 5 years before we need to clear-cut the stand again. The aspen trees in our old field are clones and to regenerate them you only need to clear-cut them down during the late fall or winter and you will see sprouts coming up every where the following spring.

Along the township roads that border the old field we planted white pine and white spruce trees ten years ago. One of our reasons was that woodcock would probe for earthworms under evergreens trees during droughts. Another reason was to screen the road noise and traffic from Pat's deer stand. I also find them to be attractive and excellent thermal cover for wildlife that utilize our farm during the winter months.

When I was the manager of Maurice K. Goddard State Park we tried to set back the old fields ever 10 years. Plus we mowed opening in these field every year. Bill Wasser, the current Park Manager is working on mowing some of these areas this year. A grant is paying for the work to reestablish excellent woodcock habitat on the park. Successional habitat (old fields/brush covered fields) we are loosing in Pennsylvania it is one of the most critical habitat. The losses come from the need for corn for gasoline additives/gasohol and locally for switch grasses for Ernst seeds business.

The woodcock success has become one of Pat and my successes. They were always here we just keep enough of the old field habitat in a state that they like.



# Old Growth Forest—Explore Pennsylvania

Looking for something close to home this summer? Or what about a fall trip. Did you know that you can take a Auto Tour of Old Growth Forests. Located primarily in the north-central part of Pennsylvania, the twenty sites on the Tour represent many different ecosystems, not only deep classic "big tree" forests. Most of the sites are within what is known as the Lumber Heritage Region, the 15 counties from which most of the timber resources were extracted in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Much of this area has now once more become a heavily wooded area, with over 2.5 million acres of Federal and State forests.

Learn more about what old-growth means and see how and why these particular sites were chosen for the tour. We'll explain the principles on which those choices were based and some of the history of Pennsylvania's magnificent forests

Visit :

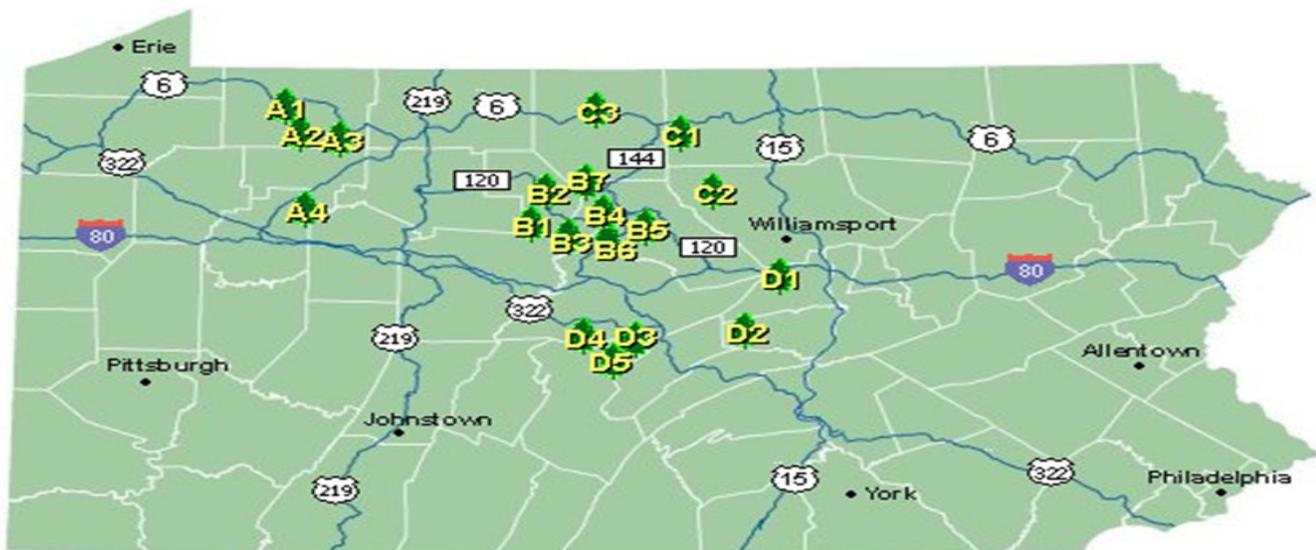
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/oldgrowth/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/oldgrowth/index.aspx)

## North West section (A)

Anders Run Natural Area  
Hearts Content, Allegheny National Forest  
Tionesta National Scenic and Research Areas  
Cook Forest State Park

## North Central Section (B)

Susquehanna Wild Area,  
Wykoff Run Natural Area  
Johnson Run Natural Area  
Lower Jerry Run Natural Area  
Bucktail State Park Natural Area  
Cranberry Swamp  
Proposed Natural/Old-growth, Sproul State Forest  
Forrest H. Duttlinger Natural Area



## North section (C)

Pine Creek Gorge  
Bark Cabin Natural Area  
Lumber Museum

## South Central section (D)

The Hook Natural Area  
Snyder Middleswarth Natural Area, Tall Timbers  
Natural Area  
Detweiler Run Natural Area  
Bear Meadows Natural Area  
Alan Seeger Natural Area

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# Threats to “Penn’s Woods”

By: Jake Scheib, DCNR Forester

We are dealing with another threat to the Commonwealth and it is the Thousand Cankers Disease. The black walnut is highly susceptible to this disease and it is something that you should be aware of.

This is a complex disease, meaning that there is an insect and a fungi that are working together to cause a problem for the black walnut. The insect is the walnut twig beetle and the disease is a fungus called, *Geosmithia morbida*.

The way this disease works is in a two stage series. The twig beetle creates galleries in the branches and the fungus affects these open wounds. Once the black walnut is affected, the fungus creates many cankers; which will eventually girdle and kill the tree.

This disease was common in the western part of the country, but recently it was discovered in Tennessee, and in August of 2011, the “Thousand Cankers Disease” was found in Bucks County, PA.

These are two pictures that illustrate what the insect looks like and what the inside layer of the bark looks like when it is affected by the cankers.

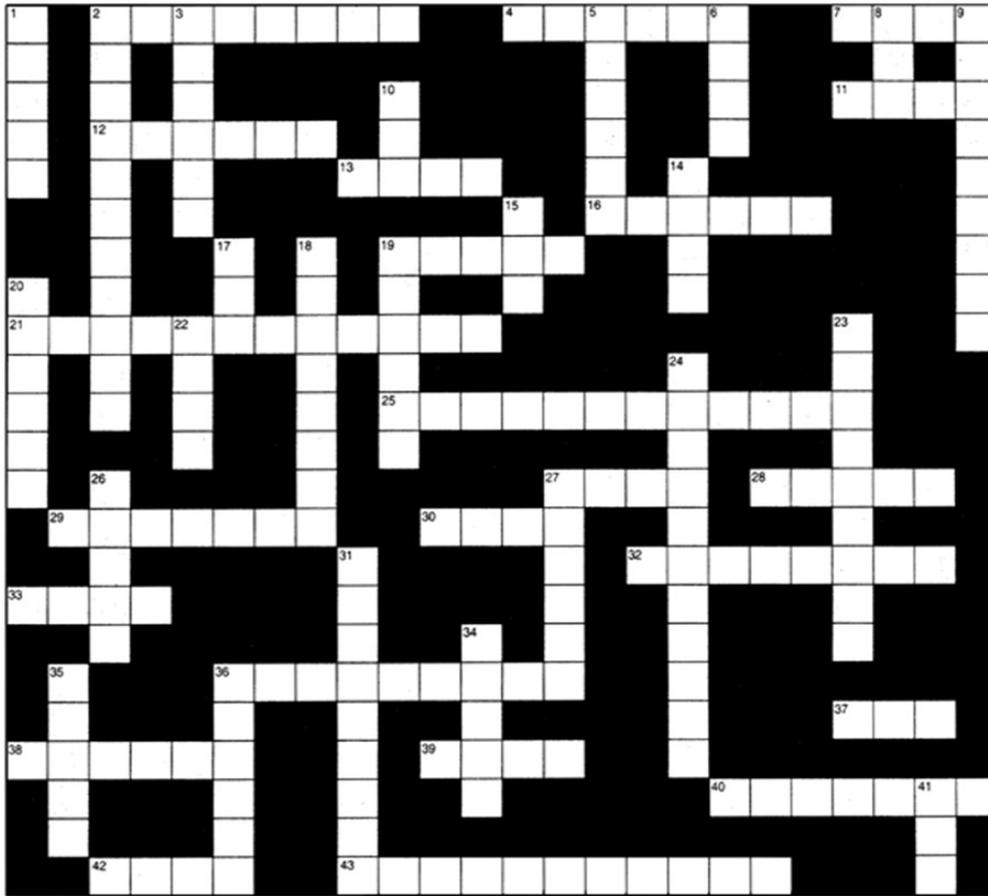


[www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/tcd.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/tcd.shtml)



[ncforestservice.gov](http://ncforestservice.gov)





**Just  
For  
Fun**

## Forest Wild- fire Prevention crossword

Use the clues to fill in the blanks of the crossword puzzle!

### Across

2. Stone flame encircle
4. One color of fire
7. Weed & leaf remover to be used around your house
11. Shade-giver vulnerable to fire
12. Better than a "bucket brigade"
13. Often coiled in rest; should stretch to parts of your home
16. Famous fire prevention symbol
19. "Arrester" which prevents fires, not crimes
21. "Hood" one who can live in but not wear; can be made fire safe
25. Firefighter's tool whose name describes what it does
27. Campers must not allow theirs to go out on its own
28. Firefighter's forest "clean-up"
29. Dangerous objects; to be handled ONLY by adults
30. Falling leaf season
32. Fireplace fuel; store it away from your house
33. Where dead branches shouldn't be; in relation to your roof
36. Dangerous as matches, with an explosive personality
37. "Only \_\_\_ can prevent forest fires!"
38. Troughs to collect water, not leaves
39. "Before" (+ st= answer to no. 36 down)
40. Opposite of "cause"
42. Fire radiates this
43. Surroundings, crime, atmosphere, etc. (ecosystem, earth)

### Down

1. An alarm to protect you from fire
2. Firefighter and engine abode
3. Smokey co-worker in forest protection
5. Once lost by a tree, shouldn't be left laying around
6. Describes both forest animals and the fire they flee from
8. Like us, fire needs this to survive
9. Kind of numbers that should be kept near a telephone
10. Number of exits every home needs, in case of a fire
14. Flammable house frame material
15. Fire's favorite season
17. baby Smokey
18. Without concern (Describes many fire starters)
19. Smokey carries one
20. Synonym of "creature" (can't start fires, but can be a victim of them)
22. Wildfires can strike here
23. Proper kind of container for the barbeque coals
24. Conflagration combatant
26. Thirst and fire quencher
27. "Arms" of a fire
31. Should be fire safe before used
34. It burns everyone
35. Kind of person to tell in you find an out-of-control fire
36. Flammable tree gathering
41. Time you can begin helping Smokey

# Connecting Kids to Nature

## Forest Service Kids

The Forest Service is committed to connecting kids with nature and the outdoors by providing students, parents and teachers with youth-oriented information and resources related to natural resources and the environment. Our Agency wants to encourage more kids to go outdoors by having fun, being healthy and learning more about nature. This can instill kids to create an awareness of the value of public lands, seek careers in natural resources and land management as well as enthusiastically participate in physical activities. Some of the web sites they recommend are as follows:

[www.discovertheforest.org/](http://www.discovertheforest.org/)                      [www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/](http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/)  
[www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/eatsmartmaterials.html](http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/eatsmartmaterials.html)  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home)

MCWOA recommends that adults should always review web content before sharing it with a Child.

## The Forest in Literature

### IN THE FOREST by Oscar Wilde

Out of the mid-wood's twilight  
Into the meadow's dawn,  
Ivory limbed and brown-eyed,  
Flashes my Faun!

He skips through the copses singing,  
And his shadow dances along,  
And I know not which I should follow,  
Shadow or song!

O Hunter, snare me his shadow!  
O Nightingale, catch me his strain!  
Else moonstruck with music and madness  
I track him in vain!

**By Mike Garofalo,**

*From the collection of works [Above the Fog](#)*

"We are the books in your hands,  
the sturdy chairs on your floors,  
the upright walls of your houses,  
the strong slanted roofs protecting your heads,  
the holders of food during your meals,  
the coffins for your rotting flesh,  
the doors to your worlds,  
the tissues cleaning the crap off your arses,  
the boats for your fishers of men,  
the forests on your Mother Earth,  
the heat in your hearth,  
the Sacred Rattles of the Winds,  
the cooling shade for your summers,  
the handles of your tools of life and death.

We are the Ancient Green Ones,  
Yggdrasil, Ashvattha, Etz Chaim,  
Arbotvitae, Axis Mundi of Many Names;  
Ten Thousand Forms yet One of Kind,  
the oldest living beings,  
the largest and tallest living beings.  
Yes, the Givers of the fruits and nuts in your hands.  
Yes, the Givers of the air that you breathe.  
Yes, the Trees, the Trees, the Trees!"



# MCWOA

## MCWOA REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERSHIP

### MERCER COUNTY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MCWOA  
Mercer County Extension Office  
PO Box 530  
Mercer, PA 16137

or

C/O Pat Campbell, Sec  
778 Sunol Rd  
Cochrannton, PA 16314

Email: MCWOA@yahoo.com

**Officers:** President Travis Sereday  
Vice Pres Donald Campbell  
Sec/Tres Pat Campbell (814)-425-2700  
Email: MCWOA@yahoo.com

**Board Members:** Thad Lang Patrick Kelly Chuck Kite Bob McGhee Harry Elder

**Advisors:** DCNR, Bureau Forestry Jake Scheib (724)-253-3634  
Mercer County Extension Office Gary Micsky (724) 662-3141

### MEMBERSHIP

TYPE	Dues	Description
Lifetime	\$200	Family Lifetime, Woodland Owner, voting member
Family	\$15	Immediate household, Woodland owner, voting member
Individual	\$10	Individual, Woodland owner, voting member
Associate	\$5	Individual, Non-Woodland owner, non-voting member
Junior	\$2	Individual age 16 yrs. and younger, non-voting member
Sponsor	\$15	Group or Business interested in Woodland Mgmt., non-voting

[www.mcwoa.org](http://www.mcwoa.org)

## SPONSORSHIP - Groups and Businesses who support MCWOA

*The mission of our organization is to provide information and education to our membership concerning all aspects of private woodland ownership and management.*

**MCWOA would like to recognize the Businesses and Groups who support goals.**

*Like to see your Group or Business recognized here contact Pat Campbell at MCWOA@yahoo.com or call 814-425-2700*

**Sponsor memberships available.**

**EDWARD L. McDOUGALL**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Accounting & Tax Services  
Business & Individual

309 Hillcrest Ave (724) 458-5878 Grove  
City, PA 16127 Call for Appointment

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MCWOA  
c/o Pat Campbell  
778 Sunol Rd  
Cochranton, PA 16314

Mailing label

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