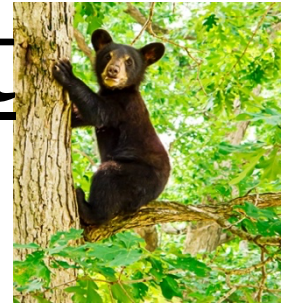




Branching Out

Volume 18: Issue 3 SUMMER 2024 Newsletter of the
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537
www.theWOSA.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Please note that the WOSA Board has decided to send digital newsletters to all of our members who have email, due to the high cost of postage and printing. You will still get a printed copy if you don't have email.

Saturday, August 17, 2024: Tree-of-Heaven Workshop

9 – 11 am at 3 North River Lane, Everett, PA

Service Forester Dave Scamardella will demonstrate how to treat Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus) using the hack-and-squirt technique.

Refreshments available, but dress for hot weather.

Directions: At east end of Everett on Main St., turn onto North River Lane (toward Everett H.S.), but shortly up the hill turn left. Watch for sign "Tree Workshop." Lunch at The Provender (optional) after the workshop.

Saturday, August 24, 2024: Picnic and Honey Bee Program

12 noon: Free Lunch at Pavilion behind American Legion

1:30 pm: Honey Bee Program (with live bees) inside the

Legion 3721 US-220 BUS, Bedford, PA 15522

Maryland DNR Forester and Beekeeper Adam Miller will give a Honey Bee program inside the air-conditioned downstairs. Beekeeper Randy Barnes is also invited and who plans to bring live bees.

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024: Tour Veith's Property: 2 pm

Potluck Annual Picnic: 4 pm

Members and their guests only. WOSA will provide the meat.

Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

Hosts: Fred and Cheryl Veith, near Buffalo Mills

420 Midway Road, Buffalo Mills, PA 15534

Text Cheryl by Sunday, Sept. 15 to confirm: (215) 409-8499

Mark Your Calendar for the 2024 Fall SDF Work Days:

Friday, Oct. 11 and Friday, Nov. 1. From 9 to noon. BYO lunch.

We need to tackle the invasives along the lane at the WOSA property.

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024: Annual Dinner and Meeting

Bedford American Legion 5 pm: Board Meeting 6 pm: Dinner

More details in the Fall Newsletter

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Dave Scamardella

Seleen Shives

The Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA) encompasses Bedford and Fulton Counties in Pennsylvania, but anyone interested in forestry and wildlife is encouraged to join.

Our members are interested in the methods and benefits of sound forest stewardship practices of privately owned woodlands.

Our goals are to:

- Exchange information on best management practices for sustainable forestry while considering the landowner's interest in wildlife conservation, aesthetic values, watershed protection, recreation, and economic return.

- Educate landowners on stewardship and sustainable uses of resources.

- Provide forestry resources to our members and the public.

- Work with the community to educate the public about forest stewardship and sustainability.

- Achieve recognition as an organized voice of forest landowners in the region for sustainable forestry.

WOSA is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, educational organization as described in section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes.

(Tax ID# 25-1835249)

Established January 7, 1999

Membership runs per calendar year.



Working in the Woods? Watch out for Ticks!

by Laura Jackson

Unfortunately, ticks and woods kind of go together, but not in a nice way like apple pie and ice cream. Since our property is pretty dry, we don't see many ticks, but we recently found an attached tick on each of us. Mike had a deer tick attached to his upper arm in May. Deer ticks, also called black-legged ticks, carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, as well as other nasty pathogens.

We carefully removed the tick with tweezers by slowly pulling it out and placing it in a plastic bag. Then we applied rubbing alcohol to the bite. A few mouthparts remained, but they eventually disappeared. We placed the tick in a small, sealed bag and sent it to the tick lab for a free identification and pathogen test – **see next page for more details about the tick lab**. We included a paper with personal information and included our cell phone number and email since we'd get the results faster. A few days later, the lab texted it was a deer tick, but it hadn't started feeding yet. Good news! Another few days of waiting and we got an email saying that no pathogens were detected. The lab states it has a 99.9% accuracy rate. Yea!!

In early summer I found a larger tick on my neck, removed it with tweezers, and sent it to the lab. This tick was an adult female American dog tick. Dog ticks don't carry the pathogen that causes Lyme disease, but they do carry the Rocky Mountain spotted fever pathogen and other nasties. Like Mike's tick, the dog tick had not yet started feeding. A few days later I received the good news that the dog tick did not test positive for any pathogens!

Don't forget to do a tick check every day on yourself, kids, and pets!!



Engorged deer tick (left) is only about the size of a sesame seed. The American dog tick (right) is unengorged, meaning it hasn't started to feed. The tick lab offers free testing and identification to PA residents. See next page for more details about the tick lab.

A BIG THANKS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ron Hott and family

The Creation of a Thousand Forests is in One Acorn

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



TICK TESTING

by Kathleen Yarish



The Centers for Disease Control estimates that approximately 100,000 Pennsylvanians will contract Lyme disease from tick bites. Also, according to the CDC, the states with the highest number of cases are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Lyme disease and/or other rickettsial infections can be mild to debilitating.

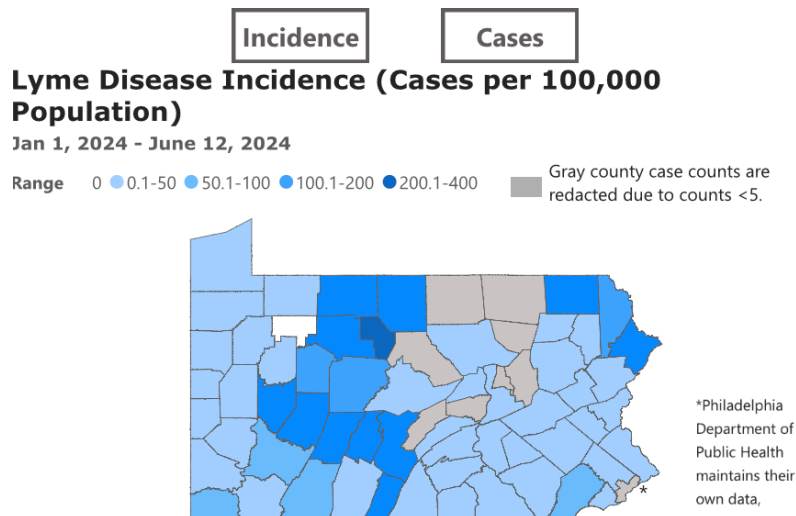
The **Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania** will do basic testing on ticks for residents of Pennsylvania for **FREE!** If you find a tick on you or your pet, whether embedded or not, and want it tested, go to ticklab.org. Once there you will fill out some basic demographic information, print your voucher, then mail voucher and specimen. You are not limited to one tick, they will test up to five.

After the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania has received the specimen they will notify you of the species of the tick identified and whether it was engorged with blood or unengorged. Then the lab tests for pathogens that might be in the tick. Once testing is completed you will receive a copy of the results.

The following “Basic panel” tests are completed at no charge to you: *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *Francisella tularensis*, Powassan virus General, *Rickettsia rickettsia*, Powassan virus Lineage II, and Powassan virus Lineage I. You can then use this report to present to your doctor or veterinarian.

This site also offers an Advanced and Comprehensive panel for a fee. The site also has some great information about tick ID, tick borne diseases and tick prevention.

Knowledge is power!





**Like us on Facebook:
(a lot more photos are posted)**

**[Woodland Owners of the
Southern Alleghenies](#)**

Return Address:

**WOSA
P. O. BOX 253
EVERETT, PA 15537**

Directions to Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest (WOSA property):

The WOSA property is located along Big Creek Road, about 8 miles south of Clearville, Pa. There is no street address and limited cell service.

If you want to try your GPS, set it for **3057 Big Creek Road, Clearville, Pa.** Going south, this is the house just before the curve to the right and then the lane onto WOSA's property. You'll see the large WOSA sign.

From Bedford: Take Rt. 30 East toward Everett, then take the Right exit into Everett. Travel Business Rt. 30 through Everett and turn Right at the 2nd light onto Hopewell Street. Travel across the east end bridge, go up the hill, and turn left to stay on Rt. 26 South. Take 26 South for about 8 miles to Clearville.

In Clearville, **stay straight ahead.** The road becomes Rockhill Rd/Rock Hill Church Rd (Rt. 26 is a righthand turn – don't take 26S.) Stay on Rockhill Road for 0.6 miles.

Then take a right onto Big Creek Road. Stay on Big Creek Road for 6.3 winding miles. Continue past Shreves Chapel Road (dirt road on the Right) for 0.6 miles. You will pass a house on the Right before the road curves to the right. Just after the curve, **turn right** when you see the large WOSA sign. Follow the gravel lane up the hill. Park beside other vehicles in the big hay field. The gate is finished and locked but will be open for WOSA events. The trails in the Old Growth Forest stand and Louie's Campsite stand are blazed, but we need to do more trimming and trail definition to make them easier to follow.