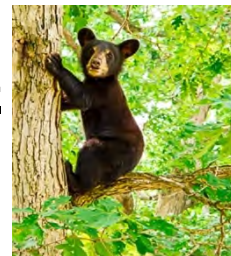




# Branching Out

Volume 19: Issue 2 SPRING 2025 Newsletter of the  
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies  
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537  
[www.theWOSA.org](http://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, May 17, 2025 Herbicide Workshop 9:30 am – noon**

Joe Wolfe's property: 1355 Lincoln Way East McConnellsburg, PA  
FREE. Let Joe know if you plan to attend. Optional: Bring Your Lunch.

### **Sunday, June 8, 2025 Annual WOSA Picnic: 2 pm – 5 pm**

Sideling Hill Picnic Area Covered Dish Meal and Wildflower Walk  
On the RIGHT - about six miles east of Breezewood at the top of Sideling Hill Mountain. We will eat at one of the pavilions – note there is no electricity to plug in crockpots, so we'll eat just after 2 pm.

Join us for an afternoon of good food, fellowship and wildflowers. Bring a salad, casserole, or dessert and your choice of beverage. WOSA will provide chicken from the Everett Foodliner and tableware (plates, plasticware, cups). Please call or text John Boggess to let him know how many will attend and what food you plan to bring: 724-836-1449.

### **Monday, June 16, 2025 SDF Workday #22: Spray Invasive Plants 9 – noon.**

We'll cut invasive trees and shrubs and do a cut stump treatment. Herbicide spray bottles and chemical gloves will be provided. Bring your loppers, or chainsaw and safety gear, plus water, hat, bug spray, chair, and lunch.

### **Saturday, July 19, 2025 Wildflower Walk 9:30 – noon**

Mike and Laura Jackson's property: 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA  
FREE. Bring your lunch if you'd like to visit longer.

We'll walk on mowed paths in native wildflower meadows planted in 2015 and 2020, while enjoying birds, butterflies, and bees. Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water, hat, and bug spray.

### **Saturday, August 16, Tree of Heaven Demo LaSalle's Garage Office 10 – 12 noon Optional Lunch at The Provender**

Meet at 125 Sawmill Road in Everett, PA. Dave Scamardella will demonstrate the proper way to kill Tree of Heaven and we'll talk about the invasive Spotted Lanternfly that is especially attracted to this tree.

## **WOSA CONTACTS**

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Dave Scamardella, Service Forester  
Seleen Shives, Fulton Co.  
Conservation District

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.



Dear Friends,

It's been a busy spring!

WOSA was a Root Sponsor and Exhibitor at the **Forest Landowners Conference**, sponsored by the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State on March 7 and 8 (Fri./Sat.). Mike and I also attended the Forest Health Briefing on Thursday, March 6, which was very informative. On Friday, we were part of a panel presentation on forest stewardship led by Sandy Smith, and I gave a presentation on "Planting Native Wildflower Meadows." Saturday morning was devoted to field trips. Mike visited the Penn State Deer Research Center while I watched a demonstration on how to conduct a crop tree release. The next Forest Landowners Conference will be in March 2027. **See more on page 3.**

On March 22, 2025, WOSA held its **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** at the Bedford American Legion. Over 100 people registered! The raffle and WOSA shirt sales brought in money to fund the \$1,000 WOSA Scholarship Award, which will be awarded to Jacob Yokum in 2025 after he completes his first term at Allegany College of Maryland, where he is majoring in forestry. **See pages 7 and 8.**

We've also held work days at the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest, property owned by WOSA, south of Clearville. **See pages 4 and 5 for more photos and information on our habitat projects.**

I'm proud to be the president of an active and meaningful woodland owner's group and really appreciate the time and effort that our members dedicate to forest stewardship – both on our own properties and at the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest property.

In gratitude,  
Laura Jackson, president

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Duncan and Karen Everhart  
Anthony and Susan Good  
Robert and Pamela Piper



Leonard Miller  
Paul R. Fischer  
Jonathan Zuck

**The Creation of a Thousand Forests is in One Acorn**  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

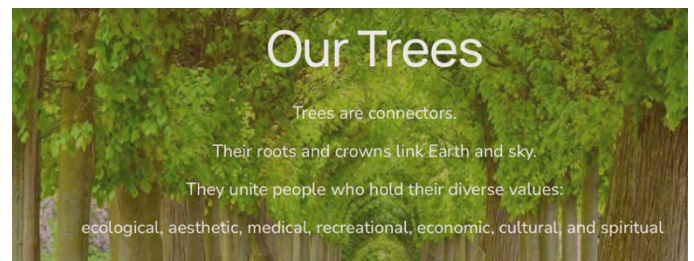
## WE APPRECIATE OUR 2025 SPONSORS!

**American Forest Foundation**  
**Dr. Vincent Acampora**  
**John Butler**  
**Duane and Sandra Kinzer**  
**Penn Forest Natural Burial Park**

There is a vacancy for the office of **Assistant Secretary**.  
**Duties:** Attends board meetings, takes minutes if Secretary is absent. Must use email and attend most board meetings.  
Interested? Call Laura Jackson: 814-494-4439.



**FOREST HEALTH, INSECT, AND DISEASE BRIEFING: MARCH 6, 2025**  
**FOREST LANDOWNERS CONFERENCE MARCH 7 AND 8, 2025**



The banquet Keynote Speaker, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, was very inspiring. After many years doing research in tropical forests, she now devotes her time and talents to teach people about trees. She uses trees as connectors to inspire people to appreciate nature.

See more at [our-trees.com](http://our-trees.com)



Mike and I highly recommend Vermont Forester Ethan Tapper's new book, "How to Love a Forest." He shared his inspiring journey as a forester and a forest landowner at the **Forest Landowners Conference** and then we met up again at Shaver's Creek Env. Center the next day, where he led an interpretive walk. We gifted him a WOSA t-shirt as a thank you for his nature walk and book reading. Follow Ethan on FB – you'll learn a lot from his forestry know-how!

This slide from the Forest Health, Insect, and Disease Briefing presentation by Rosa Yoo, DCNR Forest Health Manager, was taken in Bedford County in 2020 where about 24 acres were defoliated in Buchanan State Forest.

- 2020 - Cherry and oak defoliated
  - Adjacent maples and non-host trees not defoliated
- Historical outbreak area
- Two additional areas on PGC lands experienced outbreak in the same area



????? Quiz Question ?????

What insect caused this defoliation?

Answer on page 7



## Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest Work Days – Many hands make light work!!

SDF Work Day #20 Volunteers April 21, 2025



**Top L:** L to R: Mike Jackson, Calvin Hott, Ron Hott, John Dunn, Steve & Carolyn Hendricks, Sheila & Dave Scamardella, Annette Thaler & Horace Stillman

**Top R:** L to R: James Behr, Laura Jackson, Armin Behr



**Middle Photos:** (L) John Dunn cuts a downed tree.

(R) Calvin Hott, high school student volunteer, collects wood to add to a brush pile.

**Bottom:** Mike Jackson uses a post-hole digger to clean out one of eight holes that Horace Stillman dug with his Bobcat. Sign posts were then positioned in the holes. Now we need to design the signs!

**Other jobs completed:** Carolyn Hendricks and Annette Thaler touched up the yellow blazes marking the trail through the Old Growth Forest. Steve & Carolyn Hendricks, Annette, and Laura marked the boundary for the pollinator plot. Dave & Sheila Scamardella cut and treated a lot of invasive shrubs. Ron Hott, Calvin Hott, and John Dunn also replaced a persimmon that had died and then caged some native shrubs to protect them from deer.



## Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest Work Days –A gloomy and chilly Work Day #21



Note: the grinder was noisy, so Fred switched to bolt cutters for the rest of the jobs – much quieter!

**Top Photos:** (L) Laura & Mike Jackson, Fred Veith, Joe Wolfe, Annette Thaler & Horace Stillman  
(R) Fred Veith cut metal cages from around 25 trees that Louis Sulzbacher planted many years ago



**Above L and Middle:** Joe Wolfe and Annette Thaler pound in metal stakes where we will take photos to show how the property changes over the years. We chose 10 spots to document changes, both seasonal and yearly.

**Above R:** Horace Stillman pulled out small trees with ease where we plan to put in the pollinator plot. His Bobcat made the job look easy.

**Left:** Horace also pulled out some huge invasive bush honeysuckles growing along the red pine grove. Another giant brush pile!!

**Right:** One reason NOT to put bluebird houses on trees!! We don't know if this Eastern rat snake sought shelter from the chilly weather or did it find something to eat?



Joe Wolfe got quite the surprise when he opened a bluebird box fastened to a dead sawtooth oak.

## **Listen to Your Forester - by WOSA Member Loretta Radeschi**

Owning woodland in Pennsylvania and listening to the advice of our service foresters and Penn State forestry experts for more than 20 years have benefited us, and the woods, in more ways than my husband, George, and I could have imagined.

We had a Timber Stand Improvement, followed by a commercial cutting (and might be fortunate to have another one in our lifetime), have heated our home and 1800 ft. workshop with wood from the land, and harvested all the hardwood we've needed for floors, doors, cabinets and furniture in our home.

Prior to purchasing 45 acres in Bedford County in 1997, we learned from a friend about the Forest Stewardship Program. We looked into it, subsequently joined the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies and benefited from service and professional foresters telling us the possible potential of various properties we considered buying. I remember one comment clearly while we were looking at what I thought was a nicely wooded parcel. "Yes," we were told, "it's nice if all you want is pulpwood."

The wood on the property we purchased was harvested about 45 years prior to our buying it. It had good lumber-quality stands of oak, maple, ash, beech and a few cherry trees. It also had an understory that looked like a park - as clear as the eye could see. Today the understory is thick with saplings.

By 2004 we had built our home and were ready to do what we could to improve the woods. Our service forester at the time recommended a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). We hired a consulting forester who marked the trees and requested bids. Because it was not to be a large income producer for loggers or sawmills (although 1,000 trees were cut), we waited three years before receiving an acceptable bid. Lots of loggers looked at the property; many of whom told us the forester (with 40 years' experience) didn't mark enough trees, that there were many more to take down (the prime commercial trees) and that they knew what they were talking about because their pap and dad were loggers. Instead of quoting a sum for all the wood, one logger wanted to give us a portion of the amount of money he would receive from the sawmill after each delivery, from which we would have to pay the consulting forester. We quickly turned that down.

The TSI brought us a little income and lots of problems. We did have a contract, but we could have had a better one. A few weeks after the logging began, we had heavy rains, the logging trails became rutted, and work had to stop. After the loggers finished, they didn't repair the trails as we would have liked. Many ruts remained, making it hazardous to walk through the woods. We lived with the mess and swore we'd never do that again.

Fast forward seven years and our service forester, Dave Scamardella, said the lot was ready for a commercial cutting. Thinking back on the TSI, we weren't excited about the potential mess, but we went ahead with it, gritted our teeth and hoped for the best. The consultant forester marked the trees and sent out a call for opening bids with a 10-day deadline. Three sawmills walked the site, some more than once. The one we accepted brought us the amount of money we had paid for the 45 acres several years earlier. We were jubilant.



The profit we received was more than ten times the amount garnered from the TSI. We had a carefully worded contract, and a healthy array of various species of lumber-quality trees. A crew of three loggers took down 500 commercial grade trees and 500 pulpwood trees. They were careful around our horses, never inconvenienced us, left the trails in excellent condition, planted grass seed on the trails and were done in four weeks.

My advice, and I can't say this strongly enough, is to listen to forestry experts. Recognize that there is a lot you don't know, regardless of how many workshops you have attended, and turn to those who know more than you to help you achieve a healthy, profitable forest.

**Editor's Note: We appreciate Loretta's article and hope you found it helpful. Please consider contributing "your story" to a future WOSA Newsletter. Just send it to Laura Jackson via email: [jacksonlaura73@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonlaura73@gmail.com).**

**Want to know more about Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and how it helps to create a healthy forest? Here's a very informative booklet you can download that describes a number of forestry practices and includes photos of each.**

**Click on: [WHAT WILL MY WOODS LOOK LIKE?](#)**

**Page 9 describes a Timber Stand Improvement:**



Answer to Quiz Question from page 3:  
Northern Walkingstick

**WOSA's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Forestry and Wildlife Conference was held March 22, 2025, at the Bedford American Legion: "Managing for Wildlife in Your Woods."**

**Some highlights:**

1. Over 100 people registered for the conference, lower than last year, but that meant it was less crowded!
2. The presenters shared practical information pertinent to forest landowners and received good to excellent evaluations.
3. We raised \$918 for the WOSA Annual Scholarship (thanks to all who bought raffle tickets and shirts).
4. Everyone enjoyed a leisurely lunch topped off by Debbie Magill's delicious apple dumplings.
5. There was time for networking with other forest landowners and professionals.
6. Thanks to generous donations and bidders, the silent auction raised \$906 for WOSA expenses.
7. We had a diverse selection of educational displays: WOSA, Bureau of Forestry, American Forest Foundation, Bat Conservation and Management, NRCS, and PA Game Commission.



# WOSA's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Forestry and Wildlife Conference brought together forest landowners, foresters, biologists, and other professionals for a day of networking.



Debbie Magill, Laura Jackson, and Sheila Scamardella help with registration.



**Above,** Clay Lutz, PGC Wildlife Biologist gave the Keynote, "Habitat Management for Wildlife Conservation." **L:** Jacob Seifert, NRCS, talks to a forest landowner. **R:** Brian Estright checks out the American Forest Foundation display.



Josh Rittenhouse, consulting forester and Forest Program Assoc. for Audubon, explained how forest practices could help forest birds.



**Above,** Jon Zuck, PGC Land Management Supvr., gave an update on habitat projects on state game lands. **L:** Robert Bush amazed us with his wildlife videos. **R:** Brian Estright, Clay Lutz, and Carolyn Hendricks discuss wildlife projects during a break.



Raffle Winners: (L): Stihl electric chainsaw: Mike Jackson congratulates Casey Weicht. Middle: Herbicide sprayer: Ken Harrison (R): Husqvarna gas chainsaw: Mike congratulates Horace Stillman





Please consider joining or renewing  
your membership in WOSA!!

2025

Woodland Owners of the  
Southern Alleghenies (WOSA)  
Annual Membership Form  
(Membership runs per calendar year.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of Acres Owned \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address if different from your home address:

Street, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Do you, or have you had, a Forest Stewardship Plan? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like the Service Forester to walk your property (free of charge) and  
discuss your concerns and goals? \_\_\_\_\_

Single: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Single and Family members are voting individuals or families who own forest land.

Sponsor members are non-voting public or private organizations, which own forest land, or have a public or commercial interest in wood products, land or wildlife preservation, and support WOSA.

Associate members are non-voting individuals who do not own forest land but endorse and support WOSA.

If Family, please list other members: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to WOSA      Mail to WOSA P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537

Thank you for your support!!

Laura Jackson, President and Membership Chair