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**On the Cover:**
You never know where Smokey Bear will show up! He was seen in late September at the Columbus Zoo Pumpkin Carving Championship. The raw material is a 300 pound Atlantic Giant Pumpkin grown and carved by Gus Smithhisler, who carves professionally as “Squashcarver.” Gus is an avid fan of Smokey, and annually volunteers to help The Famous Bear at the Ohio State Fair (p. 20). See more carvings at www.squashcarver.com. Photo courtesy of Gus Smithhisler
As we approach the 2014 autumnal equinox, the weather continues to be wet and cool. This is the second consecutive year of excessive rainfall. The young white pines, larch, and oaks at Snowy Oak Tree Farm appear to have grown well this summer. A cool, wet spring definitely impacted the ground nesting wild turkey and ruffed grouse. This is the first year I have not seen a grouse all summer and the turkey poult count is low with a number of barren hens. Many of the turkey poult are only quail to grouse size in September, indicating a very late hatch after unsuccessful nesting. There have been numerous reports of black bear in the township this summer with one sighting coming from our tree farm.

Ohio tree farmers were well represented at the National Tree Farm Convention July 17-19 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with at least 33 members attending. Ohio had the most tree farm members registered from any state, and the Ohio Tree Farm Committee (OTFC) donated the most items to the national silent auction. We heard informative seminars on invasive species management, American chestnut re-introduction, and Ailanthus tree control via a natural pathogenic fungus. The field day at Burnham Family Farm was also very educational. The use of drones was demonstrated to show how to detect problems in your woodlands.

On a sad note, this was the last national convention. Ohio tree farmers have always looked forward to visiting with fellow tree farmers from across the United States. My wife and I hosted the Lever's from Montana and the Fasano's from Rhode Island after farmers from across the United States. My wife and I hosted the

D.C. Fly-In next April to educate Ohio's representatives and senators in regards to invasive plant species and pests, conservation programs in the Farm Bill, estate and income tax relief, and the importance of Ohio's forests to the economy.

Our OTFC vice chairman and certification chairman Joe Puppi is busy preparing for the 2015 random audit of tree farmers across Ohio for recertification. The assessment of the Ohio Tree Farm Program will be conducted in the spring of 2015. Joe is applying for AFF grant money to clean up the Ohio Tree Farm database. Deactivations, wrong addresses, deaths of tree farmers, sales of tree farms, and purchases of new tree farms are all factors in updating the database. If you have information about changes to your tree farm's status, please contact your inspecting forester. This is a good time to make sure your tree farm data is current.

Joe is also working on the State Voice/State Choice. This allows each state to choose if they want to be certified, be recognized only, or be independently managed. We have until December 2015 to decide what pathway to follow. A straw vote of the OTFC shows that Ohio would continue on the certification pathway. Walt Lange is working on a long term strategic plan for the Ohio Tree Farm Program. He also is applying for AFF grant money to aid in this project. Dean Berry continues as chairman of Tree Farm Inspection Training Committee and is also heavily involved in the 2015 assessment. Tom Mills is representing the OTFC on the ODNR Division of Forestry's Forest Stewardship Committee as well as coordinating the regional woodland interest groups. Jim Pry has revised, updated, and approved our fiscal and sponsorship agreements with OFA while managing our finances. As you can see, we have a busy committee and we are fortunate to have organized, educated, and hardworking individuals in leadership positions.

Hopefully you attended the Ohio Tree Farm of the Year tour at the Coldwell Family Tree Farm, the Farm Science Review, or the Paul Bunyan Show. Now is the time to do those woodland projects: order trees for spring planting, crop tree release, grapevine and invasive species control, and consider a timber harvest. In your spare time you need to harvest some of those oak seedling-eating deer.

Finally, one more thought from the pen of Aldo Leopold as he describes November, "the month of the axe" in the Sand County Almanac. "I have used many definitions of what is a conservationist and written not a few myself, but I suspect the best one is written not with a pen, but with an axe. It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping, or while deciding what to chop. A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of his land. Signatures of course differ, whether written with axe or pen, and this is as it should be." ♦

Have ideas on growing Ohio's Tree Farms?
Helping the wood industry?
Expanding wildlife horizons?

The Ohio Tree Farm Committee is looking for you!

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The August quarterly Ohio Tree Farm Committee meeting was hosted by the Mechlings in Ashtabula County.

A large delegation of enthusiastic Ohio tree farmers attended the 2014 National Tree Farm Convention held in Pittsburgh.

The 2014 National Tree Farmers of the Year are Judy and Dwight Batts from North Carolina.

The next meeting of the OTFC is November 6, 2014 at the Ohio Forestry Association (OFA) office in Gahanna. Several members of the committee will be retiring at the end of 2014. We are always looking for new blood and new ideas on our committee. If anyone is interested in serving on the OTFC, please contact Joe Puppi at (419) 424-5004.

Paul Mechling, DVM
Ohio Tree Farm Committee, Chair
On October 9, I had the pleasure of participating in a ceremonial tree planting in honor of 2014 Forest of Honor inductees Jack Vimmerstedt and Ron Cornell. This issue’s column is dedicated to them both, with admiration and appreciation for their tireless efforts in furthering good forestry in Ohio.

Jack grew up in western New York exploring the woods on his grandfather’s farm and watching an abandoned field change to forest. Jack earned his undergraduate degree at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. Then, during the years of the Korean War, the US Army sent him to Ft. Benning, Georgia where he worked for the post forester and assisted with firefighting. After the military, Jack’s path through his forestry career took him to the USDA Forest Service Bent Creek field office in North Carolina, then to earning masters and doctorate degrees at Yale, and finally to The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station (now the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center – OARDC) where he conducted and published research, taught undergraduate classes, and initiated field labs at a time when classroom instruction was the norm. He instilled in his students knowledge, appreciation, and problem solving skills related to forestry, in particular forest soils. He was instrumental in developing and implementing a successful educational program related to proper forestry practices and forest soils at The Ohio State University.

Ron graduated from The University of the South (Sewanee) in Tennessee with a degree in forest management. After graduation, he worked for the Tennessee River Pulp and Paper Company as a timber buyer and eventually became Executive Director of the Ohio Forestry Association (OFA), a position he held from 1987 until his retirement in 1998. Ron was a friend of the forest by helping all who were OFA members and the industry in particular, especially in the areas of logger safety, logging instruction, chainsaw training, and insurance for loggers. Ron helped to start the original five regional logger chapters (there are nine chapters today) and also was an organizer of the Timber Industry Council (now Ohio Wood Industry Network-OWIN). Ron continued to build and promote OFAs Paul Bunyan Show to help the industry check out new products, present a positive view for the public to better understand the forest industry, and give students an introduction to forest related jobs.

Ron was concerned about youth and the future of forestry. He helped initiate Project Learning Tree (PLT) in Ohio, and helped to establish a scholarship program to send high school students to the annual OFA Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp. He also helped to establish the OFA Memorial Scholarship to award grants to Ohio residents for college or technical schools.

Many thanks to these two gentlemen for the legacy they created for all of Ohio.

Autumn greetings to you all!

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Many thanks to these two gentlemen for the legacy they created for all of Ohio. ♦
To honor John Rockenbaugh’s passion for natural resources education, the Farm Science Review staff and the Gwynne Conservation Area Committee hosted a dedication ceremony on September 17. The setting was at the Gwynne wetland during Ohio State University’s (OSU) Farm Science Review. A gathering of John’s family, friends, and fellow natural resource professionals enjoyed seeing the viewing platform dedicated to John at the wetland he helped establish and use for guiding others to explore and learn about nature. John worked as an ODNR Division of Wildlife/SWCD Wildlife Specialist out of the Union County SWCD office, served on the Gwynne Conservation Area Committee, and was on the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and editorial board of The Ohio Woodland Journal.

“It is my observation that educating others is the greatest contribution Man can make on his sojourn of Planet Earth. The nourishment of enlightenment is complete and everlasting!”

From a letter John wrote to forester Jim Bartlett.
As a child, I grew up in an area that today would be considered the rural-urban interface—a neighborhood with just as many woodlots as homes. The parcels were small, 1-2 acres in size, but most included a small piece of woods. Each parcel on my family's side of the road contained part of a woodland buffer along a creek. As a kid, this was my entertainment for years: climbing trees, catching turtles and frogs, and witnessing woodland animals such as the long-tailed weasel. I could ride my bike to several larger undeveloped woodlands down the street and explore them, too. My parents still live there today. Most of the large woodlots have been developed, but many of the small woodlots remain, saved by the creek. When I visit, I still enjoy walking out back and hearing song birds, frogs, and the occasional owl, or watching sunlight dance on rustling tree leaves and the creek below.

Ohio currently has approximately 194,000 families who own a small woodlot of 1-10 acres (Figure 1y), and that number is growing as our large forest tracts continue to be split. While we would like to see this trend slow down, there does not seem to be an easy answer or consensus on how to do this. A different approach to this issue is to ask how we can work with small parcel owners to maintain woodland benefits in fragmented environments. It seems like many of these woodlots go unmanaged and uncared for. But do these small parcels really matter?

Well, in Ohio private landowners own 86 percent of the forestland. More than half of these owners are small woodlot owners and all together they own roughly 800,000 acres of forest. That is a big number! On the other hand, the majority of private forestland is still found in larger parcels, totaling a little under 5 million acres. But the number of small parcels continues to grow. From 1991-2006, Ohio's average parcel size decreased from 19 acres to 17.3 acres. In 2006, urban land covered approximately 7 percent of the state and is projected to cover 22.9 percent by the year 2050.

So what should small parcel owners do with their woods? As with large parcels, there is no one-size-fits-all answer, and it depends on the landowner's objectives. If a woodlot owner wants to improve wildlife habitat, they can work to create a varied environment of irregular borders, cover types, vegetation types, and vegetation age. This can be done by planting excess lawn to native trees and shrubs, thinning out a patch of unwanted trees to create early successional woodlands, protecting large unique trees, building brush piles, or removing monocultures of non-native invasive plants.

While most humans accept property lines, things in nature and the environment do not, including wildlife, tree pests and diseases, invasive species, water, and air. Try talking with your neighbors about common objectives, and then work together and combine resources to achieve greater results. For wildlife, consider what habitat is common in your area, what is lacking, and then fill in the void if possible.
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To assist small woodlot owners, the ODNR Division of Forestry added a new online small woodlot resource: forestry.ohiodnr.gov/smallwoodlots. This resource includes information on planting trees, enhancing woodland wildlife habitat, controlling non-native woodland insect pests and diseases, maintaining native woodland plant communities, protecting water quality, thinning woodlots, growing specialty forest products, and providing woodland retreats. ODNR led the collaborative development of two area-wide plans to help sustain woodland benefits in the Hocking Hills and northwest Portage County. In each area, woodland demonstration sites were developed that exhibit management activities that small woodlot owners can complete on their own property.

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- Killbuck Valley Woodland Interest Group: Bob Romig, 3511 Clearview Pl., Wooster, OH 44691, (330) 345-5077
- Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group: Dave Bonifant, 3594 Evans Rd., Nashport, OH 43830, (740) 814-2474

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

**Killbuck Valley Woodland Interest Group**
Bob Romig, 3511 Clearview Pl., Wooster, OH 44691, (330) 345-5077

**Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group**
Dave Bonifant, 3594 Evans Rd., Nashport, OH 43830, (740) 439-9079, mdaavid@windstream.net, www.mrnwg.org

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**Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**
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**Northwest Ohio Woodland Association**
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**Southwest Ohio Woodland Owners Association**
Pat Migliozzi, ODNR Division of Forestry, 777 Columbus Avenue 5-A, Lebanon, OH 45036, (513) 932-6836, pmigliozzi@dnr.state.oh.us

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**Southern Ohio Forestland Association**
P.J. Gordy, 3813 Potts Hill Rd., Bainbridge, OH 45612, (740) 634-2470

**Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group**
Perry Brauman, ODNR Division of Forestry, 300 E. State St., Athens, OH 45701, (740) 589-9915, perry.brauman@dnr.state.oh.us

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For more information, contact Jason Van Houten at 614-265-6703 or email Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us.

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ODNR led the collaborative development of two area-wide plans to help sustain woodland benefits in the Hocking Hills and northwest Portage County. In each area, woodland demonstration sites were developed that exhibit management activities that small woodlot owners can complete on their own property.

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Ohio Forestry Association is dedicated to strengthening and expanding the wood products industry for the benefit of Ohio companies, employees, customers, landowners and the general public.

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References
Hopefuly your timber harvests are carefully thought out and planned, and the loggers who work with you show care and respect for the land. On a smaller scale, you may have harvested some firewood or logs for a small sawmill, using an ATV, farm tractor, or pickup truck. It is easy to assume, because you are only taking smaller logs, that you won’t risk damaging your woodlot. The potential to improve or damage your woods, however, is still there.

There are a number of tools that make woodlot management and extraction of sawlogs and firewood on a small scale safe and practical. Logging attachments for ATVs and small tractors allow you to move logs out of tight spots with barely a scratch to the soil. This article will discuss some of the techniques for using log arches and winches.

**Tractors and ATVs**

Safety is the main concern when extracting logs with small equipment. Conventional wisdom is that it takes big iron to move logs. Can your tractor or ATV do with finesse what a ten-ton skidder does with brute force?

The most important thing is to understand the limitations of your equipment. Most ATVs are not designed for serious pulling. They often lack rollover protection, and the frame, clutch, and transmission are not built to handle the stress of pulling loads. Risk of flipping a tractor or ATV over backwards is greatest when starting out pulling a load, but it can happen if a log digs into the ground or catches on a stump. The torque from the wheels tries to lift the front end, and can flip the tractor or ATV before the operator can hit the clutch. While pulling, I’ve noticed that the front end of my old 8N Ford tractor is light, and sometimes I have to steer with the brakes. This is my cue to keep a foot on the clutch and be ready for the front end to lift off the ground.

The rule of thumb for ATVs is not to pull more than the weight of the machine. Front weights and liquid-filled wheels do a lot to help stability, especially for ATVs. The weight in the wheels not only gives the vehicle more traction, but also lowers the center of gravity. Tire chains are also available for ATVs and UTVs, which provide even better traction, protect the tires, and can help prevent the machine from sliding sideways.

Four-wheel drive is necessary for ATVs and helpful on tractors. Side-by-side ATVs and UTV’s offer better stability than conventional four-wheelers, and some have impressive towing capacity. A few things to look for in an ATV or UTV are a liquid-cooled engine since you will be using a lot of power at low speeds where air cooling is inadequate, low gearing, shaft drive, and a receiver hitch. Most manufacturers rate the towing capacity of their ATVs and UTVs, reflecting the strength of the frame, transmission, and drive train. Reviews of different makes and models can be found on www.atvillustrated.com.

Skidding logs on slopes can be especially challenging—and potentially dangerous. Hitting a stump with an uphill side tire or a hole with the downhill side tire can flip the machine over, but
the biggest danger is that a log will twist and roll downhill, turning an ATV over. It is advisable to avoid side slopes, if possible, and important to take it slow if you do pull logs across a slope. While skidding logs down a hill may seem the easiest, once a log twists sideways and starts rolling downhill, it can jackknife and take the ATV with it. A log arch can push the ATV beyond its ability to hold it back and cause the operator to lose control.

The safest way to skid a log on a hill is to pull it straight up or at a slight angle. The log will follow straight behind the machine, and the worst that will happen is that you won't have the power or traction needed—not either of which pose a serious threat to the operator. As a rule of thumb, if an ATV, UTV, or tractor cannot pull a log straight up a hill, it should not be used to pull it sideways or down the hill, either. Use a winch instead.

Log-skidding arches

Log-skidding arches greatly extend the usefulness of a tractor or ATV for moving logs and reduce damage to the forest. These are frames that lift the log off the ground, similar in design to propane tank haulers. Since the weight of the log is supported by the arch, a lot of stress is taken off of the pulling machine. There is less torque required to pull the log, so the danger of rollover is much less, and pulling the log puts less stress on the machine.

My first experience with a log arch was moving a log that my old Ford could not budge by skidding it on the ground. I backed the arch up to the log, hopped it up, and started to pull. My first thought was “dang it, the grapple slipped off the log again.” But when I looked back, the log was still in the arch, following along with such a light load that it was barely noticeable.

Since arches lift the front end of the log off the ground, there is less chance of snagging on a root or stump, and the back of the log barely scratches the soil. Norwood Sawmills is one place to find this equipment. They have an extensive line of small-scale log skidding equipment designed for use by private landowners with small tractors and ATVs. They also offer a log arch which has a unique feature that lifts the log as it is pulled, and lowers it to the ground when backed up.

Winches

Getting logs to the tractor or ATV is often easier than getting the machine to the log. Winches allow me to get logs to trails with a minimum of disturbance to the woods.

I use two winches. One is a tractor-mounted PTO winch that I bought used. It has enough power to stall the tractor engine, and will pull a 30-inch diameter oak log, if I rig it right. It is especially useful in pulling logs up out of ravines where it would be too dangerous to drive a tractor and in stands where I don’t want to build additional trails.

I also have a Lewsin chain saw powered winch. The winch attaches in place of a bar in a few minutes, and has a 4,000 pound straight line pull that can be doubled with snatch blocks. In addition to skidding, it is handy for getting hung-up trees safely on the ground and pulling cars out of the ditch after snowstorms.

Winches drag the log along the ground. To reduce the impact and to help keep the log from gouging into the ground or hanging up on stumps, I use a skidding sled that I cut from a plastic barrel. When the ground is dry, it is hard to see where the log was skidded out.

With the right equipment, it is possible to pull firewood and sawlogs out of the woods with scarcely a scratch to the soil. But the equipment is only part of the equation. It takes careful planning of skid trails, and the selection of trees for harvest needs to fit into your overall management plan. Small harvesting equipment does not always mean small impact. You can still gouge out ruts and scrape logs against valuable crop trees. Even with a fair-sized farm tractor, you probably will not be able to do commercial harvests, but you will be able to harvest your own firewood and sawlogs with the potential to make some income. With the right equipment and careful operation, your woodlot will be the better for it.

Dave Boyt is a past contributor of The Ohio Woodland Journal. He is a writer for Norwood Industries and Sawmill and Woodlot Management magazine, and appears with the magazine at the Paul Bunyan Show near Cambridge, Ohio. Dave holds a degree in forest management from the University of Missouri. A previous version of this article appeared in the Spring 2013 edition of the Green Horizons newsletter published by University of Missouri Extension.

Peter Smallidge of Cornell University in New York has some excellent suggestions for using ATVs for small scale logging. Dave Boyt recommends visiting Peter’s web site at http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/forum/topics/small-scale-logging.
Coldwell Family Tree Farm: Ohio’s 2014 Tree Farm of the Year

Photos courtesy of ODNR
Most kids enjoy birthday parties with cards, presents, sweet treats, party favors, singing, and balloons. Smokey Bear was no exception this year, even as he admitted he is celebrating being “70 years young!”

To mark the occasion, Smokey’s birthday was observed daily during the 12-day Ohio State Fair, running July 23 through August 3, 2014.

The famous wildfire prevention bear was feted with the travelling Smokey Hot Air Balloon. Based in Smokey’s native state of New Mexico, this helium-filled wonder was raised for one day at the Ohio State Fair, along with an accompanying ground balloon. Hosted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry, the hot air balloon greeted state fair visitors and early morning commuters travelling I-71 in Columbus.

As for sweet treats, Ohio-based American Electric Power donated funds for the purchase of 400 cookies, baked by Resch’s Bakery of Columbus. The cookies were distributed to fairgoers one day, and they had the opportunity to sign posters with their birthday greetings.

Throughout the duration of the 12-day fair, visitors to the ODNR Park played a Plinko game to win Smokey Bear themed prizes, had their picture taken with the bear, and took home posters from Smokey’s educational series. Following their daily afternoon concerts in the Natural Resources Amphitheater, as a special treat, the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir surrounded the birthday bear with their special rendition of “Happy Birthday” mixed with the Smokey the Bear song made popular by artists like Johnny Jones, Eddy Arnold, and Gene Autry in the early 1950s.

Smokey Bear is not only an American icon, but he has quite the following in the Buckeye State. Besides local appearances in schools, parades, and county fairs in a more normal bear size, the 14 ½ foot state fair version proudly stands guard at the ODNR Park to greet his friends. Smokey has appeared as this towering fairgrounds figure for over 50 years.

Young and old alike are delighted when Smokey welcomes them by name. In fact, generations of families make Smokey a destination to introduce new family members to the talking bear. Looks of joy, astonishment, and sometimes fear appear when folks hear their names, but Smokey smoothly transitions to a conversation about their recent fair experiences, the many natural resources offerings to be enjoyed there, and always sending them on their way with his signature wildfire safety message.

Of course, not many state fair visitors are a threat to Smokey’s vigilance, but he reminds all that wildfire is an issue of concern here in Ohio during the spring and fall months, and carelessness with fire is always to be avoided. Youngsters taking Smokey’s Pledge promise “I will never, never-ever, never-ever-ever play with matches, lighters, or any kind of fire,” and often their parents are later seen punctuating the point with their children.

Smokey boasts of his friends in Ohio’s fire service who keep us safe by putting out wildfires, the volunteers and paid members of the state’s 1204 local fire departments. He talks about dry and windy spring fire seasons, times when people burning trash outdoors accidentally allow burning debris or embers to escape their control.
and ignite grasses and weeds not yet greened up for the summer, or fires that easily spread in dried grasses or newly fallen autumn leaves. He shares about the ODNR Division of Forestry staff that assist with wildfire suppression and fire department training in Ohio as well as travel throughout the country to provide labor and expertise for the national fire effort, and they did again this summer in California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Smokey’s legend grew from humble beginnings as a cub found after a New Mexico wildfire destroyed his home. Smokey became an instant icon when he was made the living symbol of the wildfire prevention campaign rooted in World War II. Over the years, his popularity has grown with generations of admirers via weekly “Smokey Says” newspaper cartoons, campaign posters, children’s books, a comic book, radio and TV spots, stuffed bears, and a veritable copiousness of collectables bearing the Smokey Bear image.

The Advertising Council, National Association of State Foresters, and USDA Forest Service design the popular public service announcement (PSAs), and provide parameters and guidelines for use of Smokey’s image. Using the Advertising Council’s model, the PSAs air and run during advertising times and space that are donated by the media. It is the longest running PSA campaign in U.S. history.

The 2014 Ohio State Fair set a 12-day attendance record of 916,724 visitors, partly due to the unseasonably comfortable weather. The ever-popular ODNR Park showcased the wide variety of our state’s splendors, from glacial grooves and mine safety to butterflies and renewable trees. Standing tall over all, Smokey Bear once again welcomed visitors—the friendly American icon—protector of our valuable forest resources and the many benefits they provide. Thanks, Smokey, for standing watch these many years.

Smokey’s sayings over the years—

• “Smokey Says-Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires” 1944
• “Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires” 1947
• “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires” 2001

The change in 2001 reflects inclusion of the variety of wildland fuels as well as increased awareness of a growing population living in the wildland/urban interface.

Smokey Bear Facts

Birthdate: August 9, 1944

This was the day attributed to the launching of the forest fire prevention campaign that featured the drawing of an adult bear dubbed “Smokey” who was depicted wearing a WWI style military hat and blue jeans. The orphaned live bear cub was found a few years later after the Capitan Gap wildfire in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico in 1950, and the legend of Smokey grew.

Species: black bear (Ursus americanus). Smokey is often illustrated with a lighter completion, as a cinnamon black bear.

Popularity: 20252 is the zip code assigned to Smokey, he is on the web at www.smokeybear.com, and is up to date with accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Flickr.

96 percent of American adults recognize Smokey Bear.

Name: Smokey Bear has no middle name. “The” is commonly mishused in his name thanks to the widely popular 1952 Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins song that added a “the” between “Smokey” and “Bear” to keep the rhythm flowing. But he will correct you if you use the “the.”

Why Smokey is important: Ohio has 15,000 wildfires annually. Smokey Bear’s fire prevention message saves lives, property, and valuable natural resources, and is an important asset to the 323 rural fire departments in the Ohio wildfire protection area of eastern and southeastern Ohio.

Useful information for landowners: Did you know open burning is restricted during spring and fall months throughout Ohio? Check http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/burninglaws for specifics you need to know before burning debris. Remember, ONLY YOU . . .
The Eastern Chipmunk (Tamias striatus)

The eastern chipmunk emerges from their burrow by late February, both males and females ready to mate. A female typically reproduces twice a year, once in early spring, and once in mid-summer. Chipmunks are polygamous with males often competing with one another for access to a female. These competitions consist of “jousting” matches where 2 males will pose aggressively before charging and wrestling one another.

Signs to listen for
Chipmunks are busy caching food during the spring and summer, but the fall sees the most frenzied activity as winter approaches and food stores are needed to survive. Vocalizations can frequently be heard when walking through woodlands dominated by hard mast producing species like oaks, hickories, and beech. Many chipmunks are out collecting food, and will warn one another of immediate danger by calling out. The eastern chipmunk has 3 distinct calls, chipping, chucking, and trilling. Chipping and chucking are most often given when danger is spotted. They are long and repetitive, and often heard when walking through the woods. Some biologists have reported chucking as an alarm call for mammalian predators and chucking as an alarm call for aerial predators, though no decisive conclusion has been made. Trills are shorter and often given during pursuit by a predator, or between males rivaling for females in the spring. These are just a few examples of situations in which chipmunks vocalize, but there are many other times when chips, chucks, and trills are heard such as mating, territorial defense, fights, and communication between females and her young. Without a doubt, chipmunks are very vocally expressive!

Wrapping it up
To some, the eastern chipmunk is a nuisance. Gardeners and landscapers often complain of plant damage and multiple burrows, but in its natural woodland habitat the chipmunk is beneficial. They are a major prey species of mammalian and avian predators. In addition to their underground food stores, chipmunks will also cache food in various places within their home ranges, and this can aid in seedling establishment. Finally, chipmunks eat more than just seeds and nuts, but also berries and fungi. Their movement of fungal spores, especially beneficial fungi such as mycorrhizal fungi, can aid in plant growth and development. The eastern chipmunk is an animal most of us are familiar seeing and therefore may not give much thought to. But upon exploration of their world, hopefully you will think a little more on this wild wonder the next time you see one scampering through the woods, or away from your bird feeder, with cheek pouches full of bursting with food.

The life of an eastern chipmunk
Whether you are a woodland owner, farmer, gardener, nature enthusiast, or have simply spent some time outdoors, you are likely familiar with the eastern chipmunk. These black and white striped rodents are often seen scurrying to and fro, collecting seeds, nuts, and other food during the day. In Ohio, the eastern chipmunk is the only species of chipmunk, yet there are 23 different species of chipmunks in North America. In the western United States, where the terrain is more varied, divided by mountains, valleys, and deserts, 23 species of chipmunks exist in distinct regions. Many of these species are difficult to tell apart by their appearance alone, though observers with keen ears can identify species by their unique vocalizations.

Chipmunks are busy caching food during the spring and summer, but the fall sees the most frenzied activity as winter approaches and food stores are needed to survive.

Energy consumption during the winter is reduced by 85 percent.
Activity 36: Pollution Search

Here is a way for children to take a closer look at pollution: what it is, what its sources are, and what people can do to reduce it.

Background
Human-generated chemicals, trash, noise, and heat are all pollutants, but so is ash spewing from an erupting volcano or smoke spreading from a forest fire. Pollution is any contamination of air, water, or land that affects the balance of the environment.

Take children on a guided walk of your neighborhood to identify the sights, sounds, and smells of pollution that may exist around you. Before stepping outside, prepare children by reviewing the “Neighborhood Pollution Patrol” chart below, and take it outdoors to assist with recordkeeping. Ask prompting questions to help students complete the chart. The question numbers correspond to the numbered cells on the chart below:

1. Do you see, hear, or smell any signs of pollution? What is it?
2. Can you find examples of pollution on land, in the air, and in the water? Where?
3. Can you explain the source or cause of the pollution you have identified?
4. Who or what is affected by this pollution?
5. What might you do to help eliminate or reduce this pollution?

Neighborhood Pollution Patrol

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<th>Pollutant 1</th>
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<th>Pollutant 3</th>
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<td>1. Sense used to identify pollution (sight, smell, hearing)</td>
<td>2. Location of pollution (air, water, land)</td>
<td>3. Source (or cause) of pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Who/what is affected by this pollution</td>
<td>5. Your solution</td>
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For younger children, consider reading Dr. Seuss’s The Cat in the Hat Comes Back (ISBN 0394800028 and also available on video for free at http://tinyurl.com/kxpheu2). This story can be used to teach about people’s attitude toward pollution. What represents pollution in this story? Where does it come from? How did the cat try to solve the problem? Is there a happy ending? Does this story remind you of any pollution you have seen or know about?

Connecting Kids to Nature

Nature is a great teacher! Try this outdoor activity - it’s safe, fun, and educational. Project Learning Tree® activities build children’s creative and critical thinking skills while they learn what the environment needs to remain healthy and sustainable.

In Ohio, PLT is sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry and Project Learning Tree - Ohio. PLT improves children’s environmental awareness, critical thinking skills, and academic performance.

- Attend a workshop near you to receive PreK-12 PLT activities, ideas, and materials.
- Encourage your child’s school to incorporate outdoor learning and PLT.
- Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator: Sue Wintering, plt@dnr.state.oh.us or 614-265-6657.

www.plt.org
The Ohio Forestry Association Foundation (OFAF) is the education and outreach arm of the Ohio Forestry Association (OFA). OFAF funds are used for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes to encourage the conservation of Ohio’s forests and the development of industry which uses the forest resources.” To that end, the OFAF administers the E. Burns Miller Memorial Scholarship which helps students who are interested in pursuing careers in forest products or forest resource management.

The scholarship is dedicated in name to E. Burns Miller, a long-time member of the Ohio forest products industry who operated a sawmill and pallet mill in Athens County before passing away in 1992. He was an active OFA member for many years and his college career was cut short by having to return home to help with the family business. Miller believed strongly that the future of the industry depended on many things, among them encouraging youth to pursue forestry and forest products industry careers.

Upon his passing, the family made a sizable donation to create the E. Burns Miller Scholarship Program. Since it started, the scholarship fund has steadily grown to create an opportunity for one or more students to annually receive financial assistance to attend college.

The recipient of the scholarship this year is Mitchell Beaverson of Portage, Ohio who will attend Bowling Green State University in northwest Ohio. Whereas most recipients attend college to get a degree in forestry or resource management, Mitchell is taking a different path. He plans to get a degree in construction management with the intent to start his own cabinet and millwork shop following graduation. In fact, he has already started working with his father in wood manufacturing and has acquired a number of pieces of woodworking equipment to fabricate moulding and cabinetry.

His family owns and operates an Ohio Certified Tree Farm and he has grown up working the woods with his family, building a fundamental understanding of forestry and the value trees play in wood products manufacturing. Mitchell has participated in 4-H, and among his projects was an oak file cabinet that he showed at the Ohio State Fair.

Mitchell is just one example of many students who have received assistance through the E. Burns Miller Memorial Scholarship Program. The Board of Directors for the OFA Foundation plans to continue growing the scholarship fund so that many more students can receive financial assistance. Two recent significant donations will allow the Board to provide up to four scholarships per year and create an opportunity for students to receive assistance in succeeding years if they maintain a commitment to their forestry curriculum and continue good grades.

Additional donations are always welcome and helpful to expand the scholarship program. The OFA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation and donations are tax deductible. A separate scholarship fund is maintained and donors may direct their funds entirely to that fund if so desired.

The Foundation and OFA family congratulates Mitchell and all past scholarship winners for their commitment and desire to continue the wonderful work of forestry and the wood products industry.
Martin Michel, Consulting Forester

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When I was young, a wise woodsman told me “if you keep your eyes open, you can learn something new every day.” I believe that is especially true if you use all your senses to explore the woodland world. It’s easy to see the changing colors in the woods. The variety of pale spring hues gives way to the darker green of summer. The oranges, reds, and yellows of fall put on a show. If you can forget the cold, winter reveals a variety of silvers, grays, and textures.

On windy days, the trees rustle and creak. When a dead tree tips over and lodges in the fork of a neighboring tree, the wind rubs them together producing an eerie groaning noise like an out-of-tune fiddle. Temperatures that plummet below twenty degrees cause tree trunks to contract with a startling “POP.”

Your taste buds tell you about the warm, sweet goodness of maple syrup. Few people have beaten the raccoons to a ripe pawpaw, which tastes like a coffee-flavored banana. Sounds odd, but tastes good. On a hot day, chew the curly tip of a grapevine to experience its thirst-quenching tartness.

Close your eyes, put out your hand, and you can feel the roughness of oak bark or the smoothness of beech bark. Your feet tell you that the woodland is spongy and moist. The shiny coat of a buckeye feels like highly-polished furniture.

What about smell, that least-used of our senses? Anyone who has walked in the woods has experienced the familiar rich, musty odor of rotting humus in the soil. The myriad of other smells must be investigated further.

Break a twig to smell the bitterness of cherry, the “Vicks Vapo-rub” smell of sassafras, or the lemony smell of spicebush. The twigs of witch hazel smell like the medicine Mom used to dab on my bumps and bruises to reduce swelling.

Fresh-cut stumps are often a delight to the nose. Kneel close to a walnut stump, which smells like the fresh coffee grounds that I like almost as much as the morning’s coffee. A white oak stump smells like ginger bread, while its close cousin the red oak smells like vinegar. The vinegar smell can be strong enough to greet you in the sawmill parking lot.

Throughout the year, the woods offer you the opportunity to learn something new every day. To continue learning about the woods, you must use all your senses. To interpret the sights, sounds, and smells of the woods, there are great outdoor education opportunities presented by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, OSU Extension, ODNR Parks, Forestry, and Wildlife, and others.

Take a whiff, because it is fall in the woods.

A $15 subscription to The Ohio Woodland Journal would make a great gift for a family member, friend, or fellow woodland owner! Like your woodlands, it keeps on giving!

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