NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
Our March 15th monthly meeting will feature guest speakers Mark and Randy Ohlin. These brothers have enjoyed the art of locating and digging wells and privy's that date back to Civil War times. They use mid 1800's maps and atlas data to locate the old property lines, then they probe to locate the well or privy before digging.

Their range of 'finds' varies from bottles to crocks to bones to pipes and beyond. They have undoubtedly the largest 'YOUNGSTOWN' bottle collection around. This is a fascinating hobby and their stories are as unique as their findings. This will be a fun and informative evening, please come join us as we listen and learn.

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be held as usual at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm on SR 46, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds. There will be a short business meeting and refreshments will follow the presentation.

88% of Ohio’s Forests are in Private Ownership
Oak Regeneration Problem – Oaks Being Replaced by Shade Tolerant Species
Need Repeated Disturbances – Controlled Systematic Harvesting
Periodic Removal of Undesirable Woody Shrubs & Trees in the Understory
Call Your Forester to Schedule an Evaluation of Your Forest

BANQUET & AUCTION – MARK YOUR CALENDARS
You are invited to come join us as we celebrate the NEOFA’s 45th year at our Annual Banquet and Auction. The banquet will be held once again at A La Carte Catering on April 27th at 6:30 pm. In honor of the 45 year milestone, each attendee will receive a 45 year commemorative tee shirt. This year you must RSVP by April 1st to secure the proper shirt size. You can still RSVP until April 21st but we cannot guarantee shirt size after April 1st.

For those of you that have attended in the past, you know how much fun it can be. If you’ve not been to one before, this is your chance to see what it’s all about. This is one of the few times during the year NEOFA members can meet up with old friends and perhaps make some new ones.

During the 5:30 – 6:30 social hour, we hope you will purchase either ticket for the 50/50 drawing or a chance to win a Stihl chainsaw.

It’s hard to beat the great food provided by the wonderful folks at A La Cart Catering. We will once again be treated to a feast of roast beef, turkey and dressing and pasta with Italian sausage along with all the side dishes and desserts. If you go away hungry, well, it’s you own fault.

Immediately after dinner, we will once again be holding our fund raising auction. The money generated from the auction provides the resources needed for the NEOFA Sponsorship to Camp Canopy (formally the OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp). This fund raiser has grown over the years and seems to outdo the previous year each time. The generosity of our members is amazing. Maybe the best part is watching our auctioneer Darryl McGuire and his assistant George Houk. These two bring out the best in people making it a fun and rewarding experience.

Also, if you would like to invite a friend or neighbor, feel free to do so. Please see the Banquet RSVP in this newsletter. Don’t forget to RSVP before April 1st to ensure proper shirt size. The RSVP deadline is Saturday April 22.

We don’t want to leave anyone out, so if you find at the last minute you can make it, please write a separate check for the banquet apart from any auction items you may win.

Ohio Forest Tax Law – A Property Tax Reduction Program for Managed Woodlands
3,601 Ohio Private Woodland Owners Currently Enrolled
Providing A 50% Reduction In Property Taxes On 130,392 Acres Statewide
Contact your ODNR Service Forester for More Information & Applications
TIMBER MARKET UPDATE – By Jim Elze, LZ Forestree Consulting
Markets for all hardwood lumber grades, furniture grades and industrial grades are currently in demand and selling well. That means that standing timber is in demand and selling well. So….If you have been contemplating harvesting some of your timber, contact a forester for an evaluation and recommendations for the management of your woodlot.

Softwood markets are even doing well. Though few and far between, there are several loggers willing to harvest pines and spruce. That’s a significant change from recent years when it has been difficult to find anyone willing to harvest softwoods. Prices for softwood trees (i.e. pines, spruce, aspen) are a lot lower than for hardwood trees, but at least there is a market for anyone wanting to manage or convert their softwood acreages to hardwoods or a non-forest use.

One of the more recently emerged markets for softwoods is chicken farms (i.e. Case). Several sawmills have diversified their operation by installing a shaving mill that processes softwood logs into shavings used for bedding for chicken producers.

Softwoods are typically sold by the ton or by the truckload. However, if for example you have large enough quality white pines, they might be sold by the board foot. If you’ve got softwoods you’d like to harvest, contact a forester for an evaluation and potential guidance through the marketing process.

Exports of Lumber & Logs to China - Big Reason Why U.S Wood Markets are Doing Well
Canada, Mexico & Vietnam are Also Major Importers of U.S Lumber & Logs
U.S. Lumber Exports are Greater Than U.S. Domestic Lumber Consumption
China’s Consumption of U.S. Lumber Shows No Signs of Slowing Down
The Interior of China is Rapidly Developing
Red Oak is Very Popular in China

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT
Our guest speaker for our February meeting was Jeff Harvey. He is the owner of The Wild Birds Unlimited store in Boardman, Ohio and also the President of The Mahoning Valley Chapter of The Audubon Society.

Whether you are a back-yard beginner or an avid birdwatcher, Jeff and his wife can educate you on native birds to Ohio, their distinctive bird calls, and the habitat in which they live. With his power-point presentation with sound, we were able to distinguish the various types of song each bird sings. It helped us to identify the wide variety of wild birds native to our state. In addition to that, he handed out booklets and compact discs with the pictures, descriptions and sounds of each bird and where they can be located.

Many of the larger common birds that we are familiar with are the Ring-Necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, and several varieties of hawk and owl. The Northern Bobwhite which makes a sound like its name “Bob White” has been on the decline over the years and is not as common as it used to be. There are other smaller varieties of woodpeckers which include the

Other typical species of birds that we may recognize include the Whip-poor-will, Mourning Dove, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Cuckoos, Blue Jay, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Chickadees, Wrens, Eastern Bluebird, Tanagers, American Robin, Warblers, Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, American Crow, Sparrows, Northern Cardinal, Grosbeaks, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Grackle, Cowbird, Finches, Orioles, the American Goldfinch and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Some of the not so recognizable birds to a beginner would include American Kestrel, Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Vireo’s, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Thrush, Brown Thrasher and Dark-eyed Junco and the list continues.

Within some of these species there are different variations. For example in the Warbler family alone the list includes the Blue-winged Warbler, the Northern Parula, the Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, the Pine Warbler, the Prairie Warbler, the Cerulean Warbler, Black and white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotory Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, the Ovenbird, the Louisiana Water-thrush and the Kentucky Warbler.

The habitat for each and every individual type of bird may vary. Some prefer Northwestern Ohio while others prefer Southeastern Ohio. But some species such as the Eastern Bluebird are found statewide.

In the Thrush family, the Veery is found in Northern Ohio, is considered a breeder and prefers lush, swampy woods. The Hermit Thrush has a beautiful voice and makes it habitat in hemlock gorges while the Wood Thrush leans toward deciduous woodlands with shrub understory. A marsh wren lives exactly there, in the marshy area among the cattails. An Acadian Flycatcher is greenish in color, lives in the woodlands, found along streamside and is a very loud caller.

Some birds live in the undercarriage of a tree while others prefer high up in the canopy of the tree. Many can be found in thickets, shrubs, and large barren fields like the Horned Lark, while the Barn Swallow will build its nest under overhangs in sheds or support beams in barns. A Tufted Titmouse is found statewide, and can be found in woodlots, forests, parks and neighborhoods. It will fraternize with Chickadees, Woodpeckers and Nuthatches and is attracted to bird feeders. The Northern Mockingbird is often found in suburbia, prefers open areas interspersed with shrubs and thickets and is capable of retaining and reproducing up to 200 different sounds, hence its name.

The information was very educational and recognizing different bird calls was enjoyable in and of itself. Our Thanks to Jeff for the great learning experience.

CAMP CANOPY SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
The NEOFA has a strong commitment to get students involved in forestry through financial sponsorships to Camp Canopy. The money for these sponsorships comes from our members during our annual Arbor Day banquet and auction. As much as we would like to grant every applicant's request, please be aware our resources are limited. Our priority is to make sure our members have preference
along with first time applicants; however, this is on a first come first serve basis. **Don’t delay applying for this sponsorship!!**

This year, Camp Canopy will be held **June 10th through 15th** at Camp Muskingum on beautiful Leesville Lake in Carroll County. Campers arrive Sunday afternoon and head home on Friday afternoon. The camp is sponsored by the Ohio Forestry Association and is held annually.

Campers spend their days learning about forest ecology, soil and water conservation, forest management, wildlife management, forest products and tree identification. The evenings are filled with many fun recreational opportunities.

Please remember, our sponsorship covers **75%** of the camp fee and the student is responsible for the remainder. The camp fee is **$375.00** with **$93.75** being the student’s portion.

Any student who has completed the eighth grade through students graduating high school this year are eligible to attend camp. This year we are proud to direct you to the new camp website, partly funded with a donation from the NEOFA, for more information at [www.campcanopy.com](http://www.campcanopy.com).

If you know of a student that is interested please contact Mike Lanave for more information – (330) 532-1957 or by email at neofa1972@gmail.com.

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**Every 2 Minutes U.S. Forests Grow by the Size of a Football Field**

**BEECH LEAF DISEASE (BLD)**

BLD could soon be invading your woodlot. Beech Leaf Disease is a new, yet to be defined pathogen, attacking beech trees in 9 NE Ohio counties, 7 NW Pennsylvania counties, and 1 location in Ontario, Canada. Beech Leaf Disease was first discovered in 2012 on Lake County (Ohio) Park District forestlands. The disease is spreading quickly and it is likely that more infected counties will be added to the list this year. Ohio counties already infected include: Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Trumbull, Portage, Summit, Stark, and Medina.

Forest scientists from several university and governmental agencies are in the process of trying to determine the causal pathogen and vector. Ohio State University is just one of those organizations.

The disease first presents itself in small understory trees and in the lower crowns of larger trees, and then progresses upwards throughout the entire crown. From the time it is initially noticed, it may take 2 or 3 more years for the disease to spread throughout a particular tree and throughout a woodlot. It spreads quickly.

Early symptoms include a dark coloration/banding between the veins, eventual cupping, crinkling and distortion of the leaves. As the disease progresses, infected trees lose most of their leaves. Last June (2017), beech trees in numerous locations throughout NE Ohio’s northern most counties (i.e. Lake and Ashtabula) were found to be nearly totally defoliated. From the observations/evidence collected thus far, all indications are that those heavily infected trees will end up dying.

**Ohio Leads the Nation in Wood Household Furniture Production**

*Due to What is Known as the Holmes-Wayne County Amish Furniture Cluster*
NEOFA
C/O ODNR – Forestry Division
3601 New Garden Road
Salem, OH 44460

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 15th @ 7:00 pm – NEOFA Regular Monthly Meeting
  • Presenters – Mark & Randy Ohlin – Mahoning County/Springfield Township
  • Topic – Bottle Collecting
  • Location – Mill Creek MetroParks Farm – across from the Canfield Fairgrounds

Saturday, April 7th @ 7:00 pm – Timber Sales 101 The Do’s & The Don’ts
  • Sponsored By: Columbiana County SWCD, Stark County SWCD, ODNR Forestry Division, ODNR Wildlife Division and NEOFA
  • Location – 7715 SR 9 Hanoverton, Ohio 44423 – across from United Local High School
  • See promotional flyer included with this newsletter for more information.

Friday, April 27th @ 6:30 pm – NEOFA Annual Banquet & Auction
  • Social Hour – 5:30 to 6:30 pm
  • Celebrating 45 years!!!!
  • Location – Al A Cart Catering, Canfield, Ohio
  • Mark your calendar now.
  • Please be planning for your auction donation items.