

Episode One: “Pinelope and the adelgids”

Narrator: It’s time for another episode of the Barkleavies: A Family Tree with Issues. Poor little Pinelope has a problem. Will her mother, Chlorophyllis, be sympathetic?

Pinelope: “Mom, can we talk?”

Chlorophyllis: “Sure honey. What’s up?”

Pinelope: “Well, Axil and I were talking in the grove...”

Chlorophyllis: “Just talking, huh?”

Pinelope: “Yes Mom! (exasperated). “We we’re actually just seeing how many birds we could get to land on us.”

Chlorophyllis: “Please be careful doing that. Eunice’s little boy, Fagus, was doing that and a pileated woodpecker tore-up his cambium!”

Pinelope: “Ouch!” “Don’t worry, Axil and I were being very careful.”

Chlorophyllis: “He’s a handsome young hemlock.”

Pinelope: “I know that Mom and I really like him, but (pause)

Chlorophyllis: “But what? What’s the matter, honey?”

Pinelope: (confused) “Well, for the first time I noticed he had this white, fuzzy looking stuff all over him. It was kind of gross.

Chlorophyllis: Maybe it’s just dandruff?

Pinelope: “(irritated) Mom, trees don’t get dandruff. I also told Ace about it and he said that Axil probably has woolly adelgids. He said all the hemlocks are getting them. I’ll probably get them, too, and I don’t even know what they are (she starts crying).”

Chlorophyllis: “(comforting tone) Well, hemlock woolly adelgid *Adelges tsugae*, is a fluid-feeding insect from Asia that feeds on hemlock trees and its wee little egg sacs look like the tips of cotton swabs clinging to the undersides of hemlock branches. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 1967 and I’m afraid it has been spreading ever since. It’s only fatal most of the time.

Pinelope: (very distraught) “Mom...”

Chlorophyllis: “Now, don’t worry dear. I don’t think pines can get adelgids. And Axil... well, it will be expensive, but he can go through pesticide treatments. (pause) You know, there are so many

of these things out there today. (wistful) It just wasn't like that when I was growing up. "

Narrator: "To learn more about the issue of woolly adelgids, go to www.iConservePA.org/adelgids