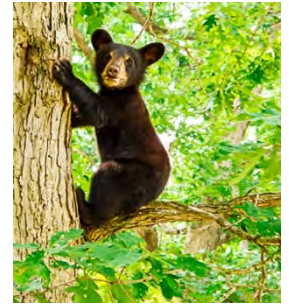




Branching Out

Volume 18: Issue 2 SPRING 2024 Newsletter of the
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies
P. O. Box 253 Everett, PA 15537
www.theWOSA.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Trail Days at SDF: Monday, June 10 and Monday, June 17

10 AM to 12 noon BYO lunch. We need a small crew of volunteers to better define our woodland trails. Bring loppers, pruners, chainsaws, and any grubbing tools you might have. Directions to SDF are on the back page.

Friday, June 14 Tour the new Bureau of Forestry facility in Chaneyville with Sweet Root Woods Walk to follow. BYO picnic lunch (optional) 9 AM to 12 noon

From Everett, take Black Valley Road south to Chaneyville for 15 miles to Sweet Route Picnic Area. Stay straight onto Chaneyville Cove Road and turn LEFT at a big rock before you get to the ball field at the old Chaneyville School. Put this address in your GPS and it will get you close to the Left turn onto a lane that leads to the building: 400 Chaneyville Cove Road, Clearville

Saturday, July 13: Leisurely Walk among the Wildflowers

9 am – 11 am Tour Mike and Laura Jackson’s native wildflower meadows. Bring a lunch if you’d like to socialize on our screen-in porch after the walk. GPS: 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA 15537 should get you close to our lane on the Right. Watch for a Forest Stewardship sign and follow the gravel lane a short distance – you’ll see parked cars.

August Activity is still in the planning stages – watch for an email update!

Sunday, Sept. 22: Tour Veith’s Property: 2 pm Potluck Picnic: 4 pm

Members and their guests only. WOSA will provide the meat. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

Hosts: Fred and Cheryl Veith, near Buffalo Mills – more details in the WOSA summer newsletter but mark your calendar now!

Mark Your Calendar for the next SDF Work Days:

Friday, Oct. 11 and Friday, Nov. 1. From 9 to noon. BYO lunch.
We need to tackle the invasives along the lane.

Thursday, Nov. 14: Annual Dinner and Meeting Mark your calendar – more details to come

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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.



New Sponsors:

WBL Hardwoods (Seth Clapper)
Brouse Forestry (Zach Brouse)
American Forest Foundation
(Ian Forte and Emily Trent)

MORE on CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

By Jeannine Fleegle, PGC Wildlife Biologist for Deer and Elk

Pennsylvania's highways and byways are filled with many sights – picturesque landscapes, interesting landmarks, unique signs, and, of course, squashed wildlife. According to PennDOT, there are over 120,000 miles of road in PA. Each year State Farm summarizes animal vehicle collision claims. Guess where Pennsylvania ranks in total number of claims. That's right - #1! Over 150,000 animal claims in 2022-23. Nationwide, 70% of animal claims are for deer. Also 0.01% are for turtles which has me wondering...

While most just avert their eyes from the road pizza out the window, we see opportunity. Road-killed deer have been an important part of CWD sampling since the disease was discovered in 2012.

- Did you know that after finding CWD in Blair and Bedford counties, the next 8 positives were from roadkill? The first hunter harvested CWD positive deer after its initial discovery didn't occur until 2015. In that year, there were 8 CWD+ roadkill samples and 2 CWD+ hunter harvested samples.
- Did you know that roadkill deer are usually the first deer we find with CWD in a new area? CWD+ roadkill deer have been the cause of DMA expansions every year.
- Did you know that DMA8 was created because of 2 roadkill deer- the first found east of the Susquehanna River?

Collecting and testing roadkill deer is not cheap or pleasant. Just ask our fantastic staff that collect these samples in the middle of summer! But it is key to finding the disease early. Knowing is half the battle. The other half comes from enacting regulations and management to address CWD.

If you see a road-killed deer, you can report it by calling PGC Dispatch (1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-PGC-HUNT). If it's within our contract area, we'll pick it up and get it tested!

If you want to see the breakdown of samples over time and by type, check out the [CWD Dashboard](#).

A BIG THANKS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kirk Cunningham
Joseph Kaczmarczyk
Randal Van Scyoc, PE
Chuck Fullmer
Scott Alexander

Don Roarabaugh
Dean Rossini
Mark Mamros
Brian Estright
John Butler

Bridgit Martin
Dave Young
George Kuhne
Steve Behe
Michael McGee

Suzanne Casden & Raffaele Borriello Aaron & Teresa Grebeldinger
Don & Candy Hoover Don & Judy Russell
John & Kathy Akers Codi & Troy Clapper
Craig & Nina Ormsby

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



March and April were busy months for WOSA members – thanks to all who participated!

March 23, 2024: Mushroom Log Workshop, hosted by John and Joanne Boggess (the last one was in June, 2019).

Thirty-nine people attended: John & Joanne Boggess, Jack & Eileen Gilbert, John McKlindon, Mike & Laura Jackson, Scott & Renee Hiteshew, Brent Hiteshew, John & Mona Dunn, Ray McCann, Deb Dunkle, Mary Lou Pelin, Deb Magill, Karen Petrarca, John & Sharon Frola, Dave Scamardella, Don & Judy Russell, Barb Hummel, Joe Wolfe, Jennifer Saunders, Aaron & Teresa Grebeldinger, Jerry & Lou Ann Clark, Chris Smith, Aimee Mellott, Joe Kaczmarczyk, Ron Hott, Calvin Hott, Mary Jo Casalena, John Butler, Steve Behe, Ray & Becky Swiger.

WOSA members paid \$10 per family and non-members paid \$20 per family. A total of \$310 was collected for the workshop. Expenses totaled \$321.80 for the spawn, wax, tags, and meat for sloppy joes. John Dunn, Jerry Clark, Brent Hiteshew, and Joe Wolfe donated all the logs, so a great effort was made even before the big day of inoculating.

The crews “worked” from 10:30am – 4:30 pm, inoculating red oak, white oak, black oak, sugar maple, and ironwood logs with Shiitake Spawn for “Chestnut” and “Night Velvet” mushrooms. A delicious lunch was served by Joanne and her helpers. Many people brought food to share.

Photos: From top left, clockwise: After holes were drilled in the logs, helpers tapped in sawdust spawn.

The next step was covering the spawn with hot wax, so it wouldn’t dry out.

Lunch was delicious and much appreciated. Joanne and Renee (pictured) did a lot of work but had help from many others who contributed delicious side dishes. Mona’s peaches and cream pie was a big hit.

The logs were then labeled with metal tags to track which one had “Chestnut” or “Night Velvet” Shiitake spawn. Over 60 logs were sent to homes to be tended until harvest.



We learned after the workshop that you need to drop the log or whack it hard with a baseball bat to stimulate the spawn – try it and see if it works!





Friday, 4/4/24, a small but efficient crew straightened about 70 tubes and stakes at the SDF Tree Restoration Project for 2 hours. Steve and Carolyn Hendricks are busy straightening a tree tube that was tilted. Mike and Laura Jackson, Dave Scamardella, and Joe Wolfe formed the rest of the crew. It was a cold, blustery morning that ended in snow showers, but we got it done!



Seth explained how the wood-fired evaporator is operated to reduce the sugar maple sap into syrup.

Sunday, 4/7/24 Maple Syrup Tour at Locust Grove Sugar Camp led by Seth.

Seth Clapper is a forester who works for WBL Hardwoods, which recently joined WOSA as a Sponsor. Eight WOSA members attended: Deb Dunkle, Ray McCann, Mike & Laura Jackson, Sheila and Dave Scamardella, Joe Kaczmarczyk, and Jack Gilbert. Seth gave a short history of his family's sugar bush before we walked on a lane through farm fields to his woodlot where they tap 70 sugar maple trees. He explained the tapping season runs 4 – 8 weeks, depending on the weather (warm weather hurts). This year they tapped from Jan. 28 – March 2, 2024. Raw sap will spoil so it must be kept below 40 °F or the sugar breaks down. Every year a new hole is drilled into the tree and each tap yields enough sap to boil down into a quart of syrup. We then drove into Loysburg to see his evaporator setup. He can make one gallon of syrup in about 2 hours. He showed us a refractometer (measures sugar content of syrup) and hydrometer (measures density of syrup). Seth explained that this year it took 57 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup that is 1.5% sugar. He plans to buy a reverse osmosis setup for next year to save time boiling the syrup. Seth did a wonderful job explaining the process.

Earth Day Tree Restoration Project at SDF Twenty people planted 179 trees from 9 – 11:30 am. Debbie Magill provided a delicious free lunch. **This was our 7th Planting Day with 1,271 native trees planted so far.**



Front Row (L to R): Debbie Magill, Conner Keefer, Mike Jackson **Middle Row:** Laura Jackson, Marti Higgins, Annette Thaler, Ray McCann, Sharon Frola, Edgar Wright, Tim Clingerman, Patrick Flanagan **Back Row:** Horace Stillman, Steve Higgins, Don Russell, Jack Gilbert, John McKlinton, John Dunn, Dave Scamardella, Marlin Graham, Dave Schmit

We really appreciated the delicious food that Debbie prepared for our lunch after a morning of tree planting.

4/25/24 Will's Mountain Tour SGL 048 hosted by the PGC from 9 am to 2 pm.

The tour was organized by Roy Bucher, SC Region Forester and Jon Zuck (PGC Bedford Co. Land Manger) with assistance from Jacob Sunderland (PGC Bedford Co. forester), and Caleb Hoffman (PGC Blair Co. forester who used to also cover Bedford Co.). We were impressed with all the habitat work completed by the PGC for species like deer, ruffed grouse, and even rare grasses and moths. Most of the mountain top can only be accessed on foot, so we gained a rare look at all the habitat work done by the PGC. The views from Will's Mountain were also stunning.

Twenty-two members of WOSA and Bedford Co. Bird & Nature Club attended:

Mike & Laura Jackson, Brian Estright, Dave Schreffler, John Dunn, Jack Gilbert, Don Russell, Annette Thaler & Horace Stillman, Joe Wolfe, Brent & Jan Chippendale, Darren Cecil, Carol & Troy Krall, Dave Scamardella, John Wolfe & neighbor Lee Bussard, Steve & Marti Higgins, Vicki Burt, and Mike McGee, adjacent property owner to SGL 048.



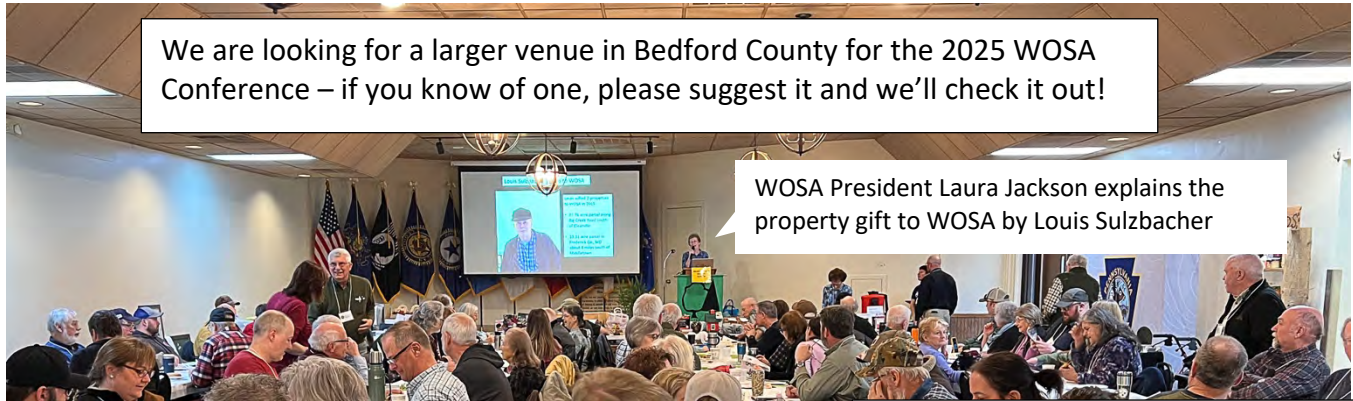
The 2024 WOSA 24th Conference was a Huge Success in Many Ways!

- 131 people attended (including 2 scholarship winners and 3 students) – the highest ever.
- The chainsaw and sprayer raffle, plus t-shirt sales and donations raised \$1,129 for WOSA scholarships.
- The silent auction brought in \$1,128 – the most ever.
- Seth Cassell, our new State Forester, gave an inspiring presentation.
- We learned a lot from Cat Pugh about growing ramps and American ginseng as non-timber forest products.
- The update on Chronic Wasting Disease was sobering, but Wild Turkeys are doing well.
- Scott Weikert covered the nuts and bolts of producing maple syrup.
- John Traister shared important information about wild mushrooms. NEVER eat a raw mushroom – even if cultivated.



Penn State Extension Educator Cat Pugh is an expert on ramps!

We are looking for a larger venue in Bedford County for the 2025 WOSA Conference – if you know of one, please suggest it and we'll check it out!



WOSA President Laura Jackson explains the property gift to WOSA by Louis Sulzbacher



Left: Armin Behr (L) and John Herr (R) (seated) received the WOSA Emeritus designation as founders of WOSA and for serving many years as officers and board members. Armin also celebrated his 94th birthday that day! Dave Schreffler presented the awards, while Laura Jackson and Dave Scamardella looked on.

Bottom Left: Joe (R) and Janice Wolfe received the John Mash Award from Board member Dave Schreffler, honoring them for their active dedication to woodland stewardship and outreach. Joe is also a PA Forest Steward.



Congratulations to **Todd Clark**, who won the Stihl chainsaw and to **Mark Gingrich**, who won the backpack sprayer donated by ArborChem.



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

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. 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.