

# The OHIO WOODLAND Journal

Volume 25 • Number 1 • WINTER 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO TREE FARM COMMITTEE



- ◆ Winter Streams
- ◆ Winterberry
- ◆ Winter Meetings

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#### EDITORS

Greg Smith  
ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
greg.smith@dnr.state.oh.us

Dave Schatz  
OHIO TREE FARMER

Alice Glaser  
ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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OHIO STATE UNIV. EXTENSION

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#### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Tom Mills  
OHIO TREE FARMER  
trmills67@att.net

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# The OHIO WOODLAND Journal

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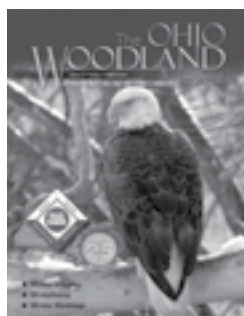
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## On the Cover

Brad Perkins took this photo of a resident of the oldest bald eagle nest territory in central Ohio, located at Wills Creek in Coshocton County. The eagle pair built a new nest in another sycamore tree after their original sycamore home succumbed to a broken support limb. The area has hosted nesting eagles for 21 years.

# FROM THE EDITOR~



## New Tree Farmers Fourth Quarter 1993

AREA 1 ... **Steve Siam, Area Chairman**  
Greg Gabel Pioneer Sandusky County

✓ AREA 2 ... **Randy Clum, Area Chairman**  
Dan McMillen Harrison County  
Duane Keinzle Carroll County  
Pete McHugh Mahoning County  
Gary Confoey Mahoning County  
✓ Randy, Koral & Casey Clum Certified Harrison County

AREA 4 ... **Christine Hodgson, Area Chairperson**  
Day Angus Farm Certified Brown County  
William Dennis Certified Brown County  
Michael & Cheryl Gaus Certified Ross County  
Ralph Martin Certified Brown County

AREA 5 ... **Harold Bower, Area Chairman**  
Chris Tuttle Certified Ashland County  
David Lescaleet Certified Muskingum County  
Dan Derringer Certified Licking County

**T**he New Year 1994 began in Ohio with George Voinovich in the midst of his two terms as Governor. His hometown Browns—coached by Bill Belichick—wound up the 1993-1994 season with a 7-9 record, losing on January 2 to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Soon thereafter, the new *Ohio Woodland Journal* was born.

I dare say that the magazine has quietly been much more successful since then than my Brownies. Its circulation of 3,200 reaches the owners of Ohio's 1603 Certified Tree Farms, members of the Ohio Forestry Association, our state and federal legislators, forest landowners receiving a Forest Stewardship Plan (at no charge for one year), subscribers, and, thanks to generous businesses and individuals—many high school libraries. A few extra copies have also been known to appear at my dentist and doctors' offices, barber shop, and mechanic's garage. And I have heard from a credible source that the copy we send to the Governor's Office actually makes it to the display table in the outer office.

*The Ohio Woodland Journal* depends on the generous writing of a wide variety of knowledgeable people. It is a magazine promoting the enjoyment and careful cultivation of the wooded properties owned by families. Reading it, you hear from researchers sharing new information, foresters with practical applications, fellow tree farmers that learned something in their woods, Ohio Tree Farm Committee members who spent an hour sharing with a legislator, and advertisers who have just what you need.

In the same issue, you can find something whimsical, technical, or enlightening, but always something useful. There is a lot to learn about the great forest resource in Ohio, which takes many to discover and describe.

Clipping from page 3 of the first issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal*. Note that 1993's newly Certified Tree Farmers Randy, Koral, and Casey Clum are featured here in this anniversary edition for their very successful and well-attended 2017 Tree Farm of the Year Tour (see pages 18-19).



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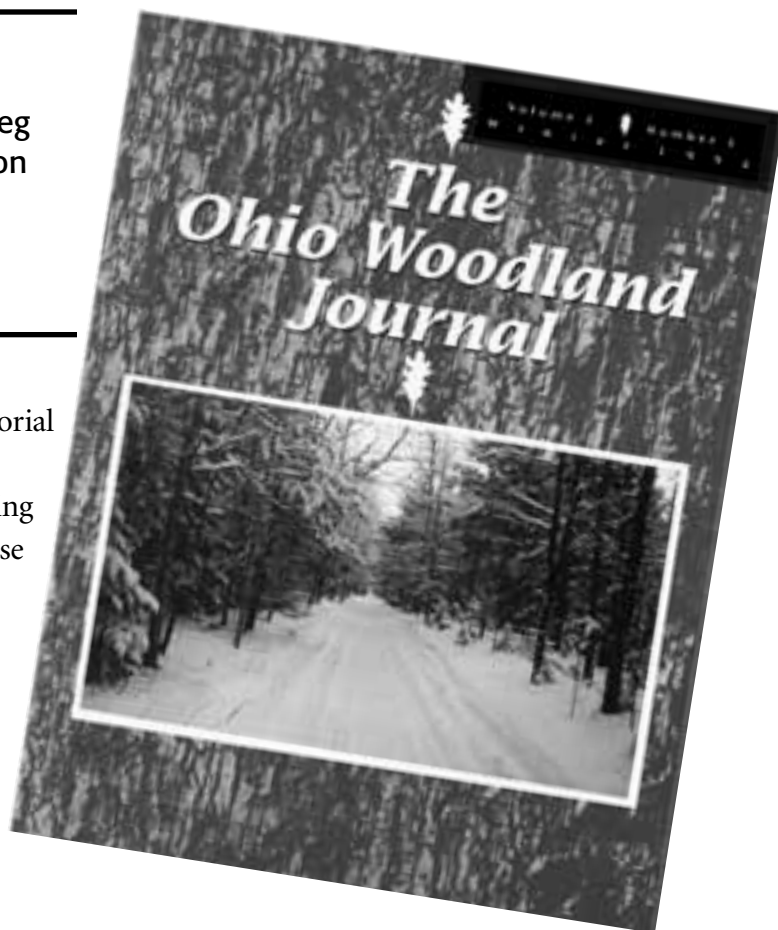
*The Ohio Woodland Journal* Volume 1, Number 1: Dave Schatz was Editor, Randy Heiligmann and Greg Passewitz were associate editors, Christine Hodgson was Advertising Editor, and the Editorial Board consisted of Tom Berger, Ron Cornell, Mark Ervin, Eric Roush, and Tim Wilson.

---

On behalf of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the Editorial Board; our founding editor and Meigs County Tree Farmer Dave Schatz (Editor 1994-1998), who thankfully is still helping us edit articles; Christine Hodgson (Editor 1999-2010), whose dedication to the Tree Farm System and this magazine is unmatched; Ohio Tree Farm sponsors the Ohio Forestry Association and ODNR Division of Forestry; and our outstanding publisher Alliance Printing, please enjoy this—the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* with us, and thanks for reading! ♦

Greg Smith

Archived issues since 2011 are available for viewing on the OFA website at <http://www.ohioforest.org/mpage/OhioTreeFarmWJ>.



## 2017 Tax Tips Bulletin Available

# TAX HELP

Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, has finalized Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2017 Tax Year

(<https://timbertax.org/publications/fs/taxtips/Tax%20Tips%20for%20Forest%20Landowners%202017%20-%20F.pdf>). This publication reviews the major Federal income tax laws to help you file your 2017 income tax return. Although tax laws on timber transactions are not common knowledge, they are an important part of the ongoing cost of owning and managing timber, engaging in forest stewardship activities, and complying with tax law.

Timber or landscape trees destroyed by storms are considered “casualty losses” that may allow you as a property owner to take a deduction on your Federal income tax return. Learn more about this option in an article authored by Dr. Linda Wang at <https://timbertax.org/taxpolicy/Tax-Deduction-USFS2.pdf>.

For more information about tax treatment of timber, visit the National Timber Tax Website at <https://timbertax.org>.

*From the Forest Matters Stewardship News, November 2017, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry*

## FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 2018

### ***Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting***

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[www.ohioforest.org](http://www.ohioforest.org)

## MARCH 3-4 & 10-11, 2018

### ***Maple Madness Driving Tour***

Various locations  
[www.ohiomaple.org](http://www.ohiomaple.org)

## MARCH 7, 2018

### ***Ohio Woodland, Water, & Wildlife Conference***

Mid-Ohio Conference Center  
Mansfield  
[woodlandstewards.osu.edu](http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu)

## MARCH 17, 2018

### ***Ohio River Valley Woodland & Wildlife Workshop***

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## MARCH 28-29, 2018

### ***Ohio Society of American Foresters***

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### ***Camp Canopy***

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## JUNE 12-13, 2018

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<http://www.ohioforest.org/mpage/OhioTreeFarmHome>

# Out In the



Tree Farm is a very special program. It is a cadre of woodland owners who believe in managing their woods in a quality, sustainable fashion. They are people who believe in leaving their land better for the next generation. The beauty of the Tree Farm program is its broad-based approach. As Tree Farmers know, there are four components of focus in being a Tree Farmer: wood, wildlife, recreation, and water. Landowners can manage their woodlands placing emphasis on the areas in which they have the most interest.

My family owns a tree farm in southeastern Ohio. This farm is a real passion for me. It was first settled in the early 1800s by my great (5 times) grandfather and developed for his daughter when she married in 1837. It went out of the family for a while and my grandparents bought it in 1920. My father, who worked for the Natural Resource Conservation Service, had a

The Ohio Tree Farm Committee works jointly with ATFS assistance in the development and implementation of owner accomplishments.





# Woods

Happy New Year! The Tree Farm Committee is off to another year. As I take on the role of Chair for the next two years, I am looking forward to working with you.

passion for the land and wanted to own a farm, which was a problem because of the cost. He acquired one when my grandmother passed the farm to my mother and my folks spent time there. Later, my mother passed the farm to me and my four siblings. Needless to say, for me it is a thing of the heart.

I am retired now and am enjoying the seasons on the farm, though we are absentee landowners. Timber stand improvement (TSI) is a big job these days. We have done TSI over the past 10 years or so, and now we are playing catch up and working to maintain our efforts. This past fall, we worked with a TSI contractor in four stands of timber focusing on controlling honeysuckle, autumn olive, grapevine, and ailanthus. I also started on foliar spraying of honeysuckle on two other stands. Ah, it's great to get out into the woods.

The Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting is just around the corner. It will be held February 27 to March 1, 2018 in Dublin, Ohio. I would encourage Ohio Certified Tree Farmers to come out on Wednesday, February 28 for the Awards Luncheon where a variety of people will be recognized, including the Tree Farmer of the Year. Of course, you will want to attend the Tree Farmer of the Year Tour this fall. More details on this activity later.

We have one new member, Elizabeth Reeb, whom I'd like to welcome to the Ohio Tree Farm Committee

in 2018. I also want to say thank you to those on the Tree Farm Committee who are moving on either in position or from the committee in general. Thank you to retiring chair Joe Puperi. He has done a yeoman's job as both chair and as he continues on as our program administrator. Thank you to Clayton Rico--coordinating tree farm inspections is indeed a big job and is the bread and butter of what we do. Thank you to Mike Lanave--as we broaden our reach into the state through the Regional Woodland Interest Groups, Mike has led the way as chair of the Northeast Ohio Forestry Association. I have a special remembrance of Gailen Maxwell, who passed away in 2017. Gailen was a long-time tree farmer and member of the Tree Farm Committee for many years, and his service was invaluable.

Thank you one and all to every member of the committee for all they accomplished in 2017. I am looking forward to a great 2018! ♦

*Ohio Tree Farm  
Committee Chair Tom  
Mills can be reached at  
(419) 423-3422  
or [trmills67@att.net](mailto:trmills67@att.net).*



to support family forest landowner education, to provide individual  
a sustainable woodland management plan, and to recognize woodland

It is my pleasure to introduce two new foresters and an administrative professional who have been hired by the Division of Forestry in northeast Ohio. **Ryan Clester** has been hired as the service forester for Mahoning, Stark, Columbiana, Carroll, and Tuscarawas counties. **Luke Walters** has been hired as the service forester for Lake, Ashtabula, Trumbull, and Geauga counties. **Lila Watters** has been hired as an administrative professional in the division's District 3 Punderson forestry office in Newbury, Ohio.



L-R: Ryan Clester,  
Lila Watters, and  
Luke Walters.

**Ryan's** service forestry office is headquartered in Salem, Ohio. While earning a bachelor's degree in forestry from Ohio State, Ryan worked for the Division of Forestry as a college intern. Ryan's field work experience includes working on a western fire crew, working on forest health projects related to the Asian longhorned beetle and walnut twig beetle, as well as working in our central office on customer service and administrative projects. Congratulations Ryan!

**Luke's** service forestry office is headquartered at the division's District 3 Punderson forestry office in Newbury. Luke earned a bachelor's degree in forest management from West Virginia University as well as an associate's degree, also in forest management, from Hocking College. Most recently he worked in West Virginia as an equipment operator at Glatfelter Paper Company, and prior to that he worked as an intermittent forester at Pike State Forest for the Joint Chiefs' oak management project controlling invasive plants and promoting oak through silvicultural treatments. While in college, Luke worked as a college intern for four years at Fernwood State Forest. Congratulations Luke!

**Lila's** administrative duties at the District 3 Punderson forestry office include working with the Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) program, service foresters, and with Ohio County Auditor's offices issuing and tracking landowners' OFTL certificates. Lila has been with the Department of Natural Resources for two years, beginning her career in the Division of Parks and Watercraft at Lake Milton State Park. Prior to working for ODNR, Lila's career focus was in healthcare where she spent sixteen years working at Akron General Hospital with high risk pregnancies. Welcome Lila!

In closing, a quick update that Service Forester **Daniel Bartlett** has moved his headquarters office from Salem to Findlay, where he is covering Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Henry, Wood, Sandusky, Seneca, Hancock, and Wyandot counties in northwest Ohio.

Please be careful out there this winter and I wish you all the best for 2018! ♦

To contact your local service forester,  
check the directory at [forestry.ohiodnr.gov/landownerassistance](http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/landownerassistance).



# WELCOME TO THIS NEW PUBLICATION...

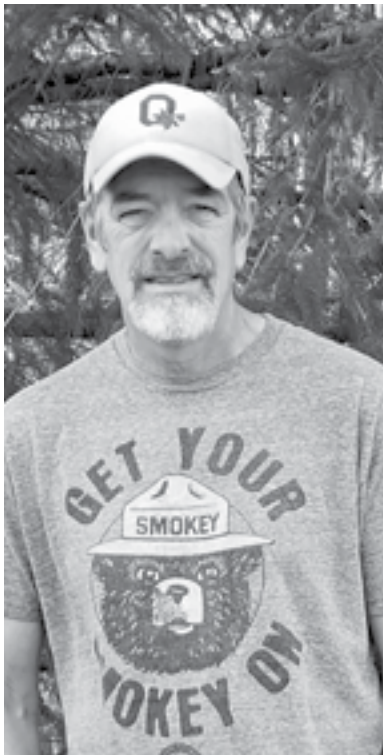
## Tree Farm

Welcome to this new publication for Tree Farmers and forest landowners of Ohio. As Chairman of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, I have the distinct honor of writing the inaugural chairman's corner.

I sit here with pen in hand wondering just what I can say to fire up the landowners of Ohio, and the one topic my mind keeps coming around to is ACTIVISM. The climate in our country appears to be heading away from the rights of individuals and the one basic right that made this the greatest country on earth, the right to own property.

So wrote Tim Wilson in the first chair's perspective column for the new *Ohio Woodland Journal*, Volume 1, Number 1 (Winter 1994). Tim's goal was to "fire up the landowners of Ohio," and his article's theme was boldly stated: ACTIVISM—involvement by getting together with other woodland owners, participating in the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and woodland owner groups, and keeping our elected officials aware of the joys and concerns of owning a wooded property.

Thanks for the lasting inspiration, Tim, which has carried over to a report on the recent Tree Farm Fly-In on page 27 and reports by woodland owner groups on page 28--only two examples included in this, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal*.



Ohio Forester Tim Wilson

## MORE ABOUT TIM!

Ohio forester Tim Wilson was recently named a Presidential Field Forester Award Recipient by the Society of American Foresters, one of 11 foresters selected nationally for recognition in 2017. The award recognizes foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies.

Tim recently retired from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry where he worked in Clermont, Brown, Adams, and Scioto counties as a service forester. Tim helped develop a high school agriculture program called "Ag Reality," which provides students with realistic scenarios involving purchasing a farm and equipment and managing the farm's woodlands, a program which is used throughout the state and region. He helped found the Southern Ohio Forestland Association (SOFA), produced a weekly radio program covering forestry issues within his project area, and worked with OSU Extension to develop a cooperative for small woodland owners.

In addition, Tim was recognized as the Division of Forestry's Service Forester of the Year, received the ODNR Director's Valor Award and Director's Achievement Award, and was recognized by the National Wild Turkey Federation as their Ohio Conservationist of the Year.

He currently uses his expertise to help southwest Ohioans as a private woodlands forestry consultant through Wilson Consulting Forestry (tladwils2@gmail.com).

Tim, and now his son Drew, is active in interagency wildfire management. Tim is credentialed as a single resource providing fire camp logistical support on large wildland fire and disaster incidents throughout the country, with previous experience on the 20-person crews Ohio regularly sends to assist with fire suppression.

Tim has been very active in the Ohio Tree Farm Program. As a Tree Farm Inspector, he achieved both the Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards for his work with landowners. Tim served for many years as Advertising Editor of *The Ohio Woodland Journal*, and his wife Lynn managed the magazine's school library sponsorships.

Thanks for your service to the woodland owners of Ohio, Tim, and the continued promotion of the care and enjoyment of the tremendous resource they own!

Greg Smith



# Memorial

## TRIBUTE TO DONNA LANGE

Donna Lange, who along with her husband, Walt, owned an award-winning Fulton County Tree Farm, died peacefully at her Swanton-area home on Saturday, December 30, 2017, after a more than a two-year battle with cancer. She was 77.

Donna was a remarkable lady. I first met her and Walt in 2010 at their Tree Farmer of the Year Tour. It was because of them that I became involved on the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, and I enjoyed the opportunity to carpool with them to meetings.

Donna provided support to the program as secretary. She also helped with other record and reporting needs that the committee had, and she organized the committee's Silent Auction that is held during the Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting.

Donna and Walt were members of the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association. In fact, they hosted one of the quarterly meetings at their tree farm. Frequently, meeting hosts provide lunch,

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and Donna provided a very tasty one. This was only one of the many groups that they hosted. They hosted Boy Scouting, 4-H, Ohio Woodland Stewards Program, and other groups for educational purposes. Given my youth education and development background, this made Donna and Walt all the more special to me.

Donna and Walt were a great team and they did a lot for trees. I certainly enjoyed working with Donna and will greatly miss her. ♦

Tom Mills



Donna and Walt were the 2010 Tree Farmers of the Year.



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# Wild Wonders *in the Woods*

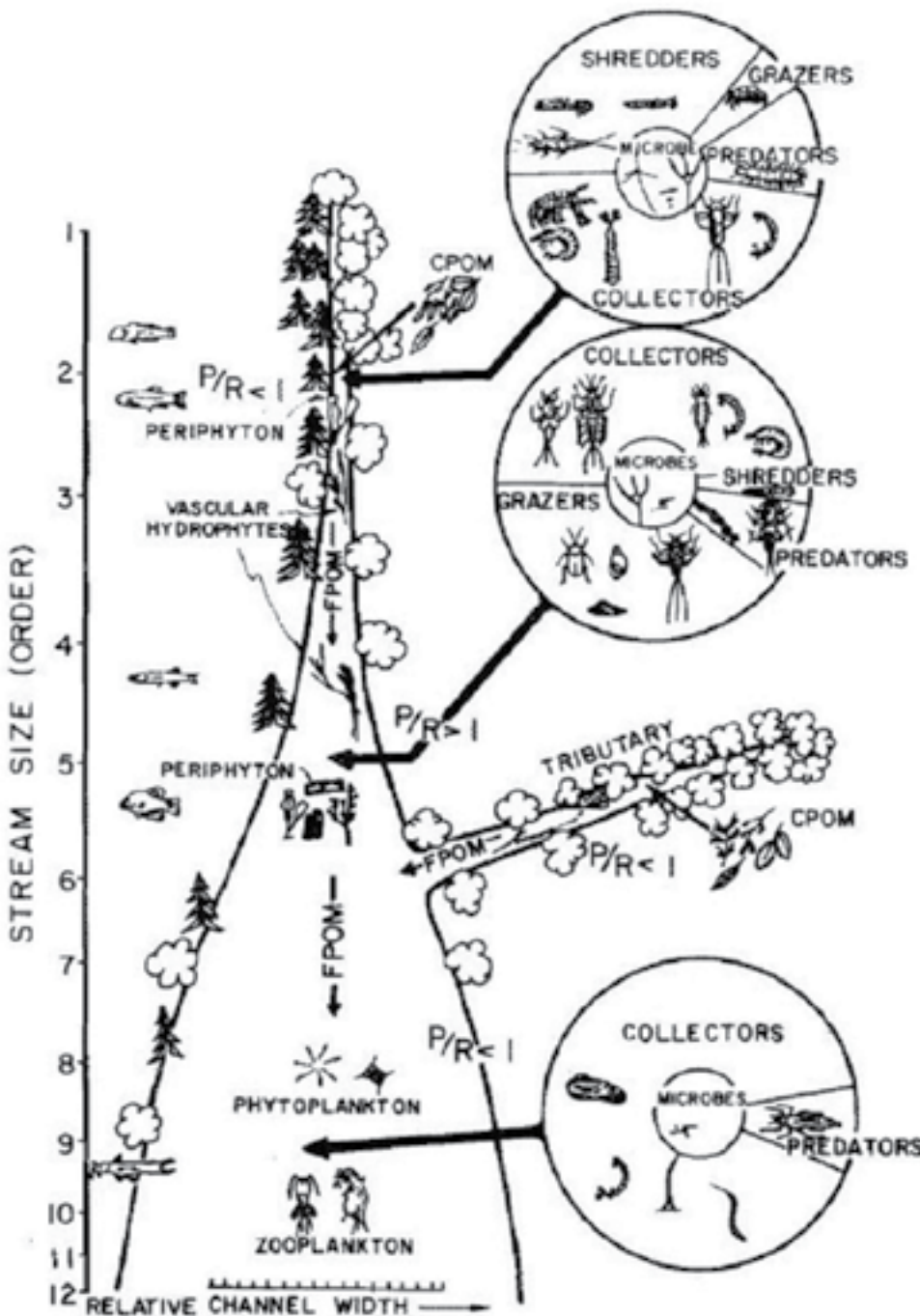
## Forested Streams: A River-Continuum Primer and a Brief Word to Wet Wildlife in Winter

As a fisheries biologist (i.e., not being a forester), I've been told that foresters stress the importance of erosion control with landowners, and with good reason. Here, I hope to provide some background in what is being protected by relevant best management practices on the forested watersheds of local streams.

### Why do we care?

Part of why we care is the simple fact that any functionally healthy aspect of an ecosystem tends to contribute to the health and sustainability of the others. A healthy stream is good for a healthy forest, and vice versa: for the stream, the forest provides shading, input of biological energy, woody debris as fish habitat, stabilization of stream banks and erosion reduction, and filtration/uptake of excessive nutrients and other potential pollutants; the stream provides water and often groundwater recharge for the surrounding forest, transport of excessive organic material and particulates, diverse energy sources to local food webs, and more.

Regulatorily, the function of U.S. surface waters is managed in part by the Clean Water Act (1972). A primary goal of the act is "the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." Streams are managed by the functionality prescribed by human interests, by a stream's "attainment" of "designated uses" (e.g., an agricultural ditch is not expected to serve the same function as a pristine forest stream). The things that live in water are constantly subjected to the effects of potential habitat impairments over time, such as fleeting toxic-pollution or low-oxygen events, chronic siltation or turbidity, and modified flows. Thus, biological stream



### Vannote1980

Figure 1. A graphic representation of the River Continuum Concept showing changes to biological communities in relation to changing energy sources (coarse particulate organic matter [CPOM] vs. fine particulate organic matter [FPOM] and stream size (Vannote et al. 1980).



communities and their various taxonomic assemblages can represent excellent tools—usually even better tools than water chemistry—to monitor the quality of stream habitat.

Monitoring stream quality using the things that live there is usually carried out by collecting organisms and applying multi-metric indices to the collections. Those indices (like the Index of Biotic Integrity or IBI) were developed around what organisms are expected to be seen on streams of different size and levels of attainment. (For much more detail on local applications, consult the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/bioassess/BioCriteriaProtAqLife.aspx>.)

## Water as habitat

Of course, a water molecule is a pair of hydrogen atoms attached to an oxygen atom. Water as a liquid substance is dense (about 775 times the density of air) and viscous (about 100 times as much as air), and aquatic organisms have adapted accordingly. Because of water's density, things that live in water are relatively more buoyant. Purely aquatic plants and animals spend less energy than land organisms to simply remain upright and lack associated rigid structures-- like woody trunks, or legs aligned perpendicularly to gravity.

Water also has high specific heat, meaning it takes a great deal of energy to change water's temperature. Water temperature thus changes much more slowly than the air around, and aquatic organisms are buffered by their environment against sudden temperature changes. Water's ability to retain heat also influences transitional temperatures near the coasts of large water bodies as seasons change. A good example is the prolonged growing season along Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes that allows the region to produce successful vineyards.

Water's density has an additional quirk. Most things increase in density as they grow colder. Water does the same, but only to a point. That point is approximately 4°C (39°F); water molecules begin to arrange into a lattice below that temperature, and the angle between its hydrogen atoms begins to slightly spread to occupy more space. Liquid water thus decreases in density with further falling temperature to its freezing point. Ice forms in pure water at 0°C (32°F). Ice is very damaging to living tissue, lysing cells and usually killing entombed organisms.

Because ice is less dense than cool water, ice floats, forming a protective layer on the surface of liquid water in winter and allowing life to persist beneath where there is sufficient depth or energy imparted by flow.

## The River Continuum Concept: a primer

In retrospect, the River Continuum Concept is so elegant, so simple—frankly, so obvious—that it's amazing that it wasn't described until 1980. The essence is that, from the smallest headwaters to an expansive river mouth, the physical parameters that structure a stream (especially width, depth, velocity, and sediment load) vary downstream along predictable gradients that, in turn, structure sources of energy and biological communities in a predictable way (Fig. 1: Vannote et al. 1980). Communities essentially structure to take advantage of processing inefficiencies that flow down from the biological communities upstream.

*Headwaters:* Natural headwater streams are relatively narrow and surrounded by trees or other riparian vegetation. Shading and a general lack of soluble nutrients limits the amount of photosynthesis that occurs within the stream, so much of the organic matter available as energy is allochthonous (i.e., falling into the stream from outside sources: leaf litter, woody debris, etc.). Resident aquatic insects and other invertebrates are dominated by organisms categorized as collectors and shredders, especially those capable of processing coarse particulate organic matter, like leaf litter. Respiration (R: a measure of energy consumption) by the community exceeds primary production (P) in the stream itself ( $P/R < 1$ ).

*Mid-sized streams:* Streams incorporate more flow from the watershed and widen moving downstream, allowing more input of sunlight which contributes to more algae attached to river substrates. Biological energy production shifts to occur more within the stream (autochthonous); in-stream productivity begins to outpace consumption ( $P/R > 1$ ). The dominance of shredders diminishes, invertebrate grazers increase, and collectors persist.

*Larger rivers:* Increasing particulate matter from upstream naturally reduces water clarity; this, combined

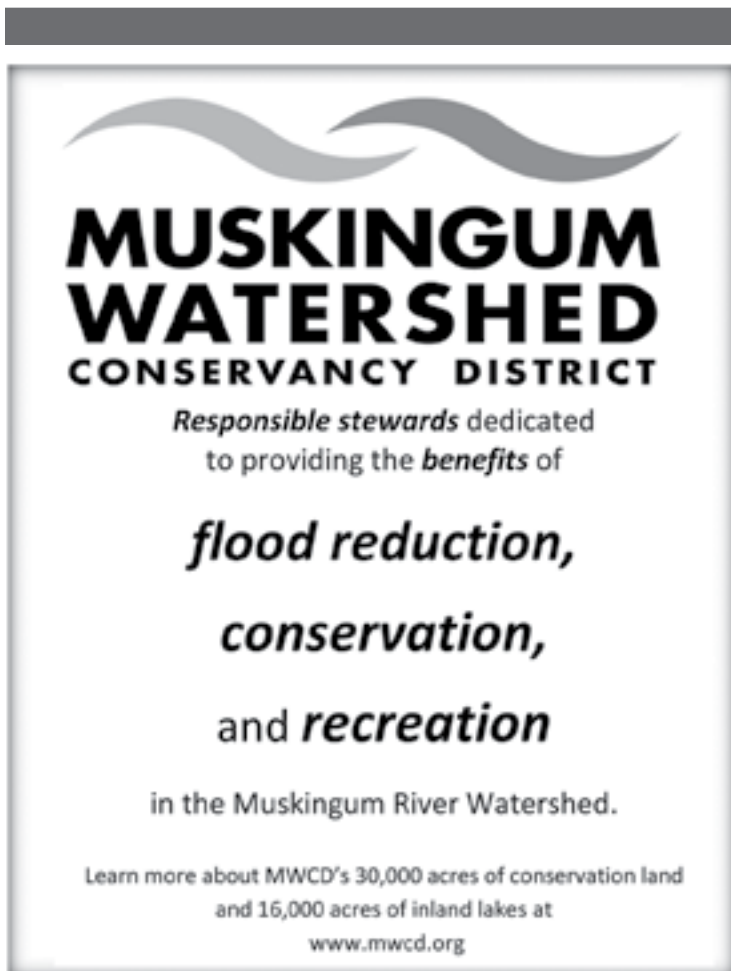
*continued on page 16*

with increasing depth, reduces the relative penetration of sunlight. Photosynthesis and in-stream productivity are again reduced below the rate of consumption (shifting to  $P/R < 1$ ). Grazing invertebrates diminish in importance leaving collectors (especially of fine particulate organic matter) to dominate.

The River Continuum Concept does have some limitations. It doesn't necessarily account for human disturbances and uses influencing river systems, such as alteration of flow and damming. It also does not explicitly account for the input of biologic energy from terrestrial sources when flood waters expand across floodplains (but others subsequently have: e.g., Junk et al. 1989). The general concept still applies and is tremendously useful in modeling stream communities and expectations for human uses of rivers, riverine fisheries, and other aquatic systems.

## The parting shot: incentive for proactivity

It is hopefully evident that everything that happens upstream fuels what happens downstream. Poor management practices along stream corridors have the potential to increase bank erosion, increase sediment deposition, embed substrates and degrade habitat—to degrade stream quality in general—that ultimately have observable negative effects on stream communities and fisheries, sometimes to the point of invoking regulatory action. To help manage your own property, you can find an excellent fact sheet on managing streamside forests under the “Forest Management” heading on this page of the Ohio Woodland Stewards program: <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/publications/forestry> (Ervin et al. 2008). And please feel free to drop me a line if you'd care to discuss any aquatic habitat you have on site. It's like my job. ...Even in the cold of winter. ♦



*Eugene Braig is Program Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, School of Environment and Natural Resources in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Eugene provides aquatic ecosystems extension, teaches fisheries management, and conducts fisheries research, as well as serves as the OSU advisor of TerrAqua, an affiliated student organization of the Water Management Association of Ohio, and the Bass Fishing Club. He can be contacted at (614) 292-3823 or [braig.1@osu.edu](mailto:braig.1@osu.edu).*

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August 6, 2017

The Olentangy River in summer. Healthy streams benefit forests, and healthy forests enhance stream communities.



## Olentangy in winter

Central Ohio's Olentangy River in winter. The Olentangy is a state-designated Scenic River.



## Properties of water

The physical properties of water allow aquatic life to persist in liquid water underneath the ice.



## Mid-size

Mid-size streams allow algae to grow on substrates and for primary productivity to exceed consumption by stream communities.

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Ohio's Tree Farmers of the Year

*Photos courtesy of ODNR*



# LEAFING OUT – WINTERBERRY



Winterberry spring flower.  
University of Connecticut Plant Database

## *Ilex verticillata* (L.) A. Gray

In the summer, winterberry is a nondescript shrub. It is often easy to miss among the other lush vegetation that occurs in and around the wet soils that it prefers. When I occasionally bump into it on moist slopes just outside of its normal swampy habitat, its identity often eludes me. Let's see: a multi-stemmed shrub with small leaves that are simple and have finely toothed edges (serrated margin). And there's more: slender grey twigs with small leaf scars and buds (Seiler et al. 2017). Wow, that really helps to narrow it down.

By contrast, in winter after leaf fall, the female winterberry shrub screams its identity. Winterberry is deciduous and produces clusters of brilliant, red **berries** on leafless twigs in the dead of **winter**.



Winterberry foliage and immature fruit in summer.  
University of Connecticut Plant Database,  
<http://hort.uconn.edu/plants>, Mark H. Brand,  
Department of Plant Science and Landscape  
Architecture, Storrs, CT 06269-4067 USA



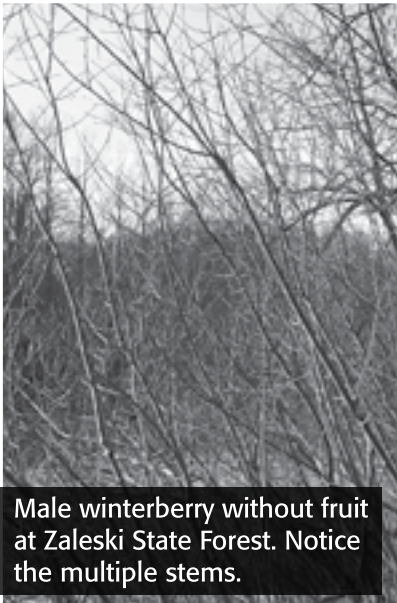
Winterberry winter twigs with fruit near a  
wetland at Zaleski State Forest.  
Zaleski photos from author's collection



Winterberry on the edge of a beaver  
pond at Zaleski State Forest.



# Berry + winter = winterberry



Male winterberry without fruit at Zaleski State Forest. Notice the multiple stems.

Like its cousin, American holly (*Ilex opaca* Aiton), winterberry is dioecious, which means that its male and female flowers are born on separate plants. Consequently, in natural areas there are usually male winterberry shrubs that never produce fruit interspersed with the female fruit-producing shrubs. Winterberry is easy to distinguish from its evergreen cousin, American holly, which keeps its glossy, thick,

sharp-pointed leaves year-round.

Winterberry is also known as deciduous holly, winterberry holly, or common winterberry. It occurs in many of the eastern states and can be found in most Ohio counties (Braun 1989). It is considered to be a Facultative Wetland (FACW) species, meaning that it is a good indicator of wetland habitats (USDA 2017). Winterberry provides food for a variety of wildlife. According to Gill and Healy (1974), its twigs are browsed by deer and rabbits, and the fruit is consumed by raccoons, mice, squirrels, and more than 48 species of birds.

This beautiful shrub has much potential as a landscape plant, but it is greatly underutilized. It grows from 3 to about 15 feet in height, and there are numerous recognized cultivars (Niemiera 2009). It does particularly well in acidic, poorly drained soils. Winterberry survives in partial to full sunlight,

but berry production is greatest in sunny locations (Brand 2017). According to Nitzsche et al. 2003, white-tailed deer seldom severely damage it. Prolific berry production adds color and attracts birds to the winter landscape. Since it requires male plants for fruit production, mass planting are usually recommended. Winterberry is also prized for its use for Christmas wreaths and other holiday decorations. ♦

## Common Winterberry

*Ilex verticillata* (L.) A. Gray

Harold Bower, ODNR Service Forester, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Other common names are Deciduous Holly, Swamp Holly, Michigan Holly, Canada Holly, Coonberry, Virginia Winterberry, and Winterberry.

Common winterberry occurs throughout the eastern states, from Canada to Florida.

Winterberry is most commonly found on wet soils, but grows on upland soils that are moderately cool and moist. On finer soils, height growth is reduced. Like other hollies, winterberry grows best on soils that are high in organic matter and slightly acid. A pH of 5.5 is about average under natural conditions.

Growth rate, form, and fruit production are best in plants growing in the open or in light shade. Winterberry can be used for landscape planting in moist, shady locations.

In the more southern localities, it will grow at higher elevations, but at the more northern latitudes, it typically grows at lower elevations. In Canada and northern New England, winterberry usually occurs in swamps and bogs, along shores of ponds, and thickets. In Ohio, it is frequently found in wet woodlands that mark the terminal moraines of the last glacier.

Typical site indicator tree species are black ash, red maple, silver maple, burr oak, swamp white oak, blackgum, beechwood, and American elm. Shrubs commonly associated with winterberry are hatteriaun, spicebush, gray alder, hobblebush, viburnum, alder, brambles, red-osier dogwood, American hazelnut, red barberry, and highbush cranberry viburnum.

Like other hollies, winterberry bears either male or female flowers on individual plants. The flowering period varies from April to July and is later in the cooler locations. Flowers are green to yellow-white and inconspicuous, but attractive to bees. Male flowers are borne in clusters, each cluster attached to the twig by a common stalk. The female flowers occur singly. Flowers are borne on the basal part of the current year's twig growth. Because of relatively late blooming, frost damage of flowers is infrequent.

The fruits are berry-like, about one-quarter inch in diameter, and bright red when ripe in September. Summer drought can cause the fruits to abscise. The ripe fruits show well after leaf fall, and often persist on the plant after January. Dissemination of the fruit is by birds and mammals, such as squirrels and raccoons.

Vigorous plants that have attained good size may bear several thousand fruits. Age of plants at first fruiting may be three years where plants are growing in full sunlight, and five years or less favorable sites. Average height at maturity is about nine feet, but plants may range from three to twenty feet.

Winterberry reproduces by means of seed, suckers, and by layering. Seedling is the most common method of spread, due to the attractiveness of the fruits to birds and mammals. These animals eat the fruits and pass the seeds in their droppings.

Winterberry does not compete well with other faster-growing associates. However, once established, its ability to send up numerous suckers enables winterberry to maintain itself. Survival is also favored by the fact that winterberry stems are not preferred foods of deer, rabbits, or hares.

Winterberry provides food — fruit, browse, or both — for many species of wildlife. The principal browsers in Ohio are deer and rabbits. The fruit is eaten by various small mammals and more than fifty species of birds. Reported consumers include raccoon, white-footed mouse, red squirrel, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-shinned hawk, bobwhite, black and wood duck, robin, pile woodpecker, brown thrasher, warbling vireo, catbird, flicker, thrasher, bluebird, starling, and others.

Winterberry seldom forms extensive thickets, but it contributes to the biodiversity of the stand and makes it better for the birds and



*Ilex verticillata*

animals that use it. And its bright red color in the winter season makes it quite valuable.

Planting stock and seed can be purchased or collected. Winterberry can be propagated from cuttings also.

Seed can be gathered about mid-October in Ohio. It should be cleaned and sown as is. Alternatively, it can be stratified and sown in the spring. Fall-planted seed usually does not germinate until the second spring or later. But stratification produces satisfactory germination the first spring after ripening. Seeds should be stratified in moist sand at 50 degrees F. (day) and 80 degrees F. (day) for 60 days, then at 41 degrees F. for 60 days, followed by 60 days in sand lots.

If seedlings or rooted cuttings are purchased, one should buy several plants to be sure of having both male and female plants. Suckers can also be dug each year and used to make cuttings. Clusters of winterberry plants can be dug and divided with an axe for replanting. Mound layering also works well. Cover the base of each plant, where it is currently growing, with soil and then cut back the top severely. New shoots will be stimulated and the plant can be dug in the fall, divided and replanted.

Moving plants from the wild to new sites is also a satisfactory means of getting new plants. Older plants are preferable for layering. Late fall is the best time to move them because the female plants can be identified and the wet sites, where they grow, tend to be drier then.

Females must have a pollen source nearby if they are to bear fruit. Any holly pollen will do as long as it is present when the female flowers are blooming and the source is within forty feet. The plants respond very well to additions of decayed mulch and fertilizers. When planted in the vicinity of a residence, the female plants provide beautiful red color and the opportunity to see birds feeding on the berries.

Excerpted from *Shrubs and Vines for Northeastern Wildlife*, 1974, USDA Forest Service OTR NE-9, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania 19082.

8

The Ohio Woodland Journal

*Editor's note: Winterberry was the featured species in the first edition of the Ohio Woodland Journal in 1994. ODNR Service Forester Harold Bower penned these articles in his "Woodland Plants" column from that first edition until 2002. The column continued as "Leafing Out" with Scott Costello, and now Dave Apsley as the main contributor.*

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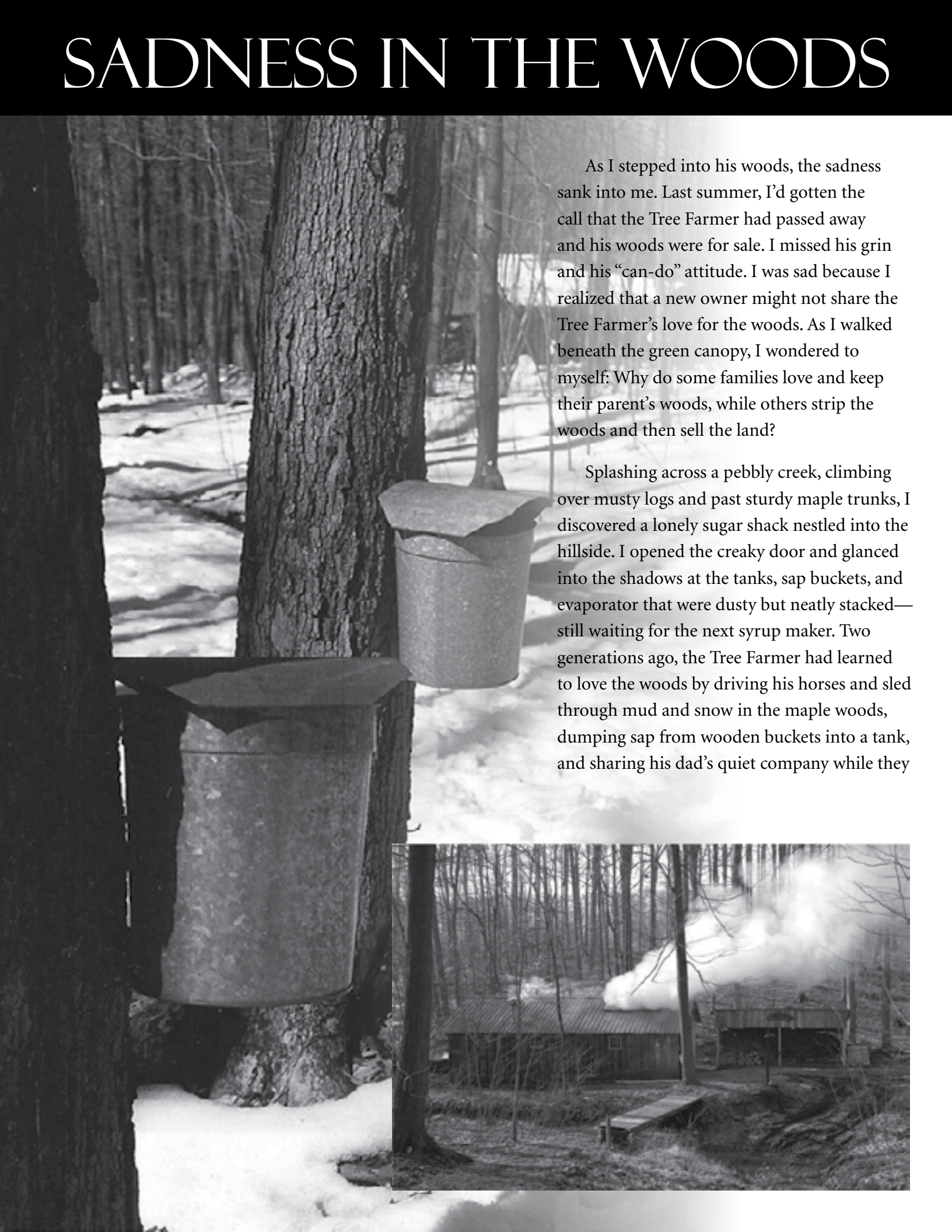
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# SADNESS IN THE WOODS



As I stepped into his woods, the sadness sank into me. Last summer, I'd gotten the call that the Tree Farmer had passed away and his woods were for sale. I missed his grin and his "can-do" attitude. I was sad because I realized that a new owner might not share the Tree Farmer's love for the woods. As I walked beneath the green canopy, I wondered to myself: Why do some families love and keep their parent's woods, while others strip the woods and then sell the land?

Splashing across a pebbly creek, climbing over musty logs and past sturdy maple trunks, I discovered a lonely sugar shack nestled into the hillside. I opened the creaky door and glanced into the shadows at the tanks, sap buckets, and evaporator that were dusty but neatly stacked—still waiting for the next syrup maker. Two generations ago, the Tree Farmer had learned to love the woods by driving his horses and sled through mud and snow in the maple woods, dumping sap from wooden buckets into a tank, and sharing his dad's quiet company while they



inhaled the aroma of bubbling sap in the steamy sugar shack. During World War II, his family had substituted the maple syrup for cane sugar, which was rationed. After the war, the Tree Farmer had continued to make syrup because he loved the horses, buckets, sugar shack, and the maple woods. Sadly, he had not passed that love on to the next generation.

I've heard conservation defined as the wise use of the forest. Maybe that definition should include the education of a next generation who will love and wisely utilize the woods.

Thinking back, I began to smile as I thought of the next generation. I thought of the thousands of enthusiastic kids I've met during thirty years of forestry field days, forestry contests, FFA events, Boy Scout meetings, and Envirothon competitions. I had been

educating that next generation. Best of all, I've been part of the education that happens when a parent and a kid walk through the woods together. A smile replaced the sadness and I thanked God for all the people who love the forest and teach kids to do the same. ♦

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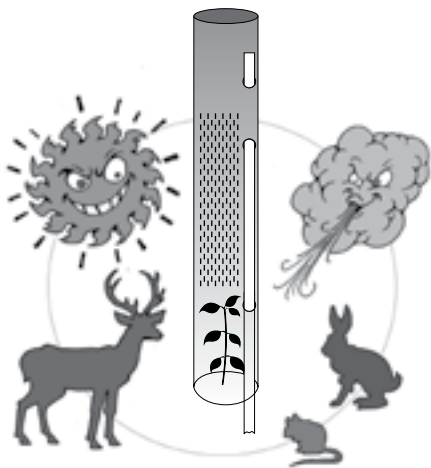
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# 2017 Washington D.C. Forest Foundation Fly – In

**Paul Mechling**, Snowy Oak Tree Farm



Paul, Joanne, Representative Bob Gibbs (7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District), and Jim.

Jim Savage and Joanne and Paul Mechling attended the 2017 American Forest Foundation Fly-In in Washington, D.C. on October 3-4, 2017. They had appointments with Ohio U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and seven Ohio U.S. Representatives - David Joyce, Tim Ryan, Bob Gibbs, Bob Latta, Pat Tiberi, Bill Johnson, and Joyce Beatty. Discussions were held with each member in regards to conservation programs in the 2018 Farm Bill as well as the Wildfire Disaster Funding Bill. Ohio's congressional representatives seemed receptive to supporting both of these important initiatives.

Approximately 80 tree farmers from across the U.S. took part in the fly-in to support family owned forests. The Farm Bill affects 9,000 acres of private forests daily, and annually provides 1.8 billion dollars for family forests, and expires in the fall of 2018. ♦



Paul, Representative David Joyce (14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District), Joanne, and Jim.



# WOODLAND OWNER GROUPS ACTIVE IN STATE

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*Did you know:* Ohio has special groups, or clubs if you will, of woodland owners who gather to fellowship, share their experiences, and enjoy a time of learning about the woodlands they love and enjoy every day. These regional groups span the entire state and meet monthly or quarterly, often at a member's property or to visit a special site for a tour and a talk. The groups report their activities at the quarterly Ohio Tree Farm Committee meetings, but now you can read about many of their recent or upcoming events in what we hope will become a regular feature in *The Ohio Woodland Journal*. And, maybe you will stop by to visit the group in your area!

## **Southern Ohio Forestland Association**

SOFA members have been busy this year learning, doing, and sharing adventures in the following areas: having their properties surveyed and property lines marked; planning and executing timber sales; taking advantage of the valuable offerings from "A Day in the Woods" programs at Vinton Furnace State Forest and other locations; working with the USDA to eradicate feral hogs; community organizing to gain access to county water services; pursuing the acquisition of tools, instruction, and marketing opportunities for unique wood crafts; registering alarm at the number of dead deer found on their properties; tapping maple trees earlier than usual for the sap season; recognizing and addressing an attempted internet hack of our organization's coffers; identifying signal trees on members' properties; and honing nature photography skills.

Members look forward to regular meeting updates - instituted by our Chair, Dana Harsh - from our membership's beekeepers, maple syrup producers, woodworkers, hunters (of game animals, sheds, and mushrooms), those involved in government programs, invasive species eradicators, birdwatchers, and others involved in experiences of interest to a membership committed to forestry and conservation issues.

We wish all our kindred spirits in the woods a healthy and safe 2018 filled with adventures of the outdoor variety!

Check us out at [OhioSOFA.org](http://OhioSOFA.org).

Cameo Trail Cam Capture by  
SOFA member Wayne Oney



## **Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group**

SEOWIG continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. We finished off the year with an Oak Management field tour in October and our annual meeting and dinner in December. We are already planning for 2018 programs, and will kick things off on February 19 at the ODNR offices in Athens starting at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings.

Those interested in our programs can follow us on Facebook at Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group, or visit our website: [seowig.weebly.com](http://seowig.weebly.com).

Ed Brown, County Extension Director, OSU Extension, Athens County



ODNR Service Foresters Perry Brannan and Cameron Bushong demonstrate planting methods for tree seedlings at a SEOWIG workshop in 2017.

## **East Central Ohio Forestry Association**

The East Central Ohio Forestry Association will be celebrating its thirty-fourth anniversary on June 12, 2018. What began in 1984 with 11 members has grown to 157 members today, with meetings attended by 40 to 50 or more each month. Meetings feature speakers on subjects ranging from bald eagles, timber management, and Lyme disease to wild flower identification, soil and water conservation, and pipe-organ manufacture.

Meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Dover Public Library, which attracts a number of people to the programs. Occasional field trips are organized to tour things such as sawmill operations, timber sale harvests, forest management successes and failures, and other forest and wood-related topics. Several professional foresters and wildlife managers attend to promote forest-related state and county programs and answer questions from tree farm owners.

John Quimby, Vice President  
(740) 269-3038





## **Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**

Hello again from Northeast Ohio. As we start the New Year, it's a good time to look back and reflect a bit on our past. It was in 1972 when the seed was planted and the Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association became the very first woodland interest group in Ohio. Over the past 45 years, that seed has matured into a strong organization of members dedicated to the principles of conservation and the practice of good forest management.


From the beginning, our members have worked towards a common goal of educating themselves and other woodland owners. This education comes in the form of monthly meetings with a variety of forest related topics. Our summer twilight tours are a huge hit with our members. These tours are held at a member's woodlot and highlight the work the landowner has accomplished. These are also great times for members to spend some social time together strengthening our bond. Another great educational opportunity is our yearly display booth at the Canfield Fair where member volunteers are on hand to answer questions. One of our most successful endeavors is our chainsaw training program. These sessions provide training that help landowners build the skills needed to efficiently and safely manage their woodlots.

At our annual banquet, we recognize and award members who have demonstrated outstanding woodlot management along with outstanding service to the organization. The NEOFA itself and founding members Harold and Dorothy Smith have been recognized outside of our group with a spot in ODNR's Forest of Honor. Harold and Dorothy have also been honored twice as Ohio Tree Farm of the Year, and John and Susan Stephens and Dave and Lisa Coldwell (aka The Coldwell Family Tree Farm) are also recipients. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

Looking to the future, we recognize the importance of getting young people interested in forestry, and we back that up by sponsoring students wishing to attend the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp (now Camp Canopy). Each year at our annual banquet and auction, money for this sponsorship is raised by our generous members bidding on items donated by members and local merchants. In 2017, we made an additional donation to the camp to help set up the new website in support of their rebranding efforts.

With such a rich history and tradition behind us, we look forward to many more years of great forestry in Northeast Ohio. If you are in the neighborhood on the third Thursday of the month, stop in to one of our monthly meetings. From all of us at the NEOFA, we wish all of you a Happy New Year.

Contact Mike Lanave for more information at (330) 831-8201, or [neofa1972@gmail.com](mailto:neofa1972@gmail.com).



*Continued on page 30*



# ENJOY



# JOIN

## **Northwest Ohio Woodland Association**

Come join us in a unique conservation woods. Frank Pauff will be hosting our spring meeting at his Maple Moraine Farm where he will be discussing the evolution of his woods and some special plantings. The NWOWA meets four times a year, and the spring gathering is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 5343 Sandusky Road, Lima, Ohio.

Our winter covered dish dinner meeting was our Annual Meeting, and officers and executive committee members were elected. John Mueller, ODNR District Forest Manager, presented a program on Ohio Forest Management: Past, Present, and Future.

The 2018 officers will be presiding at meetings with the usual secretary, treasurer, and other committee reports along with updates from the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the state service foresters. The programs for the balance of the year will include: The Birds and the Bees – July 14 in Arlington; and the R. A. Stranahan Arboretum – October 20 in Toledo.

For more details on the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association and future meetings, contact Keshia Krout at (419) 423-3422, or Tom Mills at (419) 423-3422.



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# REGIONAL WOODLAND ASSOCIATIONS IN OHIO

## **OPPORTUNITIES:**

Interesting Forestry Programs • Knowledgeable Speakers  
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### **Central Ohio Small Woodlot Interest Group**

Jason Van Houten  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
2045 Morse Rd., Building H-1  
Columbus, OH 43229  
(614) 265-6703  
jason.vanhouten@dnr.state.oh.us

### **East Central Ohio Forestry Association**

Jeremy Scherf  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
2050 East Wheeling Ave.  
Cambridge, Ohio 43725-2159  
(740) 439-9079  
jeremy.scherf@dnr.state.oh.us

### **Killbuck Valley Woodland Interest Group**

Bob Romig  
3511 Clearview Pl.  
Wooster, Ohio 44691  
(330) 345-5077

### **Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group**

Dave Bonifant  
3594 Evans Rd.  
Nashport, Ohio 43830  
(740) 814-2474  
nita.david@windstream.net  
www.mrwig.org

### **Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**

James Elze  
2145 Merle Road  
Salem, Ohio 44460  
(330) 337-8974  
neofa1972@gmail.com

### **Northwest Ohio Woodland Association**

John Mueller  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
952 B Lima Ave.  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
(419) 424-5004  
john.mueller@dnr.state.oh.us  
Joe Puperi  
Advanced Tree Health  
joe@advancedtreehealth.com

### **Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group**

Perry Brannan  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
360 E. State St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
(740) 589-9915  
perry.brannan@dnr.state.oh.us  
seowig.weebly.com

### **Southern Ohio Forestland Association**

P.J. Gordy  
3813 Potts Hill Road  
Bainbridge, Ohio 45612  
(740) 634-2470  
OhioSOFA.org

### **Southwest Ohio Woodland Owners Association**

Pat Migliozi  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
8570 East State Route 73  
Waynesville, Ohio 45068  
(513) 897-1082  
pat.migliozi@dnr.state.oh.us



# Connecting Kids to Nature

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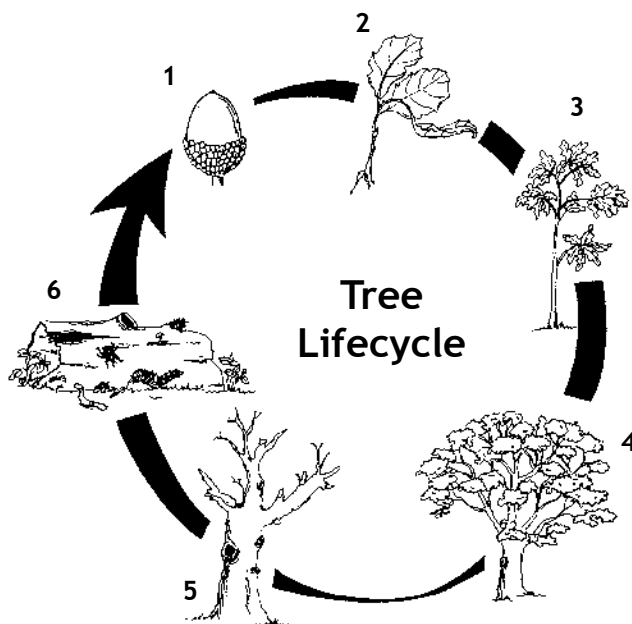
## Tree Lifecycle

In this activity, students will discover that trees have a lifecycle that is similar to that of other living things.

Trees have a lifecycle that includes birth, growth, injury and disease, aging, and death. The next time you are in the presence of trees, ask children to identify the various stages of a tree's life.

- Are trees alive? How do you know?
- How are trees born? Do they die?
- How does a tree's life compare to the life of a person?
- Can you find a young tree? An adult tree? An elderly tree? A dead tree?

Have children match up the tree lifecycle images below with their correct name using the numbers provided.



- \_\_\_ Mature Tree
- \_\_\_ Seed
- \_\_\_ Snag (Dead Tree)
- \_\_\_ Sprout
- \_\_\_ Rotting Log
- \_\_\_ Sapling

### Plant Personification

Have children act out the lifecycle of a tree. They can curl up as a seed, kneel to sprout, stick up arms as branches, wiggle fingers for leaves, stand up to grow tall, spread feet to show roots, and fall over to die.

### Make Learning Fun!

For more activity ideas and materials, attend a PLT workshop:

- Visit [www.plt.org/ohio](http://www.plt.org/ohio)
- Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator, Sue Wintering at [Sue.Wintering@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Sue.Wintering@dnr.state.oh.us), 614-265-6657



In Ohio, PLT is sponsored by the  
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— Division of Forestry and  
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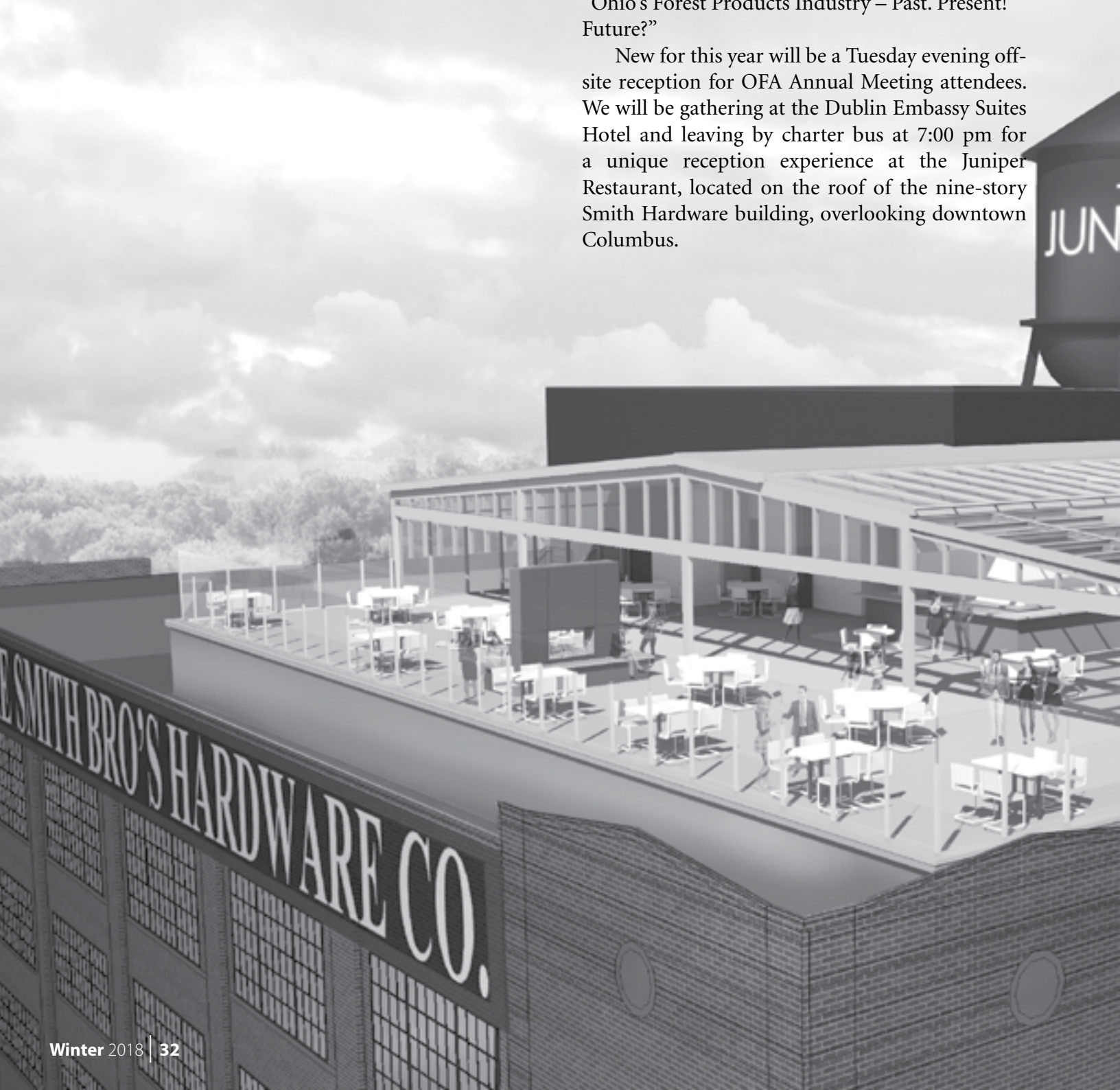


# OHIO FORESTRY

## OFA 2018 Annual Meeting

Make plans to attend the **2018 Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting** being held **February 27 to March 1, 2018, at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio.** The theme for this year's meeting is "Ohio's Forest Products Industry – Past. Present! Future?"

New for this year will be a Tuesday evening off-site reception for OFA Annual Meeting attendees. We will be gathering at the Dublin Embassy Suites Hotel and leaving by charter bus at 7:00 pm for a unique reception experience at the Juniper Restaurant, located on the roof of the nine-story Smith Hardware building, overlooking downtown Columbus.





# ASSOCIATION, INC.

## for OFA Members and Tree Farmers

**Brad Perkins**  
Executive Director

**This reception will be limited to the first 75 people to sign up, so get your RSVP's in early!**

**Activities for Wednesday, February 28 include:**

- Logging Standards Council Meeting
- OFA Annual Meeting Kick-Off Party/Reception (See details above)
- Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen's meeting
- Robert Boyles, Ohio's State Forester and Deputy Director of ODNR, will give us his annual update on the status of activities on the state's forests and within the Division of Forestry and plans for the upcoming year.
- Matt Bumgardner, USDA Forest Service, will present his insights on the current and future direction of wood markets for the industry.
- Tree Farm and Industry Awards at the annual Tree Farm Luncheon
- Panel Discussion with industry experts

including: David Caldwell from Hardwood Market Report; Merle Stutzman of Weaver Custom Homes; Ernie Hershberger from Homestead Furniture; Dwain Schlabach of Mt. Eaton Pallet; Neil Poland of Mullican Flooring; David Forst of Woodcraft Industries; as well as other speakers.

- The industry portion of the meeting concludes with the President's Reception.

**Ongoing activities during the Annual Meeting include:**

- Industry Exhibits
- Tree Farm Silent Auction
- Networking Opportunities

**Activities for Thursday, March 1 include:**

- Forestry Advisory Council Meeting
- OFA Executive Committee Meeting
- OFA Board of Trustees Meeting
- OFA Board Luncheon



*See [www.OhioForest.org](http://www.OhioForest.org) for a complete schedule and registration information, or call OFA at **888-388-7337**.*



# OWJ SPONSORS NEEDED



## Be A Proud Sponsor of OWJ!

The editorial board of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* is looking for businesses or individuals who are willing to sponsor annual subscriptions of the *Journal* for all of their county public and private high school libraries. Partial sponsorships are certainly welcomed from those who reside in urban counties with numerous school districts.

Individual subscription rates are \$15.00 per year for four issues. Each high school principal will receive a letter prior to their first issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* announcing that you or your business is generously supporting the county's schools by supplying four free issues to their library. You will also be listed in the *Journal* as a sponsor.

If you would like to assist in placing the *Journal* in your county schools or need additional information, please contact: Gayla Fleming, OFA, 1100-H Brandywine Blvd., Zanesville, Ohio 43701 • 888-388-7337 • Gayla@OhioForest.org

## Thanks to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who sponsor the OWJ for these counties:

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## The OHIO WOODLAND Journal AD RATES

The *Ohio Woodland Journal* is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System.  
 It is published and mailed each year in February, May, August, and November.

Standard Black and White Ad Rates		
Size (approximate)	Single Insertion	Four Insertions
1/8 pg. (2 1/2"H x 3 3/4"W)	\$60	\$220
1/4 pg. (5"H x 3 3/4"W)	\$90	\$300
1/2 pg. (5"H x 7 3/4"W)	\$155	\$500
1 pg. (10"H x 7 3/4"W)	\$300	\$990

Premium Color Ad Rates		
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1/4 pg. (5"H x 3 3/4"W)	\$200	\$700
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1 pg. (10"H x 7 3/4"W)	\$500	\$1,750

To submit an ad, send a high resolution PDF.

### Contact Information for reserving your place in the magazine:

**Tom Mills**  
 Advertising Manager  
*The Ohio Woodland Journal*  
 Ohio Tree Farm Committee  
 Phone: 419-423-3422  
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