

# Forest Restoration

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hundred years ago was a road travelers used to voyage to Baltimore.

The stream was forded, and the road passed through fields. Forest was chopped down and used for lumber.

Now, looking at the site, you could hardly tell if a road ever passed through there.

## Restore area

But it didn't take long to cut down a lot of trash growth, remove old fruit trees that should have been cut down long ago, trim away hedge material, and restore the area to its original beauty.

It was the move from a densely urban area such as Montgomery County, with many folk commuting for hours back and forth from the city, that appealed to the Wolfes years ago.

Art remembers what it was like, growing up in Lehigh County, as radio stations touted the area for commuters.

"I was raised in the Lehigh Valley, and sometimes in the winter, in the shop, I'd get the New York stations to listen to, and they'd advertise the 'Little Apple,' which is the Lehigh Valley," he said, "for an 'easy commute to New York City.' And they're selling the Lehigh Valley out to people from New York City."

Times often don't change, espe-

cially in the case of the Wolfes, who must now deal with development near their own property from commuters who travel an hour and a half from Washington, D.C.

Art said he doesn't understand how they can deal with the long drive, which he said would "work on my nerves."

"It's unbelievable to me, but they do it. I would feel that much would drive me crazy, because it'd be just enough to be a headache," he said.

## Maintains pasture

The Wolfes maintain about 235 acres and 8,000 trees, mostly Christmas trees sold at the Worley's Nursery stand. But Wolfe also maintains about 15 acres of pasture and grows about 38 acres of corn, 40 acres of soybeans, 70 acres of hay, and two acres of buckwheat, all cash crops. He takes care of about 80 acres of woodland.

He worked some cleared acreage this spring — a tough task, considering the junk to work over lying about the ground.

"Ground that you just cleared, you know, you have to work it 10 times more than you normally would," he said.

The Wolfes installed some conservation practices on the farm, including a three-foot deep water retention pond constructed in 1992 that helps control sediment and

runoff from fields. Also, Wolfe worked contour strips and installed diversion terraces as part of the farm's overall reworking through the years.

A great deal of work late last year and into this year involved clearing wood left by loggers in a 15-acre woodland a few hundred yards from the homestead.

"The loggers came in and took the most money they could out of it," he said. "They took everything good and left everything that was no good. And so we've been trying to get things back where they belong."

## Planted Red Oak

Wolfe planted about 100 Red Oak saplings in April and covered them with plastic to protect from deer damage. Bluebird shields will be installed as soon as he has time.

Also, Wolfe planted about 60 Pollonia trees, which require a lot of maintenance, and more than 30 various nut trees in a lane separating the corn and soybean fields. Nut tree varieties include pecan and chestnut.

According to the tree farmer, much work was necessary to restore nearly all aspects of the

farm, including some work on the buildings, which date back to 1786. The stone house was built in 1850, and a house now used for their Deardorff's Mill antique business to about 1790.

"This was a really well-kept farm," Wolfe said. "But then after about 20 years of not being managed right . . ."

To get the fields ready for planting, Wolfe said he used a combina-

tion of plowing methods, "an unbelievable job of plowing — it hadn't been farmed for years and years and years."

Art said he and his wife did all the work. In the spring, she helped drive the tractor while he put in the trees.

She also helps him when it comes time to sell the Christmas trees, and also with the antique business in the winter season.



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