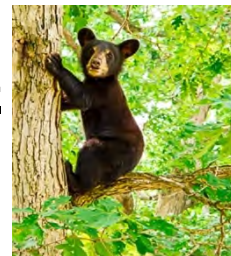




Branching Out

Volume 19: Issue 4 FALL 2025 Newsletter of the
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537
www.theWOSA.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Please Mark Your Calendar for the
WOSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026



From Pumas to Pawpaws: what to look for in your woods

Registration forms will be mailed to all WOSA members
in early February

Conference Agenda:

Keynote Speaker: Calvin Norman will present on managing invasive species and practices for improving forest health

Pumas in PA: Presentation by Thomas Keller, PGC furbearer biologist

Pawpaws in PA: Presentation by Cat Pugh, Penn State Extension

Protecting your Forest: Presentation by Molly Hoffman, Land Protection Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Health of Pennsylvania Forests, focusing on Bedford County: Jake Mazzei, Bureau of Forestry

PA Game Commission Update: Presenter to be determined

Registration is \$20 per member and \$25 for all others
except students who pay \$10.
Includes lunch, silent auction, door prizes, raffle, and more!

Puma, Mountain lion, panther, painter, catamount, cougar, screamer, American lion...different names for the same animal. But is it found in Pennsylvania?

Image by Tony Hisgett from Birmingham, UK, CC BY 2.0
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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,

Winter is almost here, so I'm not very ambitious to do much outside, although I do like to breathe in the cold, crisp air on a woods walk, or while I'm filling the bird feeders.

I grew up cutting, hauling, stacking, and burning firewood, and that practice continued until Mike and I built our house in 1988. We decided our firewood days were over at that time, so we invested in geothermal instead of a wood stove. I do miss the warmth and cheer of a crackling fire this time of year, but I don't miss the smoke.

We know many of you still heat with firewood, so we thought you'd like this poem that Steve Behe contributed. Steve explained the poem is very archaic, going back many centuries with a lot of different versions.

Whether or not you heat with wood, I hope you enjoy this poem, Laura Jackson
WOSA president

The Firewood Poem

Beechwood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year,
Chestnut's only good they say,
If for logs 'tis laid away
Make a fire of Elder tree
Death within your house will be
But ash new or ash old
Is fit for a queen with crown.

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze right up bright and do not last,
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with golden crown.

Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke,
Apple wood will scent your room
Pear wood smells like flower in bloom
Oaken logs, if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But ash wet or dry
A queen shall warm her slippers by.

WE APPRECIATE OUR 2025 SPONSORS!

American Forest Foundation

Dr. Vincent Acampora

John Butler

Duane and Sandra Kinzer

Penn Forest Natural Burial Park

Mark and Susan Thomas



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve and Jacob Seifert



The Creation of a Thousand Forests is in One Acorn

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

A few highlights of the WOSA 21st ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING November 13, 2025



Sixty WOSA members and guests attended our Annual Dinner and Meeting on November 13, 2025, at the Bedford American Legion. After a buffet dinner, guests were treated to an outstanding program on “Coyotes in Pennsylvania” by Thomas Keller (below right), furbearer biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. His presentation included a Nez Perce creation story about the coyote, coyote vocalizations, and fascinating facts about this secretive canine. We learned that Eastern coyotes that live in Pennsylvania have wolf DNA in them, so they are larger than Western coyotes. As Western coyotes migrated east into Canada before heading south into the northern U.S., they mated with wolves, resulting in the larger Eastern coyote. Tom also shared that coyote populations are expanding.

Tom has graciously agreed to give his presentation on “Mountain Lions in Pennsylvania” for our March 7, 2026, Annual Conference. You won’t want to miss this!!



Jessie Kohan received the Maurice Goddard award at the Annual Meeting in recognition of her many years of service as an outstanding Environmental Education Specialist at Blue Knob State Park. Dave Schreffler (R), WOSA Board member, presented the award to Jessie Kohan.

Many thanks to Jessie and her father, Lenn, who brought coyote furs, a mounted coyote, and other coyote specimens for people to examine.

WOSA members showed up to tackle invasives and repair tree tubes at the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest on Sept. 17 (Work Day #23) and Sept. 24 (Work Day #24). The insects were busy, too!

9/17/25



L: Mike Jackson, Tim Clingerman, Joe Wolfe, Brian Estright, Horace Stillman, Dave Scamardella, Laura Jackson

Below L: The locust borer is a native beetle whose larvae tunnel under the bark of black locust, but not honey locust.



L: First sighting of the spotted lanternfly, but hopefully they will feed on plastic, instead of our tree seedlings!! (Wishful thinking)
R: If the yellow jackets at the base of a tree tube are out of focus, it's because the photographer was a bit nervous getting so close to the nest!
Below: Cut stump treatment on autumn olive is the first step to restoring native habitat.



R: The caterpillars of this uniquely patterned, colorful moth feed on Tree of Heaven so this day-flying moth is called the Ailanthus webworm moth – a non-native insect.

Below: This large female praying mantis is also non-native and large enough to kill hummingbirds and native bumble bees.

9/23/25



L to R: Steve Behe, Steve Hendricks, Brent Chippendale, Brian Estright, Mike Jackson, Laura Jackson



Our final tree planting was October 28 (Work Day #25). We replaced dead trees, repaired tree tubes, and replaced broken stakes. The total number of tree seedlings planted in the 10-acre hay field stands at 1,310.



Front L: Debbie Magill, Sheila Scamardella, Marti Higgins Back L: Patrick Flanagan, Steve Behe, Horace Stillman, Annette Thaler, Brent Chippendale, Dave Scamardella, Brian Estright, Mike Jackson, Steve Hendricks, John Frola, Tim Clingerman, Fred Veith, Steve Higgins, Jack Gilbert, Joe Wolfe, Laura Jackson

It was a beautifully crisp fall day with plenty of sunshine. A special thanks to Debbie Magill for providing lunch and to Horace Stillman and Annette Thaler for providing about 200 gallons of water so we could water the new seedlings. Fortunately, we also had rain a few days prior to the planting.

R: A portion of the field shows tree seedlings in tree tubes. We replaced 114 tree seedlings that had died.



L below: Horace's bobcat carried the water tank so planters like Sheila Scamardella could water the seedlings. R below from L: Debbie Magill provided some tasty lunch treats; Steve Higgins, Marti Higgins, Brian Estright, Tim Clingerman.



We hope you will support WOSA by renewing - if you haven't already.
No need to complete the form unless information has changed.

Thanks so much if you've already renewed for 2026.



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

2026

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