
All in a Nutshell

Volume 15, Issue 3

Autumn 2010



While enjoying the magnificent view above the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, SCFLOA President, Jim Kessler, explains to SCFLOA director, Franz Fearnley, the diversity of fall foliage coloration, which is a result of the mixture of northern hardwood tree species.

The perfect October day made this year's annual bus trip a grand outing enjoyed by a full busload of enthusiastic forest landowners and nature lovers. While not at peak coloration, there was still a splendid display of nature's autumn beauty.

President's Message

Fall is really here! Leaves have changed colors and many of them are on the ground. Have you noticed how the lighting in the woods has changed? Especially at dusk, which is when I often go for a woods walk. The ground is covered with leaves of the birch and aspen trees, which are yellow, making the ground seem to glow. It won't be long until the yellows turn brown and winter sets in and covers everything in white.

We had a very successful Fall Foliage bus trip. We had to upgrade to the largest bus available and then Bill Bayne drove for the overflow crowd. We probably could have filled a second bus, if it were available. We had a brief stop at the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon near Wellsboro. We didn't have time to hike the trails, but the visit wetted the appetite to want to return and spend more time individually viewing the sights.

For lunch we stopped at The Coach Stop Inn. This historic stage coach stop was prepared for us and had our buffet awaiting us as soon as we could be seated. They provided very efficient service and abundant good food. Nobody left hungry.

When we got to the Lumberman's Museum, everyone had prepaid admission. The code word was "WE ARE WITH THE BUS". That phrase got you into the museum and any other benefits. Very simple!

We learned how the SHAY railroad engine opened up logging to the Allegheny plateau because it could climb slopes up to 12 per cent grade, because it was a gear drive engine instead of the conventional piston drive engine used for other purposes. Other engines were limited to a climb of 2 per cent slope, unable to get up the stream valleys.

Fall foliage was at its peak and the sun was bright all day long. Keep us in mind for our fall foliage, Columbus Day bus trip next year. We are open to suggestions for forestry related activities for next year. Let one of our directors know where there is something fun to visit.

Remember to make your reservations for the Annual Dinner at the Harford Fire hall. Jerry Skinner is a fantastic speaker who will entertain us for the evening with a slide show about Pennsylvania hawks and owls. You can always learn something from Jerry. - *Jim Kessler*

Annual Members' Meeting

The annual dinner/business meeting will be held on **November 19th, 2010** at the **Harford Volunteer Fire Co. Bldg. Harford, Pa.** The meal, prepared by the Harford Fire Company auxiliary, will begin at **6pm**. There will be a delicious dessert of homemade pies, baked by the ladies of the North Jackson United Methodist church. The **\$15** per person dinner is open to the public, with reservations required. Reservations must be in to Helga Walz by **November 15th**. The special guest speaker will be Dr. Jerry Skinner, Professor of Biology at Keystone College. His presentation topic will be the natural history of raptors - Hawks and Owls!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

November 19, 2010, 6:00 pm

**At the Harford Volunteer Fire Co. Bldg.
Harford, Pa.**

**Dinner, election of officers and directors
Presentation on raptors by biologist
Dr. Jerry Skinner**

About Dr. Jerry Skinner



The speaker at the SCFLOA annual meeting will be Dr. Jerry Skinner. Dr. Skinner has been a professor of biology at Keystone College for 23 years. At Keystone, he teaches courses in wildlife and fisheries biology, limnology, and multiple field biology subjects, including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

A doctoral graduate from Ohio State University, Dr. Skinner is the Regional Coordinator for the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas and the resident naturalist at the Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve. He has numerous published works, including "Rare and Endangered Wildflowers of Pennsylvania", a 25-minute video and slide format program, distributed by the Pennsylvania Wild Resources Council.

What are Raptors?

Raptors, often referred to as "birds of prey", hunt for their food while in flight. They use their keen sense of vision to locate and capture primarily vertebrate prey, including other birds. They are meat-eaters, using their powerful feet, equipped with curved sharp talons, to capture their prey. Both their beaks and talons are large and powerful, well designed for tearing flesh. Usually the females are noticeably larger than the males. Most all raptors are protected by state and federal laws. It is illegal to capture or kill a hawk, or to possess a hawk, alive or dead, without proper permits from local state governments as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Raptors include owls, hawks, eagles, ospreys, kites and falcons.

LEFT: A soaring red-tailed hawk

For information and advice contact our forester

**Bureau of Forestry
Forest District #11
RR1 Box 230
Dalton, PA 18414
jscheib@state.pa.us
570 945-7133**

Notes from our forester

Jake says:

-As of right now we do not have the EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) in Susquehanna County. The closest that it has been confirmed to us is Ulster County in NY. The quarantined area now encompasses 2/3 of the state, but Susquehanna County is not in the quarantined area. You will not see any signs of the beetle other than "D-shaped" holes in the trunk until next June when the beetles emerge.

-We did have one area in Susquehanna County that had Forest Tent Caterpillar defoliation, and that was in Northeastern Susquehanna County. (*editor note: That occurred in the Thompson/Ararat area*)

-We are having an early leaf change/drop this year due to the drought that we have suffered from this summer. (*editor note: Many of the sugar maple leaves just shriveled up and dropped without any color change*)

Why do leaves turn colors?

Although temperature, rainfall and food supply do influence the autumn change in leaf coloration, the primary factor is the decreasing amount of daylight that occurs with the advance of autumn. With the shortening of days, as indicated by our calendars, biochemical processes in the leaves cause major changes, resulting in our magnificent autumn landscapes.

There are 3 types of pigments involved in the creation of the autumn foliage coloration. Chlorophyll is the green coloration of leaves. It is the necessary component for photosynthesis which enables plants to use sunlight to manufacture the sugars which feed the tree. Also always present in some leaves are carotenoids which produce the yellows, oranges, and brown colors. These are present and always noticeable in such plant products as corn, carrots and bananas. Anthocyanins are red and purple pigments, noticeable in strawberries, plums and blueberries. Both chlorophyll and carotenoids are present in the chloroplasts of leaf cells throughout the growing season. Most anthocyanins are produced in the autumn, in response to bright light and excess plant sugars within leaf cells. During the growing season, chlorophyll is continually being produced and broken down. The overwhelming presence of this chlorophyll makes the leaves appear green. As the days shorten in the autumn, chlorophyll production slows down and then stops. The chlorophyll breaks down and the carotenoids and anthocyanins present in the leaf are revealed, thus showing their colors.

Causes of leaf coloration- continued

Certain colors are characteristic of particular species. Oaks turn red, brown, or russet; hickories, golden bronze; aspen and yellow-poplar, golden yellow; dogwood, purplish red; beech, light tan. Maples differ species by species-red maple turns brilliant scarlet; sugar maple, orange-red; and black maple, glowing yellow. Striped maple becomes almost colorless. Leaves of some species such as the elms simply shrivel up and fall, exhibiting little color other than drab brown.

Oaks display their colors long after other species have already dropped their leaves. These differences in timing among species seem to be genetically inherited. A particular tree species at the same latitude will show the same coloration in the cool temperatures of high elevations at about the same time as it does in warmer lowlands.



View of PA Grand Canyon from observation deck at Leonard Harrison State Park on the eastern rim during the day of the SCFLOA fall foliage bus trip

Remember to be on the alert for the possible presence of the Emerald Ash Borer. Its only sign of presence from now through late spring is the telltale “D-shaped” exit holes as pictured below. It thus far has not been found in Susquehanna County. Let’s hope that continues!



Internal workings of the old sawmill located at the Lumberman’s Museum near Coudersport, PA. Many interesting exhibits were toured by the attendees of the SCFLOA 2010 fall foliage bus tour.



The effects of weather on leaf coloration

The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in any particular autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling. Temperature and moisture are the main influences. A succession of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp, but not freezing, nights seems to bring about the most spectacular color displays. During these days, lots of sugars are produced in the leaf but the cool nights and the gradual closing of veins going into the leaf prevent these sugars from moving out. These conditions - lots of sugar and lots of light-spurred production of the brilliant anthocyanin pigments, which tint reds, purples, and crimson.

The amount of moisture in the soil also affects autumn colors. Like the weather, soil moisture varies greatly from year to year. The countless combinations of these two highly variable factors assure that no two autumns can be exactly alike. A late spring, or a severe summer drought, can delay the onset of fall color by a few weeks. A warm period during fall will also lower the intensity of autumn colors. A warm wet spring, favorable summer weather, and warm sunny fall days with cool nights should produce the most brilliant autumn colors.

In response to the shortening days and declining sunlight intensity of early autumn, leaves begin the processes leading up to their fall. The veins that carry fluids into and out of the leaf gradually close off as a layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf. These clogged veins trap sugars in the leaf and promote production of anthocyanins. Once this separation layer is complete and the connecting tissues are sealed off, the leaf is ready to fall.

Menu for Annual Dinner

- Roast Beef*
- Baked ziti*
- Red potato with garlic*
- Tossed salad*
- Baked beans*
- Homemade Pie*



If you have not already paid your 2010 SCFLOA dues, please do so soon. By January, we will assume that those who have not paid, no longer wish to be members and will drop them from our membership list.

I wish to pay my (2010)(2011) SCFLOA dues. (select one)

\$20 -10 acres or more \$16- < 10 acres

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

*Please return in enclosed envelope, with remittance to:
Helga Walz, SCFLOA treasurer.*

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL DINNER

I wish to make reservations for
_____ **people** at the Annual SCFLOA
Dinner meeting, Nov 19, 2010

*I am enclosing \$_____ which
covers the \$15 per person cost.
(return to Helga Walz)*

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Return all forms as well as any address or email updates to **Helga Walz**

wienerwalz@yahoo.com.

3056 Valley Rd,
Friendsville, PA 18818

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED