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Monday, April 09, 2007 — Time: 4:12:51 PM

## News Digest

The Times Leader

### BARK making reclamation history

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VOLUNTEERS really dig the tree plantings held in strip-mined areas around Barnesville.

The fourth tree planting planned by the Barnesville Area Reforestation Committee, known as BARK, in cooperation with the Oxford Mining Co. will be April 28, and a new “tree friendly” reclamation approach will be used. This shows volunteers ready to plant trees in one of the previous endeavors.

Photo Provided

A FIRST for Ohio in regard to reclamation in a strip-mined area will occur April 28, west of Barnesville.

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- Ohio Valley Outdoors



That's when the Barnesville Area Reforestation Kommittee, better known as BARK, has scheduled the planting of 4,000 trees near the center of a large strip-mined area near the village.

Marie Bundy, a spokesperson for BARK, said the Oxford Mining Co. has agreed to reclaim the land for the committee's tree planting, using a technique that has proven more "tree friendly" than previous methods.

Called the Forestry Reclamation Approach, it has proven successful in Kentucky, West Virginia and other states, but has not been used in Ohio, according to Bundy.

"This will be the first time in Ohio for a coal company to work in cooperation with a citizens' group, using this reclamation approach," she added.

Anyone interested may participate in the April 28 event, which will begin at 10 a.m. and will continue the project is completed. It is estimated the 4,000 trees will be planted by around 12:30 p.m.

Signs will be posted in the center of Barnesville and along the way, directing people to the site.

The Barnesville Kiwanis Club will provide lunch for the workers, and the first 200 will receive a free BARK T-shirt. Planting tools will be provided, and instructions will be given by Jeremy Scherf, forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Workers should wear sturdy shoes, work gloves and, in case of drizzly rain, rain gear.

Spearheading the BARK tree plantings are Scherf; Nathan Taylor, wildlife/forestry specialist; Jim and Paula Grear; Bundy and Shelley Rockwell.

This marks the fourth year for BARK to be involved in actually planting trees, and the number planted totals 16,000. The survival rate, however, has been very poor, because compaction of soil and competing grasses and ground cover makes it very difficult for trees to survive.

BARK was organized in 2003 when a group of individuals concerned about the loss of trees to strip-mining in the area decided to do something about it. They organized the tree-planting days on reclaimed strip-mined land around Barnesville

The group in cooperation with Oxford Mining had the first tree planting off Ohio 800 north of Barnesville in April of 2004.

Approximately 200 persons of all ages participate in the annual event, including Scout troops, 4-H clubs, families and school groups as well as adults.

The Forestry Reclamation Approach technique, according to information from the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, has been confirmed by forestry research. A core team from the Appalachian group has determined this approach can be implemented under current federal and state regulations.

Goals of the Appalachian goals are to plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal-mined lands in Appalachia and to increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees.

More information can be obtained from the Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District office, (740) 425-1100, Ext. 3.



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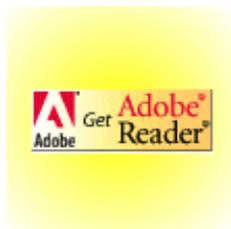


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