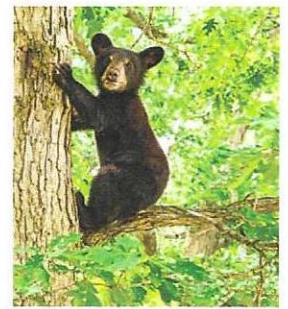




Branching Out

Volume 17: Issue 1 WINTER 2023 Newsletter of the
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537
www.theWOSA.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, March 11, 2023: 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 Brochure Insert.**

Deadline to register is Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Fri. & Sat., March 24 & 25, 2023: Forest Landowners
Conference at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State
College, PA. Visit us at the WOSA Booth. Call 1-877-345-0691 to register
or register online at ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference

Mark Your Calendar for the next SDF Tree Planting: Friday, April 14 or Friday, April 21: 9 am to early afternoon

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

We'll plant around 350 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 last page of the newsletter.

WOSA CONTACTS

President:

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

Vice-President:

John Boggess
john.boggess@comcast.net
724-331-6106

Secretary:

Joe Wolfe
jgwolfe@pa.net
717-816-2775

Assistant Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

Laura Jackson
jacksonlaura73@gmail.com
814-494-4439

Immediate Past-President

Dave Scamardella

Board of Directors:

Armin Behr	John Herr
Joanne Boggess	Renee Hiteshew
John Dunn	Dave Schreffler

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.

Logs to Burn

By Norsen Littleton, Member of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen, England

Beech-wood fire burns bright and clear

If the logs are kept a year;

Store your Beech for Christmastide,

With new-cut Holly laid beside.

Chestnut's only good, they say,

If for years 'tis stored away;

Birch and Fir-wood burn too fast,

Blaze too bright and do not last;

Flames from Larch will shoot up high,

Dangerously the sparks will fly.

But Ash-wood green and Ash-wood brown

Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.

Oaken logs, if dry and old,

Keep away the winter's cold;

Poplar gives a bitter smoke,

Fills your eyes and makes you choke;

Elm-wood burns like churchyard mold,

E'en the very flames are cold.

Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread –

So it is in Ireland said;

Apple-wood will scent the room,

Pear-wood smells like flowers in bloom,

But Ash-wood wet and Ash-wood dry

A King may warm his slippers by.

IT'S TIME to RENEW

Look at your address label. If you see "2023" above your name, then you have already renewed. If there's no date, then please send your renewal with your Conference Registration.

WELCOME NEW WOSA MEMBERS:

The Mark Yarish Family



THANK YOU!!

Protecting Our State Tree by Dave Scamardella, Service Forester

The hemlock woolly adelgid is a tiny insect from Asia that feeds on the fluid in the needles of hemlocks and sometimes spruce. The egg sacs look like white, woolly growths on the twigs and underneath the needles of infested hemlocks. An infested tree can be killed in a single year, but more often it suffers a more prolonged death over five or ten years. Some trees may not die at all. As is the case with most tree health problems, the healthy, vigorously growing trees can survive a surprising amount of damage.



The adelgid was detected in Bedford County about 25 years ago and its dramatic effect is especially seen in Sweet Root Natural Area, near Chaneyville. A stand of old-growth hemlock in Sweet Root Gap was the first to see mortality. It is believed the stand was more susceptible to the insect because of its thin soil, older age, and uniform age and size of the trees.



Left: Jodi Skipper of Bedford injects the soil around a hemlock tree in the Sweet Root Natural Area near Chaneyville

There are some control measures that can be used. Last April in the Sweet Root Picnic and Natural Areas, Buchanan State Forest staff were busy injecting an insecticide into the hemlocks. This is just one of 146 sites across the state in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources chemical suppression program. This type of control is restricted to large, high-value trees, ecologically, historically, or aesthetically.

Drawbacks of chemical control include high cost of treatment, temporary control, and secondary outbreaks of spider mites. It is our hope that chemical control can be used as a "stop gap" measure to stave the hemlock woolly adelgid off and give biological control time to take effect.

There are several ways of delivering the insecticide into the tree:

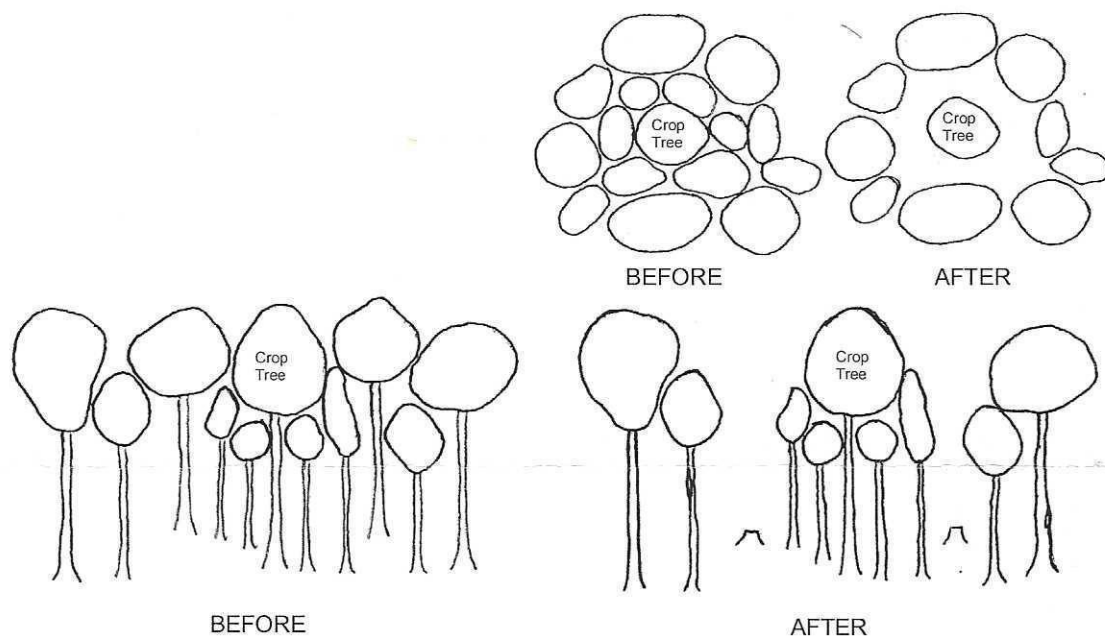
- 1) **Foliar application:** overall, the least effective with the shortest residual time.
- 2) **Stem injection:** recommended to be used when other methods are not practical.
- 3) **Soil injection:** To a depth of 6-8 inches for trees and 3-4 inches for shrubs (DCNR's primary type).
- 4) **Soil Drenching:** typically faster and easier than soil injection.

Crop-tree Release by Dave Scamardella, Service Forester

Do you want to produce high-quality sawtimber on your woodlot? Do you want to provide cover and additional food for wildlife? Do you want to have some firewood that you don't need to split? Then crop-tree release is for you!

You may hear terms like timber stand improvement, or pre-commercial thinning. Crop-tree release is just another form of thinning, but geared toward getting you, the forest landowner, the "most bang for your buck". The ideal forest stand for this is a clearcut which is between 15 and 30 years old, but this method can also be applied to a variety of situations.

First, you must choose crop trees that you want to benefit. Choose crop trees according to your goals for the property and objectives for the stand. This could mean fast-growing red oak or black cherry for a timber objective, white-oak or other hard mast producing species regardless of form for pure wildlife benefit, or a mixture of the two. There are even those who would make a red maple a crop tree because they like the fall color. You know who you are!



Then, to release the crop trees, there are many methods available to you:

- Cut down trees for use as firewood or brush piles for wildlife habitat (another topic altogether). You get the added benefit of using the wood, but you must be good with a saw.
- Girdle them. This can be done by cutting two rings (two to three inches apart) around the tree with the saw and then using a hatchet to remove the live wood between the two rings. The goal is to remove all of the live wood under the bark. This is quicker than felling the whole tree and it will remain for years for wildlife to make use of. It also comes in handy when the tree to be removed is much larger than the surrounding trees and felling the tree would certainly damage those trees.
- Herbicide can be used by the hack-and-squirt method, hypo-hatchet, or along with girdling. This can be quicker yet, but you may need some help. When using pesticides, always read the label.

Crop-tree release is one of the most rewarding practices you can do on your woodlot – in the short and long term. Through minimal investment, growth rate is increased, species composition is improved, rotation age is reduced and your enthusiasm in your forest is increased.

Feel free to call me if you want help,

Dave Scamardella
Service Forester
717-485-9691

WOSA 18th ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER NOV. 9, 2022

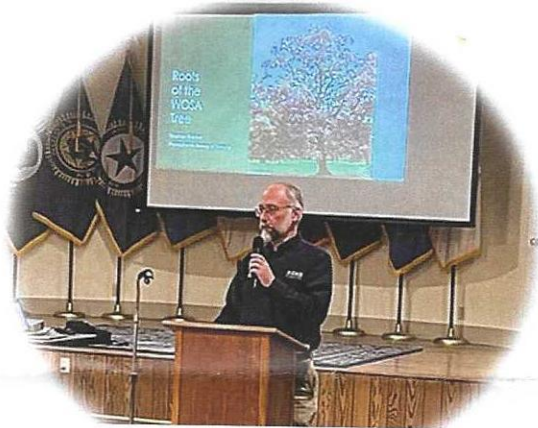
Bedford American Legion
Honoring District Forester Stephen Wacker for
his help in forming WOSA



WOSA Officers and Board members who were elected during the Annual Business Meeting are listed on the newsletter cover page. WOSA founders Armin Behr (L) and John Herr (R) honored Stephen with an award plaque and "The Living Forest" book for his help in organizing WOSA when it was founded in 1993.



WOSA members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner.



Stephen presented "**Roots of the WOSA Tree:**
*How a woodland landowners group formed in
southcentral Pennsylvania and why people wanted it*"

Birch Syrup by Dave Scamardella, Service Forester

A couple of years ago I made a mistake, which is not out of the ordinary, but if I can prevent you from falling into this pit of despair, at least something positive would come from this debacle.

I had just gotten interested in maple sugaring when I read the Euell Gibbons book, Stalking the Wild Asparagus. Birch trees can be tapped the same way maples can. The funny thing is, Mr. Gibbons never actually recommends birch syrup or ever says it tastes good. Instead, he compares it to sorghum molasses and says, "Yes, the sweet birch produces a copious flow of sap which is at its height about a month later than in the maples. This is an advantage as one's sap gathering equipment is not otherwise engaged at this time and the weather is usually more pleasant. A camping trip in the sweet birch country during the sap flow can be a lot of fun..."

Well, collecting the sap might be fun, but tasting it is another matter! I had 35 gallons of birch sap when we started to boil. After a long boil, the disappointing yield was slightly more than two pints! This stuff has a completely different smell than maple. Maple sap starts to smell sweet early in the boil. Birch sap smells like nothing and has a bad aftertaste almost from the start.

In fact, the only way that my wife and I could figure to get it past our gums was to mix it 50/50 with some other sweetener (usually corn syrup) and use it in shoo-fly pies! Since some people use molasses in shoo-fly anyway, the bitter flavor is somewhat expected.

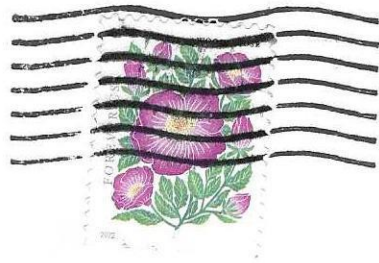
So, if you like really strong blackstrap molasses, maybe this is for you.

Otherwise, stay away! Consider yourself warned.



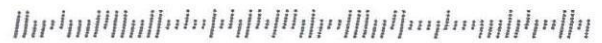


Woodland
Owners of the
Southern
Alleghenies



Like us on Facebook:
(a lot more photos are posted)
[Woodland Owners of the
Southern Alleghenies](#)

1725738457 R001



April 14 or 21, 2023
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 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.