



FOREST CARE LLC

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Craig A. Olver, Forester
Over 25 yrs experience improving forest
health and developing wildlife food plots.

Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture Committee Listening Session

Lake Ladore Conference Center
Waymart, PA

RE: Timber Investment & Government Cost Sharing

Wayne County, Pennsylvania has some of the best timber in the world! We have Black Cherry, the most valuable tree used to make furniture, kitchen cabinets, flooring and loved by most wildlife for its food supply of cherry seeds. The second most valuable tree is the Sugar Maple, also called hard maple. The lumber from this tree is used to make bowling pins, flooring, and furniture. The third tree is Red Maple, also called soft maple. This tree is highly valued in Europe for its white wood. This is just the tip of the iceberg for the many uses of our woods.

The ownership of forestland can be very rewarding. It offers an excellent opportunity for healthy family recreation, including hiking, hunting, photography, horseback riding, bird watching, camping and as a source of income. Most American families dream of owning a piece of land as a get away from life's fast pace. With that ownership of land comes responsibilities; property taxes, liability insurance, and the protection of the property from pollution.

The responsibility and work of owning woodland is sometimes overwhelming. There are very few things in our lives that remain healthy if left alone. Good examples are your car, marriage, your health and even your home. All these things require time and money for them to last. Woods are no exception. The woods are like a garden. As with a vegetable garden, in order to have a good crop of vegetables it requires work, planning and money.

Member:

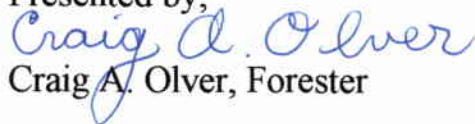
Society of American Foresters • American Tree Farm Systems • National Woodland Owners Association
PA Forestry Association • Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners Association
New York Forest Owners Association • Northeastern PA Maple Syrup Producers' Association

Your forest “garden” is a long-term investment. Here in Wayne County it takes 100 plus years for a tree to grow from seed to a mature tree. During that time you will be paying yearly property taxes, insurance to protect you from possible law suits, plus the forest management cost. In addition, you will also have to protect your woods from fires and native and non-native insect infestations. There are now insects here in the United States from Asia that have no means of control. The only control is to cut the trees down and burn them on site.

If you still want to own forestland you will need to intensely manage it to be productive and healthy. Timber stand improvement is one of the many forest management practices needed. This is the weeding of the garden so the vegetables have room to grow. This cost is an investment of \$150 to \$200 per acre. A commercial thinning to remove low valuable and poor quality trees will result in root and stem mechanical damage to the residual stand. A non-commercial thinning of a young pole size forest is the best for your forest crop. The trees that are cut down are left in the woods to rot and decay thus fertilizing the residual trees. This practice increases the growth and quality of the forest crop. A return on this investment will be seen in about 15 years. Several years ago, there was a government cost-sharing program that assisted forest owners in the management of their woods. It was an excellent program and was an incentive for the woodlot owner to do good management in their woods. Since this government cost-sharing program was terminated there is less good forest management implemented.

The ownership of woods is enjoyable but it is also hard work and a long-term financial commitment. Most wood lot owners are not willing to devote this much time and money to their woods. This becomes more difficult as financial pressures are placed on the landowner. What appears to be the answer to many landowners is to sell the woods to a developer and enjoy the money they derive from the sale. Now what happens to the timber resources for forest products, water and air quality, all the birds and animals that needed this woods to live? Developments and strip malls are the final crop from that land!

Presented by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig A. Olver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Craig A. Olver, Forester

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Thinking for the Long Term

Forest management and long-term thinking go hand in hand, and being around the woods for years is the surest way to learn that kind of thinking. Forester Craig Olver has some 30 years of professional forestry experience, but more than that, he cannot remember a time when the woods weren't an important part of his life.

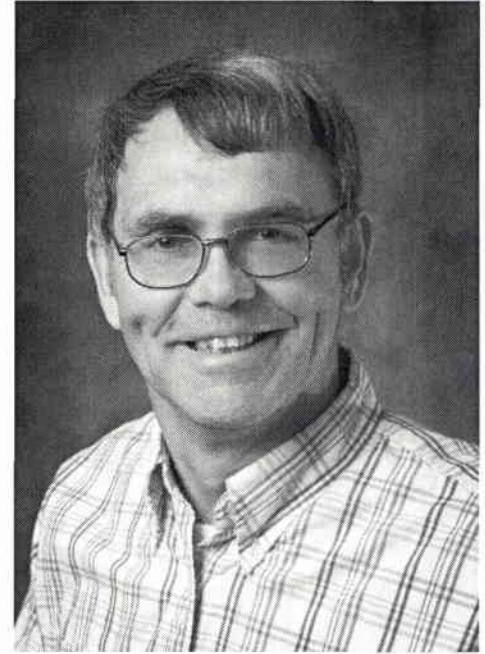
Growing up on a working dairy farm in rural northeastern Pennsylvania, he began exploring the surrounding woodlands long before he started school. At school, he quickly got involved in after-class 4-H activities, pursuing one forest or wildlife project after another.

A three-year project he completed as a teen-ager in the early 1960s saw Craig growing some 6,000 trees from seeds and planting those seedlings in one of the Olver farm's pastures. That first effort at long-term forest management paid off handsomely nearly 30 years later, in 1990, when Craig sold that property and bought the 566-acre timber-tree farm he manages today with help from his wife Janet and daughter Tara.

At college, Craig studied in a systematic way the things he had learned informally while exploring the woods as a boy and in 4-H. At Paul Smith's College he completed an associate's degree in forestry, then put the woods on hold for four years as he served his country as an Air Force medical technician. Since leaving the service, forest management has been his focus of Craig's professional life, first as forestry specialist for the Wayne County (Pa.) Conservation District and now as owner and manager of a tree farm.

During three decades with the Wayne Conservation District, Craig focused on such issues as forest health, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreational forest use. He advised timber harvesters on contract issues, skid-trail layout, log landings and erosion control. He worked with municipalities, schools and community groups that sought his advice on choosing, planting and caring for shade trees; on landscaping, and on other issues in urban forestry. He also planned and conducted educational programs for adults and children, including classroom sessions, tours and field days exploring timber management, forest regeneration, native and non-native forest diseases and watershed protection.

Today, at his Tall Timber Tree Farm near Lookout, Pa., he manages his forest intensively to grow high-quality timber products, applying the hands-on lessons he has learned over a lifetime in the woods about timber-stand improvement, forest-disease prevention and control, and timber harvesting and marketing. And he does all this while striving to keep his land a beautiful and peaceful place that his family and friends may visit and enjoy.



Forester Craig Olver



TALL TIMBER TREE FARM

Est. 1990

"Overlooking the Delaware River"



Important Points **From The** **Tall Timber Tree Farm**

Good planning and hard work is needed for a successful tree farm, nothing good comes easy.

You need to spend at least 1 hour per acre per year working in your woods.

Always cut the poorest trees first and let the good trees get better.

Work with the weather.

Don't concentrate water flow; some day it will cause soil erosion.

Be willing to make changes to your plans.

Do an estate plan on the future of your tree farm.

Check your trees' crown in August to determine the trees' health.

Know your soils, their problems, and what they can grow.

Be active in your woods with your children, grand children and friends.

Cut beech trees only during the months of May, June & July to prevent beech sprouts.

Prevent Black Gum in cherry trees by way of drying or removing the logging cherry tops.

You cannot take care of your woods alone, you need family, friends, forester, wildlife specialist, conservation district, Bureau of Forestry and good family doctor