

WV Division of Forestry's "Trees 4 Bees"

In order to enhance Tree canopy in the eastern panhandle, the WV Division of Forestry (WVD OF) is always looking for unique opportunities to plant trees. One of these opportunities surfaced in the Fall of 2014. WVD OF was approached by the WV Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association (WVEPBA) to provide trees for bees. Bees are suffering from loss of habitat in the area and planting bee friendly trees/shrubs is a great program to encourage tree planting. So a new partnership between WVEPBA and WVD OF was born.

WVEPBA members were given the opportunity to order 10-100 trees for planting in approved areas. They then paid \$4.00 per tree for deer protection. They could also receive 1 free elderberry shrub for every 10 trees ordered.

Orders greater than 50 trees qualified for volunteer assistance which helped with in-kind matching requirement. In Fall 2014, the first planting season, 19 orders for 504 trees/shrubs were received.

\$1,300 was collected by WVEPBA for the purchase of supplies. Trees were delivered Oct 1 to the Inwood forestry office for pickup. There were a total of 7 public plantings on these larger orders of 50 or more and 150 volunteer hours were accrued for all 19 plantings. This also accounted for over 5 acres of urban tree planting credit.



Trees for Bees Volunteer Planting, 25 Oct 14. 100 Lindens planted in a hay field.

Trees for Bees Planting, 22 Nov 14. This turned out to be a riparian planting behind a new home in Berkeley County. Planted 55 trees and shrubs



The spring of 2015 currently has 14 more beekeepers ordering 314 trees. Plans are to offer this program to the Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association in the fall. For more info contact Herb Peddicord: herb.f.peddicord@wv.gov



