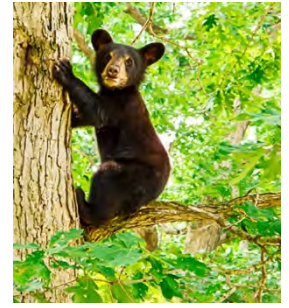




# Branching Out

Volume 18: Issue 1 WINTER 2024 Newsletter of the  
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies  
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537  
www.theWOSA.org



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Saturday, March 9, 2024: WOSA Annual Conference at the Bedford American Legion from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

We're planning a full day of speakers, demonstrations and displays, including a buffet lunch. **See Conference Flyer – attached separately.**

Deadline to register is Wednesday, Feb. 28 to guarantee lunch.

### Saturday, March 23: Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop:

We'll provide logs and mushroom spore and help you inoculate the logs to take home to grow your own 'shrooms.

Cost: \$10 members. Cost: \$15 non-members

Location: John and Joanne Boggess's property:  
1681 Dunkard Hollow Road, Alum Bank, PA 15601  
See the page 6 for directions and more details.

### Mark Your Calendar for the next SDF Tree Planting:

### Monday, April 22 or Monday, May 13: 9 am to early afternoon

We'll let you know the actual planting date as soon as we can.

We'll plant around 300 native tree seedlings in the hay field at the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest starting at 9 am. Bring the following – if you have them:

- work gloves
- drinking water
- tree shovel
- pruners
- sledge hammer

We'll protect the trees with tree tubes,  
supported by wooden stakes.

A jiffy john will be on site.



WOSA will provide a delicious lunch.

**Directions to the tree planting are on the last page of the newsletter.**

### Friday, June 14 Tour the new Bureau of Forestry facility in Chaneyville with Sweet Root Woods Walk to follow and bring your own picnic lunch 9 AM to 12 Noon

Meet at the Bureau of Forestry building near Chaneyville.

Directions and address will be shared soon.

#### WOSA CONTACTS

##### President:

Laura Jackson  
jacksonlaura73@gmail.com or  
mljackson2@icloud.com  
814-494-4439

##### Vice-President:

John Dunn  
814-847-9113  
jpdunn911@yahoo.com

##### Secretary:

Joe Wolfe  
jgwolfe@pa.net  
717-816-2275

##### Assistant Secretary:

Debbie Magill  
dmagill@embarqmail.com  
814-623-5903

##### Treasurer:

Mike Jackson  
mljackson2@icloud.com  
814-494-3631

##### Board of Directors:

Joanne Boggess    Renee Hiteshow  
John Boggess     Dave Schreffler  
Carolyn Hendricks    Fred Veith

##### Website Administrator:

James and Donna Kuehn

##### Newsletter Editor:

Laura Jackson

##### Advisors:

Michael Knoop  
Jennifer Lentz Kovacs  
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.

## PA Forest Stewardship (PAFS) Nominations due April 15, 2024



?? Would you like to know more about woodland stewardship practices and programs?

?? Would you like to dive deeper into forest management and stewardship?

?? Would you like to share with others what you know about the importance of good forest practices?

If you answered, "YES," to the questions above, then you should consider taking part in the 2024 PA Forest Stewards Basic Training. You have to be nominated for the training, so if you are interested, please contact any of the PAFS listed below and ask them to nominate you since they recently received the nomination form.

### More details about the 2024 training:

**Date:** Thursday, September 19 (afternoon) to Sunday, Sept. 22 (afternoon)

**Location:** Krislund Camp & Conference Center, Madisonburg, PA

**Prior to the September training:** Review the online course:

"Woodland Stewardship: Management Practices for Landowners"

**September Training:** classroom and outside activities with hands-on experiences; presentations by experts on various forest topics

**Acceptance:** Notified in May for the September training

**Email or call any current PAFS in Bedford and Fulton Counties who are WOSA members to be nominated for the PAFS Training:**

Vince Acampora: [vjacampora@gmail.com](mailto:vjacampora@gmail.com) Phone: 814-733-9267

Armin Behr: [abehr311@gmail.com](mailto:abehr311@gmail.com) Phone: 301-897-5563

John Herr: [ourhouse1@frontiernet.net](mailto:ourhouse1@frontiernet.net) Phone: 814-735-3855

Brent Hiteshew: [brenthiteshew@gmail.com](mailto:brenthiteshew@gmail.com) Phone: 814-585-0707

Mike or Laura Jackson: [jacksonlaura73@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonlaura73@gmail.com) Phone: 814-494-4439

Loretta Radeschi: [geolorrad@gmail.com](mailto:geolorrad@gmail.com) Phone: 814-623-7399

Dave Schreffler: [lynschr@embarqmail.com](mailto:lynschr@embarqmail.com) Phone: 814-784-0044

Joe Wolfe: [jgwolfe@pa.net](mailto:jgwolfe@pa.net) Phone: 717-816-2275



## Consider Joining WOSA

### Membership Benefits Include:

- Meeting discounts (Annual dinner and Annual conference)
- Reduced costs for workshops
- Print version of WOSA Newsletter is mailed to your home.
- Field Trips are open to the public, but if there is a cost then members pay a reduced rate.

## Welcome New WOSA Board Members:

*Board members serve a 3-year term and can re-elected for another 3-year term.*



Although **Carolyn Hendricks** began birding on a whim in 2005 when she gave her husband a gift of a Winter Raptor Workshop in Missoula MT, she quickly developed a passion for birds and bird conservation. She served on the board of the American Bird Conservancy for nine years. She currently serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and NatureServe which collaborates with the Pennsylvania National Heritage Program. She has participated in local grassland and winter raptor bird surveys and is Bedford County Coordinator for the newly launched 3rd Pennsylvania Bird Atlas. She is also a member of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society. Her off-the-grid "green revolution" home and 70-acre property borders Buchanan State Forest and is close to WOSA's Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest.



**Fred Veith** was born in 1950 in Philadelphia and was raised in suburban Bucks County.

As a young adult he learned carpentry and roofing skills. In 1972, after studying yoga in India, Fred returned and used his skills to help build a yoga ashram, while living there for a year. In 1974, he met and married Cheryl. They have two daughters, two sons and now three grandchildren. In 1980, after a visit to Wills Mountain in Bedford County, they bought ten acres and built a cabin with recycled materials by disassembling two old barns.



From 1977 - 1990, Fred worked for Princeton Nurseries, until Fred and Cheryl started their own business Creative Essentials. They specialized in large tree transplants, saving them from the chainsaw. They also did garden design and installation, managed an old Quaker nursery, did wetland and meadow restoration, built rain gardens and green roofs. For 10 years, they were on the arboretum committee of George School, a Quaker high school, active members of PA Nurseryman's Association, the American Conifer Society, and the PA Bonsai Society.

In 2011, they built a south facing home into the mountainside, with on-site stone and mostly recycled materials. In 2018, they retired, bought 15 additional contiguous acres, with a log home and a small guest cabin. They also discovered and joined WOSA, to

continue their love, support, respect, and the preservation of trees.



### Heartfelt Note from WOSA's new President: **Laura Jackson**

Many thanks to Mike Jackson (my right-hand man) for serving as WOSA's President the last 3 years and to John Boggess, who served as Vice-President, filling in for Mike when he was sick. I'm so thankful for all the WOSA officers and board members who are listed on the front page of the newsletter – feel free to call or email us if you have questions or need help with a forestry-related issue. Suggestions for WOSA activities are always welcome, too!



### Congratulations to **Alex Kennell** – WOSA Scholarship Recipient

Alex completed his first fall term at college with a 4.0 GPA, thus qualifying him to be a recipient of the Ben and Carole Tresselt WOSA Scholarship \$1,000 check toward his college expenses. Alex is attending Frostburg State University, majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries with a Biology minor. We hope to see Alex at the March 9 WOSA Conference. Alex, we wish you the best in your college career.





## A Slippery Slope by Joe Wolfe

Liz Beth can't read. All of my charges that day were illiterate, but they sure could bark and run. They were both doing a full-tilt boogie towards the west boundary of our property while chasing a bunny. I knew the "No Trespassing" signs that were recently posted along that edge would mean nothing to the dogs or the rabbit. The signs weren't posted by me but by my neighbor. I suspect it is because one bunny has the nasty habit of seeking shelter from my beagles under his backyard shed. The beagles would follow.

I was heading in that direction in high gear, trying to turn the chase and my eyes were watching the dog tracker screen instead of the trail. I knew the trail well and knew the steep slope I would soon cross along the abandoned railroad bed. What I didn't know was the recent rain had made the surface as slippery as the sledding hill in the Chevy Chase Christmas Vacation movie. As soon as my left boot hit that slope it shot to the 11 o'clock position, heading for the Andromeda Galaxy at warp speed. The other boot was right behind, and my feet were firmly tied in both boots. The other end of this rocket ship, the part with my head attached, was now in the 5 o'clock position, heading towards Bangkok, Thailand at the same rate of speed. Suspended there, my focus was on one thought...this is going to hurt.

Gravity and Mother Earth brought things to an abrupt halt in a millisecond. The force was entirely unfamiliar to my 70-year-old body.

As I lay there counting my bones, three thoughts emerged from the fog...1) I was conscious. 2) That wasn't quite as bad as I thought it would be. 3) Where's my hat? I immediately went into my log roll gymnastic floor routine which is always required now to get back on my feet.

I stood there examining the scene of the crime, waiting for my eyeballs to stop spinning. I could see the boot skid marks on the landing pad, but what impressed me most was the pyramid-shaped rock protruding a fraction of a degree north of where my head landed. The gravity of the situation (pun here), immediately had me sending a thank you to God, my Guardian Angel, my lucky Star and Murphy, whose law was on my side that day. Which brings me to the point of this preamble, namely an essay about safety in the woodlands. Who knew?

Dear friends, neighbors, and fellow members of WOSA, the term, "accidents aren't planned," is a cliché, but **it is true**. Falling trees, falling limbs, falling people, sharp blades, rotating blades, pointy things, reptiles that bite, animals that bite, insects that bite, poisonous plants, you name it, there are lots of ways to get hurt. Please take all the precautions while working on your outdoor projects. I have witnessed and been a participant in many outdoor accidents over the years. All of them happened suddenly, but most could have been prevented. Your brain is the most important piece of safety equipment that you carry into the woods. Stay alert and focused on the activity at hand, remember safety first, last, and always. The rabbit made a U-turn and the beagles, being the highly trained soldiers they are, followed right behind. The dogs and I brought our run in the woods to an enjoyable conclusion that day. The bunny lived to tell the tale to his children, probably just another routine day of life in the bramble bushes.

**An Eagle's Eye View from the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest** by Carolyn and Steve Hendricks

WOSA's thirty-seven-acre Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest on Big Creek Road in Bedford County PA is adjacent to a Bald Eagle nest on a large farm owned by local landowner Wayne Shatzer, who helps with maintaining the WOSA property. The nest sits 60 feet from the ground in an Eastern White Pine and has been active for as long as Wayne can remember.



The property and nest are four miles away from our property which has afforded easy access to observe the eagles with binoculars, a spotting scope and photography, starting with Steve's Canon EOS 5D Mark IV with a 100-600 mm lens and more recently his Canon R7 with a 100-500 mm lens. The best viewing point is about a quarter of a mile from the nest, but the viewing angle is ideal both for the nest itself and to observe the hand-offs and nest defense behavior by both adults. The pair has consistently had two healthy fledglings each year since 2018.

This pair returns to the nest very early, typically the first week of January. They are very accustomed to close human and farm activity. The adult female has been observed transiently occupying the nest as early as January and then returning for laying and brooding in February. When one of the adults is on-nest, they demonstrate that they can see and hear their mate at great distances, long before they are easily visible to us and approach the nest. The chicks are typically



visible in the nest by the end of March. The chicks have impressive vision and hearing; they rustle in the nest and begin food begging long before we can spot the adults returning with prey. By May, the chicks are visibly as large as the adults. The adults remain adjacent to the nest until early June. After branching and fledging, the young eagles can be observed on the adjacent farm fields learning to hunt. They typically disperse from the nesting area later in June but presumably remain in the region until fall migration. The Demonstration Forest is currently accessible to all members during Work Days and will have open access when



**GROW YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS WORKSHOP!**  
**Sponsored by WOSA, hosted by John & Joanne Boggess**



**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 10:30 am to 3 pm

**Cost:** \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members who are guests of members. Applications for WOSA membership will be available.  
**Please pay when you arrive on day of activity.**

**Lunch:** A light lunch will be provided

**Reserve** on or before Friday, March 15, 2024.

Email [John.Boggess@comcast.net](mailto:John.Boggess@comcast.net) or text to confirm: 724-331-6106.

**More details:**

1. Attendees will be able to prepare shiitake mushroom logs to take home.
2. The program is hands-on to learn how to prepare a shiitake mushroom log.
3. We will have open discussions during the program to discuss best tree species to use for logs, tools needed for log inoculation, and other ways to grow mushrooms in the woods.

**DIRECTIONS TO “PINEY KNOB” 1681 Dunkard Hollow Road, Alum Bank, PA 15521**

Cabin phone: 814-839-9505 or Cell phone: 724-331-6106

**Schellsburg** (Route 30) to 1681 Dunkard Hollow Road:

1. Route 30 to Schellsburg. At traffic light, take Route 96 North toward New Paris.
2. Travel approximately 7.4 miles to Ridge Market and gas station on left.
3. Turn **LEFT** onto Dunkard Hollow Road.
4. Travel 3.2 miles (road is windy). Slow down....when you see mailbox on right (**1681**), you will make a sharp **LEFT** onto driveway for 1681 Dunkard Hollow Road
5. Follow driveway, staying to the right as you start up the hill.

**Pleasantville** (Route 56) to 1681 Dunkard Hollow Road

1. At traffic light, follow Route 56 West for 3.8 miles.
2. Watch for sign for RYOT, and at the next intersection, turn **LEFT** onto Dunkard Hollow Road (unmarked)
3. Travel 2.2 miles and take the next **RIGHT** onto driveway for 1681 Dunkard Hollow Road
4. Follow driveway, staying to the right as you start up the hill.



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(a lot more photos are posted)  
[Woodland Owners of the  
Southern Alleghenies](#)

April 22 or May 13  
2024 Tree Planting

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.