
All in a Nutshell

Volume 18, Issue 1

Winter 2013



Wintery view of gas pipeline awaiting reseeding at the site of our Spring Woods Walk on March 9, 2013

President's Message

Well, it's official. Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, and therefore we will have an earlier Spring. I'm not sure I believe it given the temperatures and the dire warnings for this weekend's storm. But I like it none the less. I don't know about you, but I am tired of dark and cold and grey. Yesterday I actually saw two male bluebirds fighting over a single house in the yard. Nearby another was just watching the fisticuffs. I guess he was an older one realizing that the young guys would wear themselves out, but he would be ready when the ladies came by.

Other harbingers of Spring have begun to arrive. Seed catalogs are starting to arrive; The Soil Conservation seedling sale flyers are out; the QDMA is taking orders for Dunstan Chestnut trees; and Tom Clark says the normal average temperature is on the upswing and that trend should carry us through the fall. I can live with that!

Yesterday, I walked through the spring woods walk with the landowner and the experts who will join us. On the walk you will have the opportunity to walk through a natural gas drilling pad; a recently cut-over area slated for regrowth via selected seed trees; a recently constructed natural gas pipeline; and young succession forest. Along the way the Service Forester will discuss the strategies and objectives for the cut-over area; the Game Commission representative will discuss the impact of new pipelines on area wildlife; and a pipeline representative will discuss reclamation and planting of the disturbed area. This walk has something for almost everyone, and I think it will be both educational and enjoyable.

More detail is available on our website www.Scfloa.org. Speaking of our website- have you seen it lately? We had it redone to make it more user friendly and informative. One of the things I am most excited about is that the time delay in getting data entered has been eliminated. We have a Director designated as keeper of the web, and his objective is to keep presentations current and configured for easy use. This meets our objective of having a vehicle to keep members up to date with plans for future events and what's happening in the community relevant to forestry practices. If you haven't looked at it, I would encourage you to do so. I think you'll like it. Simultaneously, we have created a Facebook page for the younger of our members. Please provide any suggestions/corrections to Rob at alfred12@epix.net.

Wondering what to do now while you wait for Spring? Now is the time to be planning your garden and yard plantings. Don't forget to order your trees, plantings, and seeds. You might want to get a jump on your garden by planting some seeds and starting them in the basement. I hope they grow well. If you have a sugar shack, check your equipment and make sure it is ready to go- sugaring time will be here in a heartbeat. This might be a time to check out the Montrose Adult School catalog for the spring semester. You might find something interesting like "Tree and Shrub Pruning Basics"; "Backyard Maple Sugaring" or "The Home Gardener's Top Ten Herbs for Cooking". They always have something interesting. Mark your calendar for 9 March for the Woods Walk at Doug Sheldon's in Jackson. Hope to see you there!

-Jim James

One section of the actively-managed woods on the Doug Sheldon property which will be toured on March 9. Read the article on page 2 for further details of this interesting activity.



Spring Woods Walk (continued)

Your Woodland and Gas Pipeline Right-of-Ways March 9, 2013

On March 9, the Susquehanna County Forest Land Owners Association (SCFLOA), in cooperation with the Wayne/Lackawanna Forest Landowners Association (WLFLA), is holding its annual Spring Woods Walk at the Jackson Township property of Director Doug and his wife, Margaret Sheldon. The walk will be conducted along an actively-managed section of woods as well as a section of new gas pipeline construction.

This will be a time-appropriate walk which should prompt relevant discussions of best management practices for restoration of pipeline right-of-ways, including integration with forestry management goals. Suggestions for specific seeding and planting options will be presented.

This walk is open to the public, not just members of either forest landowners group. Ryan Brown, PA Service Forester for Susquehanna County, and Doug Sheldon, landowner, will talk about the woodland management work, as well as experiences regarding the gas pipeline right of way. PA Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Rich Fritsky, will talk about the different types of habitat/cover and what that means to wildlife. Additionally, a pipeline company environmental compliance consultant will be available to answer questions during the walk.

Woods Walk Itinerary

9:00 am- Social gathering for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts at SWN well pad #49, just off Rt. 92 at the intersection of Twp. Road 649, (Hayden's Rd) 2.6 mi. south of Susquehanna. Woods walk signs will indicate the road turnoff area. Members of the SCFLOA Board of Directors will be guiding cars to the parking and meeting area. *SEE MAP on adjacent column.*

9:30 am- Brief introductory comments from Doug Sheldon and members of SCFLOA. Walk commences through a cut forest area where over 400 loads of culled firewood were removed.

10:00 am- The walk progresses through the actively cut forest area of 180 acres of timber stand improvement. There will be several stops for talks in this area. *CAUTION: Some of the areas of this walk will be difficult to traverse for those who have physical limitations.*

11:00 am- We will emerge from the cut-over woodland onto the pipeline which is awaiting spring planting. Remarks will be made by the professionals regarding the pipeline, the seeding and the forest on both sides of the pipeline. This discussion will explain the different management practices observed over the course of the walk. We will amble along the pipeline, heading toward the well pad.

Woods Walk Itinerary(continued)

12:00 pm- Depart for LUNCH which will be served at the nearby North Jackson United Methodist Church. Prepared by the UMW, the hot soup, & sandwich lunch complete with home-made pie, is compliments of the Susquehanna Gathering Pipeline Company. (**Reservations for lunch are required.**) Following lunch, pipeline consultant Sandy Long of J. F. Kiely will conduct an informational session.

TO MAKE LUNCH RESERVATIONS:

Contact by **March 2:**

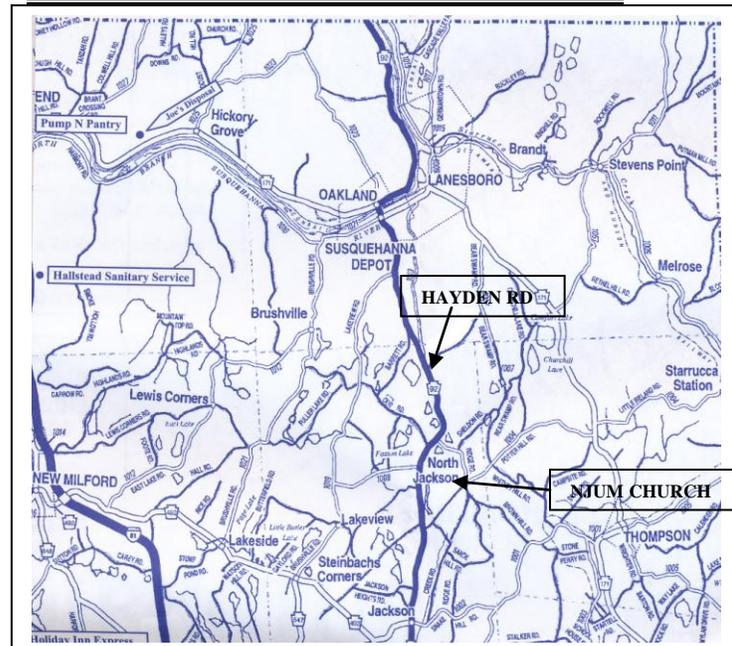
Stuart Slocum- slocumsw95@yahoo.com or
(570)-756-2497

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact:

Doug Sheldon- dlsheldon@aol.com or
(570)906-0913

Map to Walk Location



2013 SCFLOA Board of Director meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the NRCS conference room, located along Rt. 706, Montrose, PA. The building is just west of the Kubota dealership, toward the golf course. **Meetings dates are as follows:** April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, and December 5

Our Big Tree Contest continues

PA Big Tree Points =

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Height of tree in feet} \\ + \\ \text{Circumference at 4 1/2 feet in inches} \\ + \\ \text{1/4 the Average Crown Spread in feet} \end{array}$$

If you have a big tree to measure call:

**Jim James –289-4935; Bob Wagner–278-9363;
Or Stu Slocum –756-2497.**

SCFLOA is continuing to search and measure large trees in Susquehanna County. This effort is being conducted, as time allows, by volunteers from the Board of Directors and our Service Forester. To date 74 trees have been measured, with another 36 still on our list to do. If you have or know of a big tree, we are still interested.

So how BIG is a BIG Susquehanna County tree? Here are ten largest (by points) that we have measured thus far:

1. 358.25 Red Oak Jackson Township
2. 351.70 White Pine Dimock Township
3. 349.20 White Pine Dimock Township
4. 343.10 Sugar Maple Lathrop Township
5. 342.90 White Oak Lenox Township
6. 329.00 White Ash Dimock Township
7. 328.40 White Pine Dimock Township
8. 311.90 White Ash Jackson Township
9. 306.20 Red Oak Middletown Township
10. 303.40 Red Oak Brooklyn Township

Tallest tree measured:

133 feet Tulip poplar Brooklyn Township

Greatest Circumference measured:

240 inches Red Oak Jackson Township
(9.34 ft diameter)

Greatest Crown Spread:

189.1 feet White Oak Lenox Township



Largest tree measured thus far

Red Oak 358.25 points

For more information and pictures of big trees in Susquehanna County, as well as all of PA go to

<http://www.pabigtrees.com/>

(not all information there is updated)

Wood Heat-What is Creosote?



Creosote, a natural by-product of burning wood, is a combustible deposit originating from condensed wood smoke. It includes tar, vapors, and various organic compounds. Inside the chimney, creosote undergoes

pyrolysis, a chemical alteration of the fuel molecules caused by heat. The by-products of this pyrolysis can be sooty or ash-like, sticky, tacky and runny tar glaze, dry honeycombs or curly flakes. Frequently it can also be a dense, hard and shiny black tar glaze. Some of the variables that affect the amount of creosote build-up in the stove and chimney are smoke density, flue gas temperature, and residence time.

Smoldering fires and cool chimneys produce the greatest amount of build-up. Over-sized equipment, burning too cool, usually causes more build-up. Contrary to popular belief, burning seasoned hardwood does not eliminate build-up. Wood can actually be too dry.

Proper operation of the wood burning system is the single, most important contributing factor in minimizing build-up. Burning smaller fuel loads, refueling more frequently and avoiding slow, smoldering burns is crucial. Creosote build-up should be removed from chimneys because it can restrict the draft, corrode metals, cause foul odors and lower the systems heat transfer efficiency, as well as cause dangerous chimney fires.

Wood Heat-Best wood to burn?

There are various ways for considering the type of wood best for burning. Most articles debate the merits of burning seasoned vs green wood. Others compare the densities of various species of hardwoods and softwoods. Yet another consideration is the comparison of split wood compared to whole chunks of wood. The reason for such comparisons ultimately is to obtain the maximum amount of heat per pound of wood with the least amount of creosote buildup. Conventional wisdom dictates the use of a well-dried, split, dense species of wood. This should provide the greatest amount of heat with the least amount of dangerous creosote buildup.

Most experts recommend the cutting, splitting, and stacking of hardwood species with air drying of at least 1 full year in advance of use. Covering the wood pile with a tarp is not recommended as it traps in escaping moisture. A moisture content of 15 to 20% is most often suggested. While most people do not have a meter for determining such, a visual inspection for end cracking, peeling bark and wood coloration is sufficient. With experience, the relative weight of the wood is also revealing. Most firewood purchased is unlikely to have a sufficient drying age.

Wood Heat- Editor's comments

While I mostly agree with the conventional line of thinking, I think it is also important to consider your individual heating equipment and situation. With the advent of fan-forced draft on outside wood furnaces, many people prefer to use less-seasoned wood. My Century boiler is not a fan-forced draft and I cannot burn green wood with any degree of success or adequate amount of heat. Actually, I really prefer a mixture of very-dry and partially green wood for an ideal loading that will give the best heat for the longest burn. Split wood burns much faster in an outside furnace than whole logs. For me, I try to mix the two together. Further, I try to sort my wood species so that I burn the densest species on the coldest days.

I think the bottom line in heating with wood is that you have to get to know your system and go with what works best for you. I would never consider burning green wood in my inside stove nor would I burn pine, hemlock or other conifer wood in there, except for a little kindling to get things started. Burning wood is a very satisfying and soul-warming activity, but it should be done in the most efficient and safe manner possible.

Go to our website for more information regarding the heating values of various wood species.

We would like to hear about your experiences and questions regarding heating with wood. Please send them to me by email or regular mail to the addresses listed elsewhere on this page!

Thank you, *S W Slocum, editor*

1371 Slocum Rd, Thompson PA 18465

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2013 SCFLOA dues

Are now receivable

Membership types

Individual/family (10+acres) \$20

Associate (no acreage needed)..... \$16

Make checks payable to SCFLOA

Send to: *Stuart W. Slocum, treasurer*
1371 Slocum Rd

Thompson, PA 18465
Contact: *slocumsw95@yahoo.com*



Visit our Facebook page

Search for SCFLOA on Facebook site

Check us out online at
www.scfloa.org

2013 SCFLOA Calendar of Events

March 9, 9:00 am: Spring Woods Walk at Sheldon property

June 23: Annual SCFLOA picnic at Salt Springs State Park

August 18-24: Harford Fair display and contests

October: Columbus holiday fall foliage bus tour

November: Annual membership business meeting and dinner