



OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

"Connecting people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, native forests"

March 15, 2022

Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest to be inducted into The Old-Growth Forest Network!

Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest in Bedford County will be inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 130 pm. Joan Maloof, Executive Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, will present a plaque to the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA), a 501(c)3 non-profit that promotes forest stewardship and sustainable forest management.

WOSA named the property in honor of Louis Sulzbacher, a longtime WOSA member who gifted the undeveloped 37-acre property to WOSA in 2015. This forest is a part of the homelands of the Massawomeck people, a group of Iroquois Native Americans. The forest is open to the public and is enrolled in the Hunter Access Program through the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest intends to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices that promote healthy and productive forests while maintaining and enhancing their many ecological values such as wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, clean air, and recreation. Its mission includes the education of both private forest landowners and the public to promote best management practices in forests and other natural habitats.

Core samples of several oak trees dated them to about 1838. The WOSA Board named the 8-acre stand the "Old-Growth Stand" and will preserve it using passive management. An interpretive hiking trail will be constructed in the future to explain old-growth forests and passive management. The Old-Growth Stand hosts an overstory primarily of white oak with scarlet oak, chestnut oak, hickory, white pine, and black gum.

The Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest is south of Clearville along Big Creek Road, about 8 miles south of Clearville, Pa. There is no street address and very limited cell service, and no formal parking area.

The Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) connects people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. OGFN intends to preserve at least one forest in every county in the U.S. that can sustain a forest. OGFN works to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection from logging, and inform people of the forest locations.

Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, the network currently has 148 forests in the Network across 28 states. Sweet Root Natural Area will join 18 other Pennsylvania forests already in the Network. OGFN also recognizes exceptional forest advocates, educates about the extraordinary ecological benefits of old-growth forests, and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific ancient forests. Learn more at <http://www.oldgrowthforest.net>.



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Dr. Maloof noted, "We look forward to adding more forests to the Network in the future. We depend on a volunteer in each county to help us identify candidate forests. Laura Jackson, the Bedford County Coordinator for Old-Growth Forest Network has been a valuable volunteer supporter and assisting us. In addition to creating a network of forests, we are also creating a network of people who care about forests." Interested volunteers are welcome to contact OGFN through the website: www.oldgrowthforest.net.

Contact:

Old-Growth Forest Network: Joan Maloof, Executive Director, 410 251 1800 or Joan@oldgrowthforest.net.

Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest Stand Map

