

The OHIO WOODLAND Journal

Volume 25 • Number 2 • SPRING 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO TREE FARM COMMITTEE



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- ◆ 2018 Tree Farm of the Year
- ◆ Camp Canopy Debuts

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The OHIO WOODLAND Journal



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On the Cover

Families own three quarters of the forested land in Ohio, and a good portion of this land is titled by persons in their retirement years. Your land and your love of the land is often your legacy to future generations, but often folks are too busy enjoying the woods to think about how to physically pass this legacy on. On page 18, **Chris Schiefer** provides some timely considerations for all woodland owners, regardless of age.

The cover photo illustration was taken at Wayne and Benita Lashbrook's Deseret Tree Farm in Jackson County during their 2012 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour. Photo courtesy of ODNR

Out In the Woods

Spring has sprung!

Management is the key when you own a tract of woodlands. A landowner should develop a written management plan with the support of a qualified forester. The forester is the expert and works with the owner to prepare a plan that is silviculturally correct and supports the needs and wishes of the landowner. Due to the growth rate of trees, these plans tend to be long-haul sorts of things.

Managing for wood production is one of the parts of the Tree Farm Program. This includes planting the right trees in the right place and maximizing their growth through proper management. Management involves timber stand improvement (TSI), such as deadening grapevines, honeysuckle, autumn olive, ailanthus, and other invasive plants. Management might mean doing some thinning or crop tree release to bring focus to the better trees by giving them more room to grow.

Sometimes this management may involve a harvest. There are different types of harvests that can be used depending on the specific woodland and the landowner's goals. All of these management techniques are intended to produce a top-quality stand of trees that grows well and yields quality lumber, along with much more.

I like to work with young people, so we had the Vo Ag students from Shenandoah and Caldwell high schools out for a day to plant 300 black walnut on our farm in April. Thanks to Eric Van Fleet from Shenandoah and Travis Snyder from Caldwell and their students, and Dave Schott from the Noble County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Our planting area was a couple of acres of an old horse pasture from when my granddad was farming. Over the years it has grown up some with walnut, maple, elm, tulip poplar, and other species. More than 40 years ago we planted walnut nuts, but didn't do much with them. This time we deadened many of the poor quality trees. We interspersed stakes randomly among the remaining trees. The seedlings were put in at the stakes with dibble bars (thanks to our ODNR Service Forester Adam Komar for these), and tree tubes were put on to protect them from deer. I do enjoy being out in the woods!

Dan Castellucci, Jake Peer, and I attended the American Tree Farm System National Leadership Conference in early February. The theme was "Bringing Our Impact into Focus." A primary focus was growing the Tree Farm Program in a quality way. We had the opportunity to meet tree farmers from all over the country, exchange ideas, and learn new things. These national meetings are an exciting part of the Tree Farm Program. Read the report that Jake and Dan wrote for this issue beginning on page 8.

We had a good Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting in February. John and Bess Lusk of Whispering Ridge Tree Farm in Monroe County were named the 2018 Ohio Tree Farmers of the Year, and Jim Elze was named the Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. The Tree Farm of the Year Tour is scheduled for October 20, 2018.





ds

Congratulations to all involved!

Committee member Dave Coldwell has elected to resign. Dave was the Tree Farmer of the Year in 2014, and we hate to lose him. Improving the CAUV program has been a passion of his. Thanks, Dave, for your service.

Thanks to one and all of our Tree Farm Committee. Your actions are important to the woodlands here in Ohio. ♦

*Ohio Tree Farm Committee
Chair Tom Mills can be reached at
(419) 423-3422 or tvmills74@gmail.com.*



Attention Tree Farmers!



As a valued member of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) family, you may have a Tree Farm sign proudly displayed showing your commitment to woodland stewardship. We whole-heartedly thank you for your participation.

We have about 600 Certified Tree Farmers in Ohio that we haven't heard from recently. If you are one of these, we will be reaching out to you to verify and update key information about you and your tree farm, in partnership with the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and Edge Research.

You will be receiving a mailing from ATFS asking you to participate in an online survey to help update the Tree Farm database. As stewards of your land, you know how important it is to have up-to-date information about the Tree Farm program, forestry best practices, and tips for managing your land.

So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out our survey. If you don't have the ability to do an online survey, there will be other options offered to complete it.

As a thank-you for completing the survey, you will be entered into a drawing to receive a free green diamond Tree Farm sign.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Ohio Tree Farm Committee Vice Chair Cassie Ridenour at (740) 391-1138 or cassixr@aol.com; our Program Administrator Joe Puperi at (419) 889-1123 or joe@advancedtreehealth.com; or American Forest Foundation staff at info@forestfoundation.org.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important project!

MAY 2018

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A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Spring Wildflowers and Their Uses

18

Woodland Pollinators

Ohio Woodland Stewards

OSU Mansfield

Woodlandstewards.osu.edu

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Trees on Tap

Ohio Woodland Stewards

OSU Mansfield

Woodlandstewards.osu.edu

JUNE 2018

8

A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Breeding Birds

10-15

Camp Canopy

(formerly Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp)

FFA Camp Muskingum

Carrolton

www.ohioforest.org

12-13

Teachers' Forestry Field Days

Vinton Furnace & Zaleski state forests

McArthur

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JULY 2018

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A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Tree and Shrub Identification

AUGUST 2018

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A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Woodland Stewardship Opportunities

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are designed for woodland owners and enthusiasts,

and take place at Vinton Furnace State Forest and

other southern Ohio sites. Pre-registration required.

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Check the OFA/Tree Farm website for Tree Farm Inspector contact information:

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

Congratulations...State-wide

I hope you are having a pleasant and productive spring season!

ODNR Division of Forestry employees have a variety of specializations and areas of expertise that create immense benefits for the division and for the public whom we serve. In addition to the professional training and education that help them to accomplish their day-to-day projects for the division, DOF employees have diverse backgrounds and interests that include teaching, mechanics, farming, law, music, and many others. The following group and individuals have recently been recognized on state-wide and regional levels – a positive reflection of not only their work for DOF, but for the range of backgrounds and experiences that have influenced their career accomplishments:

Project Learning Tree (PLT)–Ohio recently received the Organization Award from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. This award recognizes businesses or organizations that make a significant contribution to environmental education in Ohio. PLT-Ohio is sponsored by the ODNR Division of Forestry, with the long-time support of partners such as the Ohio Tree Farm Committee.

Pike State Forest Manager **Ben Kelley** recently received the Conservation Partner for Hunter Access award from the Ohio State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for his work with the Thunder in the Hills wild turkey hunt for disabled hunters. This special hunt was organized for disabled hunters to enjoy the outdoors while hunting for wild turkey at Pike State Forest.

Cooperative Forest Management Program Administrator **Cotton Randall** recently received the Outstanding Individual in Government Service from the Ohio Forestry Association. Cotton led an effort to update the evaluation of the use and effectiveness of Ohio's Voluntary Logging Best Management Practices

& Regional Accomplishments

Robert Boyles
ODNR Deputy Director and
State Forester



implementation program. He also led the team that successfully completed a Forest Legacy project, known as the Little Smokies Project in southern Ohio, which resulted in the purchase of 929 acres of inholdings at Shawnee State Forest. Acquiring this land filled many of the remaining holes in the Shawnee forest landscape, which is the largest contiguous protected forest in Ohio at over 63,000 acres.

The Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Committee has recognized ODNR Service Forester **John Jolliff** as the 2017 CFM Forester of the Year for his dedication and contributions to sustainable forest



management on private lands, the forestry profession, and his community. During his career, John has served two terms as Area Chair on the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, and for 20 years has been the “go-to” person for woodland owners in his 8-county area for information and technical assistance. In 2017, he wrote more woodland management plans than any other service forester in the state. Nominations from the 20-state region are evaluated each year for this competitive award.

Congratulations to all for their outstanding accomplishments! ♦

Don VanHassent (left), Maryland State Forester, presenting ODNR’s John Jolliff the 2017 Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year award in late April. Photo by ODNR



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American Tree Farm System National



The American Tree Farm System held its annual National Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this year. Three Ohio Tree Farm State Committee members-- Dan Castellucci, Tom Mills, and Jake Peer--were given the opportunity to attend and network with some of the most enthusiastic representatives of Tree Farm in the country. The event included opportunities for developing leadership skills, learning about forest resource issues in other states, and hearing from our national staff members.

One theme throughout the conference was that of growing the numbers of Tree Farm members in our respective states. However, our focus should not be on simply growing the number of tree farmers, but on growing the number of quality tree farmers. As forest resource professionals and experienced tree farmers, we should all be trying to find the best way to communicate strategies for sound forest management to new and inexperienced tree farmers. Communication was also a hot topic during the various sessions at the conference.

As always, communication is essential to a successful program, and our Tree Farm Program in Ohio is no exception. Some of the key points gleaned from the conference were that we must keep volunteers engaged, reach new landowners, and find meaningful tasks to get the younger generation involved.

Additionally, there was an emphasis on utilizing online resources to communicate. One of the more exciting online resources that was discussed is a program called Woodscamp. It is a tool that has been effectively used in northern Alabama to quickly and efficiently pair landowners with natural resource professionals by using sponsored posts on Facebook.

Another common theme at the conference was fire management, and how this impacts the decision making of forest managers and landowners. Several forestry professionals spoke about how the removal of natural fire regimes has been detrimental to the health of forests and the safety of those who live near them. We are all aware of the high intensity fires that burn every year in the western U.S. However, most of us don't give much thought to the possibility of a situation like that happening in Ohio. It is important to remember that there were traditionally fire

Leadership Conference – 2018

**Dan Castellucci
and Jake Peer**

● Ohio Tree Farm Committee

regimes here, and that fire has been suppressed for many years in Ohio just like it has been in the west. The best way to combat the risk of high intensity fires is through active forest management and reducing fuel loads.

There were also opportunities to learn a little bit about the culture of New Mexico while we were at the conference. It was held in a part of Albuquerque called Old Town, which is a historic part of the city. The Native American and Latin American influences were evident in everything from the architecture to the food, and all of the food was cooked with either red or green chili.

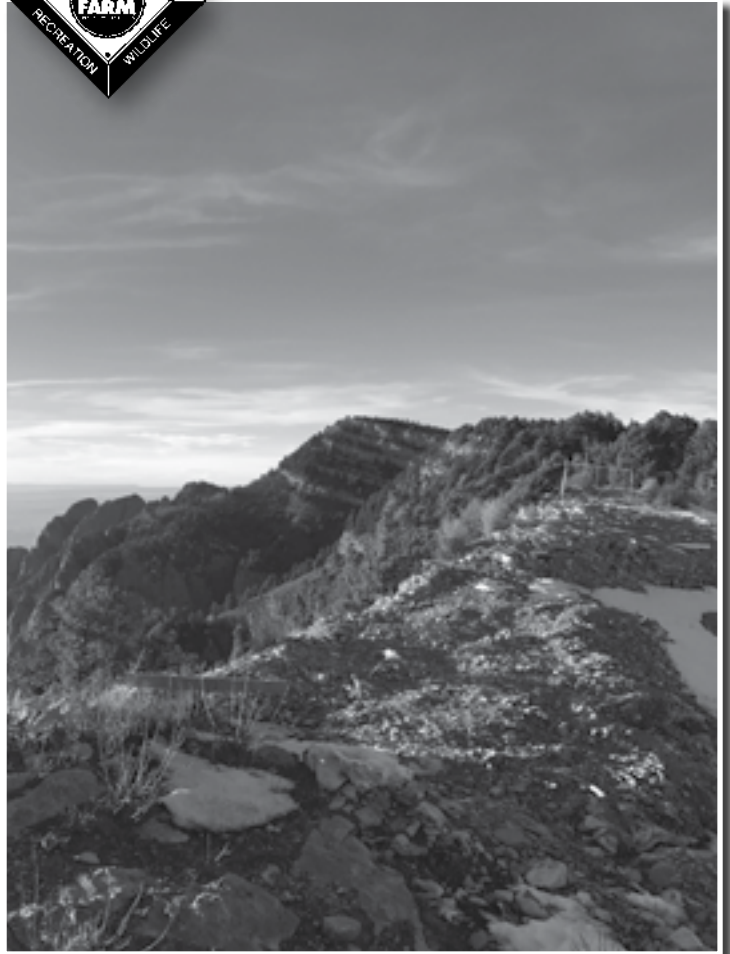
Another occasion to experience the culture was a tour of the Museum of Nuclear Science and History. Nuclear science has become a huge part of the culture in New Mexico since the area became the epicenter of research and development during the 1940s.

There was an opportunity to see Albuquerque from 10,679 feet at the top of Sandia Peak. While taking the aerial tram to the top of the mountain, it was possible to see the desert grasslands turn to a mixture of juniper and piñon pine. This zone gives way to ponderosa pine and oaks at higher altitudes, while the zone at the peak is composed primarily of spruce and fir.

Finally--and maybe most importantly, was the time spent networking with the leadership from other states. It was amazing to hear about the struggles of other state committees, as well as how they solved their issues. The biggest take away was that we are in better shape than other committees in many regards, and we brought back a few ideas on how to solve our biggest issues.

It is safe to say that Ohio's three representatives had a great time while gathering useful information that we hope to implement into the Tree Farm Program here in the Buckeye State. ♦

Get involved with the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the many opportunities to help promote woodland stewardship in our state. Contact Chair Tom Mills at tvmills74@gmail.com for more information.



Jake Peer, Dan Castellucci, and Tom Mills at the National Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, NM.
Photos courtesy of Jake Peer

A DAY *in the* WOODS

2nd Friday Series Schedule for 2018



We are excited about our program schedule for the seventh season of **A DAY *in the* WOODS** based at the Vinton Furnace State Forest near McArthur. Since **A DAY *in the* WOODS** was launched in 2012, more than 100 experts have shared their knowledge at 50 events which have been attended by more than 2,000 woodland owners and enthusiasts like you. This year's calendar offers eight opportunities for you to spend **A DAY *in the* WOODS**, including a Saturday event which is designed to provide families with opportunities to learn about our Appalachian Ohio forests and their inhabitants.



Details...

Most programs begin in the morning with a series of introductory presentations, followed by afternoon sessions often including tours and practical hands-on exercises. Each program is taught by natural resources professionals from partnering organizations. Sessions are

Spring Wild Flowers and Their Uses

May 11th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Breeding Birds

June 8th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Tree and Shrub Identification

July 13th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Woodland Stewardship Opportunities

August 10th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Family DAY in the WOODS

August 18th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Timber Harvesting-Things to Consider

September 14th – Zaleski State Forest – CCC Camp

Fall Treasures in your Woodland-Fungi, Lichens, and More

October 12th – Vinton Furnace State Forest

Woodland Wildlife Habitat

November 9th – Vinton Furnace State Forest



Continued on page 12



informal and participants have multiple opportunities to interact with and learn from each other, the instructors, and other attending foresters, biologists, and natural resources professionals. Your \$12 registration fee also includes a wonderful catered lunch.

A DAY *in the* WOODS *continued*

A DAY *in the* WOODS would not be possible without the support of our participants and our many partners, including Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife), U.S. Forest Service (Northern Research Station and Wayne National Forest), Ohio State University Extension, Glatfelter, National Wild Turkey Federation, Vinton Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Tree Farm, Hocking College, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio's Sustainable Forest Initiative Implementation Committee, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. ♦

To learn more, to subscribe to receive updates, or to download a copy of our **2018 A DAY *in the* WOODS** brochure, visit: <https://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods>.

*Dave Apsley, Natural Resource Specialist, Ohio State University Extension. Dave coordinates the A DAY *in the* WOODS program, and works in southeast Ohio from the Extension office in Jackson. Dave can be reached at apsley.1@osu.edu, or (740) 286-5044 ext. 29.*



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Whispering Ridge Tree Farm:

OHIO'S 2018 TREE FARM OF THE YEAR

Adam Komar
ODNR Division of Forestry



John and Bess Lusk, our Tree Farmers of the Year

Whispering Ridge Tree Farm is located approximately seven miles east of Woodsfield, Ohio, in Monroe County, affectionately known as the “Switzerland of Ohio” by local residents due to the steepness of the terrain. John and Bess Lusk’s Ohio Certified Tree Farm is no different, with rugged hilltops giving way to deep ravines with streams and cascading waterfalls. The stunning landscape is punctuated in the spring by a carpet of native wildflowers interspersed among large boulders on the unglaciated hillsides.

This is a truly unique property, featuring several different forest types and different stages of forest succession, from early-successional woodland just beginning to transition to oak and hickory, to late-successional American beech/Eastern hemlock climax forest. The accessible portions of the 135-acre forest have been intensively managed to promote sustainable timber production, forest health, and the Lusk’s sugar bush operation.

The steep, inaccessible portions, however, have remained relatively untouched for generations, owing to the difficulty in establishing roads and removing timber from these areas. This has allowed the native population of ramps and native wildflowers sensitive to disturbance to flourish, and provides diversity and interest to the property that many woodlands lack. The Lusk’s built their rather unique “round” home on this property, and are avid gardeners and keep busy in the spring making maple syrup. Some other notable features of the property are a portable sawmill and a log winch.

Ramps (*Allium tricoccum*).



Whispering Ridge *continued*

A brief history

The Lusk's have been working with the ODNR Division of Forestry to improve their woodland since acquiring the property in late 1994, first working with ODNR Service Forester Pete Suerken, followed by service foresters Jeremy Scherf, Peter Eales, and Adam Komar. They also sought the assistance of consulting foresters, including John Kerr, Jim Stafford, and Chad Hammond. The previous landowners severely cut the woods – in Pete Suerken's words, "Just whacked it!" He advised the Lusk's of a Forestry Incentive Program to encourage natural regeneration by clear cutting over 50 acres to one-inch caliper sized stems.

The Lusk's heeded Mr. Suerken's advice and went to work --installing water bars on woods roads and completing timber stand improvement projects. They continue to actively manage the woodland, most recently completing a crop tree release to promote oak habitat in the formerly clear-cut area-- a truly impressive feat considering the timescale. Some other notable projects include wild grapevine control and the eradication of the non-native tree *Ailanthus*, which on such a large property takes considerable time and determination.

Their woodland became certified through the American Tree Farm System in 2002, further reinforcing the couple's commitment to forest stewardship. They

hosted a county field day in 2004 in conjunction with ODNR, OSU extension, and the NRCS, and occasionally host spring wildflower walks.

A forester's perspective

While many woodland owners across Ohio are as hard-working as John and Bess, I have yet to meet anyone that has actively managed their forest for *as long* as they have done. That 23-year perseverance is impressive, as is their willingness to listen to a number of different professional foresters and use that advice to manage their woodland. To this date, I have not encountered anyone else that has owned a property long enough to complete a clear cut *and* perform a crop tree release in that same area.

It is also interesting to see the sheer diversity of tree species in the forest, with some notable examples being butternut, 8-inch diameter staghorn sumac, and yellow birch left over from the last glacial maximum—something only seen in deep Appalachian-cove type ecosystems, with other examples being Black Hand Gorge in Newark or the Hocking Hills Region. If you get a chance in October to visit the Lusk's farm, you will not be disappointed! ♦



The annual rite of spring: collecting sugar maple sap for boiling in the evaporator in the Lusk's sugar shack.

The 2018 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour is scheduled for October 20. Directions to the Lusk's Whispering Ridge Tree Farm will be forthcoming in the summer edition of the OWJ.

ODNR Division of Forestry Service Forester Adam Komar provides forestry stewardship assistance to landowners in Coshocton, Muskingum, Noble, and Monroe counties in eastern Ohio. Adam can be contacted at adam.komar@dnr.state.oh.us, or (740) 303-4427, ext. 2.

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Your legacy....

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the general population of landowners in the United States is well into their 70s today. People have many questions about “what will happen with my land when I am gone?” When considering your heirs, what is fair might not be equal, and what is equal might not be fair.

Transition planning has often been considered as something only for the wealthy to be concerned with. Today, the facts of land transfer are real, and for many people, it is staring them directly in the face. A good place to start is to ask yourself: “What do I want?” Or perhaps more importantly, “What does the land or farm say?” Often, the land knows who will be the best steward of it for generations, and so do most people who own it. Let the land speak, and let it speak LOUDEST.

Why is this often a difficult decision? Almost no one wants to talk about it. “Well, when Mom and Dad are gone, we will just divide up the land, or we will just form a LLC and keep it forever.” Sound familiar?

The need for a transition plan is the greatest in history. It is estimated that almost 70 percent of all land holdings will transfer to someone else within the next

20 years. Historically, land only transfers once every 80 years or so. Often the land is very difficult to divide evenly among heirs, and there usually is disagreement on who is the best one to receive the land.

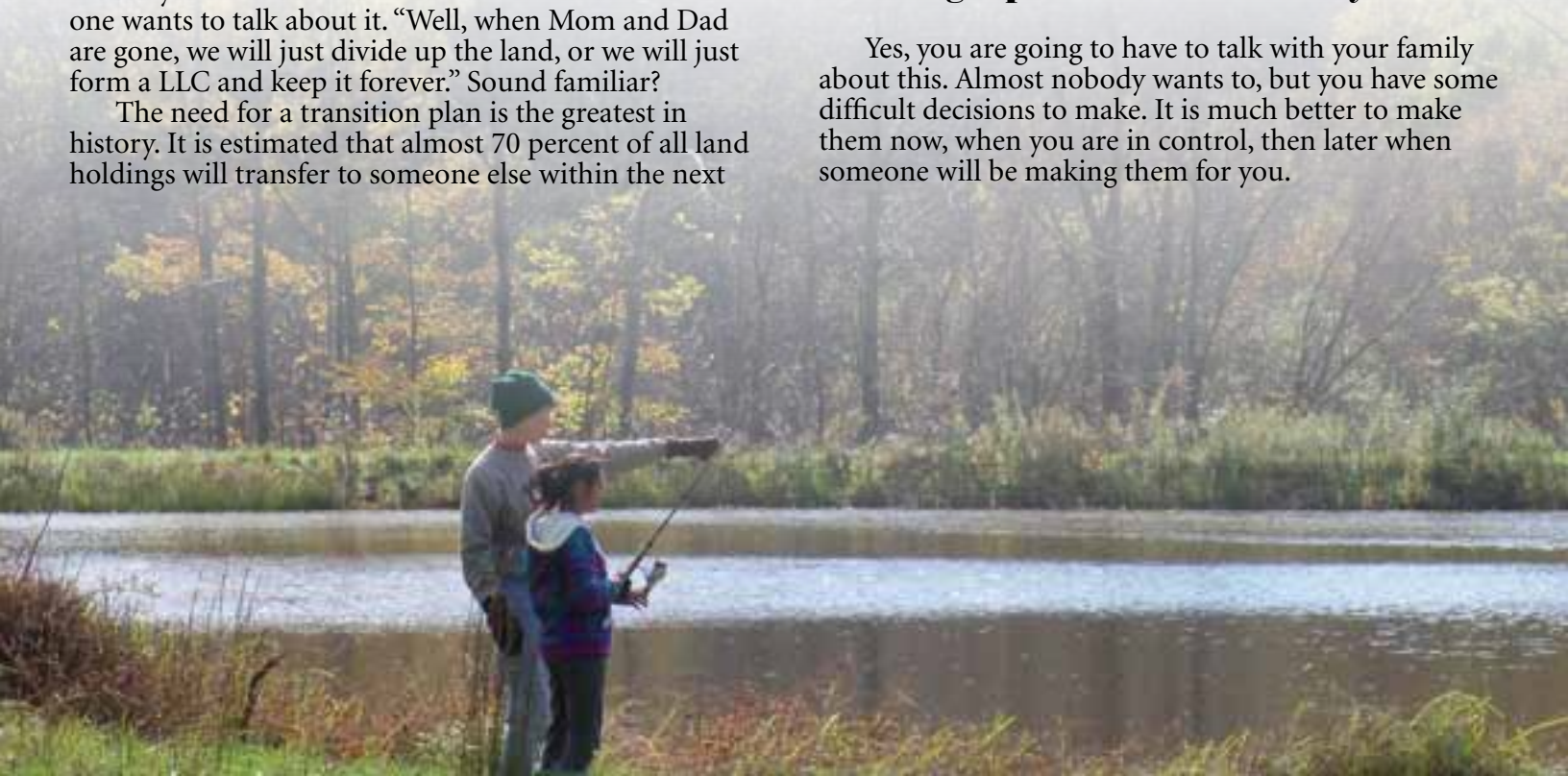
Who should have a transition plan?

Almost anyone who wishes to direct how their assets are dispersed after they are gone should have a plan, regardless of net worth. Ask yourself these questions: What will happen to the land when my heirs inherit it? Will they keep it, sell it, or sell it to another heir? Could my family maintain the land or would they need to sell it to pay final expenses, taxes, or administrative expenses? Will my spouse or children have the resources they need if I am gone in order to maintain the land? What will happen if I do nothing? How does transition planning help?

A transition plan will coordinate all of your wishes into one plan. This often will include health care directives, business succession planning, estate planning, and final wishes.

Creating a plan that works for you

Yes, you are going to have to talk with your family about this. Almost nobody wants to, but you have some difficult decisions to make. It is much better to make them now, when you are in control, then later when someone will be making them for you.



Your Legacy

Chris Schiefer
Nationwide Insurance

YOUR PLAN SHOULD:

- Create a successful transition to identify who is going to inherit your assets
- Provide peace of mind for yourself and your family now and in the future of what will happen to your assets and who will carry out your wishes
- Potentially reduce estate settlement costs
- Provide guidance to the younger family members for property management
- Direct the disposition of your assets between heirs on who will receive land or other assets
- Designate a guardian for minor children
- Designate an executor/trustee to carry out your wishes

How do you begin the conversation? Start by using an article like this. What do they think would be the best outcome for the land? Recently, we were working with a family that had eight children. At the end of a meeting with all of them and their spouses, it was determined that the best person to manage the land, for today and into the future, was someone that was not even working on or receiving income from the land. These are always interesting family discussions, and they definitely do not always go according to plan.

It is imperative to choose a good transition planning team to make the entire process much smoother and easier. Your team should consist of attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, and other professionals as necessary for your situation.

These people should be able to address issues unique to owning land and all of the situations that this can involve. These could include timber, mineral rights, liability exposures, deed restrictions, easements, and other property concerns. A great team will provide comprehensive solutions and address changes in state and federal laws applicable to your situation.

Remember, this is your plan. Each of these professionals is here to help you along the planning process, but ultimately it is your decision.

You will be asked to provide all of your financial information, including: personal biographical information on all pertinent parties; assets and liabilities; details of who owns what and how it is deeded; tax returns; legal documents such as wills,

health care directives, powers of attorney, and bequests; and documentation of any existing legal entities, such as partnerships, LLCs, and trusts.

Collecting all of the financial information does not answer all the questions. Many times there is an issue among family members or between generations which needs to be addressed immediately and right up front.

Plan development

What is your goal?

This is what your transition team will need to know in order to put a plan in place. We have met with people who wish all of the land to go to one heir, or shared equally, or left to the grandchildren and skip

Continued on page 22

Spring 2018 | 19



The Fun R & R Time



Interesting Knowledge Shared



Experiencing & Learning First-Hand

Your Teenagers are
Invited to Join the
Adventure!



CAMP CANOPY



Brad Perkins
OFA Executive
Director

Ohio Summer Camp to Debut New Name and Brand in 2018

When campers, counselors, instructors, and camp directors make their way to Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum the second week of June this year, their beloved Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp will have a new name and corresponding brand that pay homage to its inception in 1950, and its growth and success since then.

Camp Canopy is set to debut June 10-15, 2018 and will feature many of the same learning topics, traditions, and fun as the previously-named camp, but with a different look, feel, and some new activities.

"It's still the same camp focusing on the many elements of forestry and wildlife that we all know and love, but with a fresh facelift on the outside," said Jeremy Scherf, camp co-director and service forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. "Camp Canopy is the new and improved Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp."

With the list of summer activities for high schoolers continually growing, the camp found itself competing for the time, money, and interest of its target audience - incoming freshmen through graduating seniors.

"We knew that if we wanted to stay true to our mission [of introducing campers to the world of natural resources], but at the same time attract new campers that are looking for a traditional summer camp experience, we needed to make a change," said Marne Titchenell, camp co-director and a wildlife program specialist with Ohio State University Extension.

The camp's rebranding process started with research conducted by an outside firm, Shift•ology Communication, consisting of a review of past camper evaluations and a blind focus group of high school students.

"Obviously we wanted a new name and brand that would appeal to our target audience, but we also wanted something that had special meaning and didn't stray too far from the aspects of forestry and wildlife that this camp was founded on," said Titchenell. "We wanted to convey that this camp also offers a variety of other activities - like night hikes and campfires - that our campers love to participate in year after year."

The new name and brand of Camp Canopy does just that.

"When I'm working with campers, everything I discuss relates back to the canopy of the forest," said Scherf. "From young seedlings growing in the understory, to birds nesting in the trees, the canopy and the sunlight coming through it directly affect what happens below it, so the word 'canopy' has a great deal of meaning in both the forestry and wildlife disciplines."

Creating a brand and camp experience that teaches campers about topic areas within the two disciplines while also offering the fun activities of a traditional summer camp - like swimming in the lake, hanging out around the campfire, and meals in the mess hall - was key in this endeavor.

Continued on bottom of page 22

YOUR LAND...Your Legacy! *continued from page 19*

an entire generation. Your team needs to know these answers to determine the right plan for you and your family. Your plan is unique to you. It is your plan and your goals--no one else's.

Plan development may reveal the need to form new entities such as LLCs, or amend existing entities, as well as draft current wills, trusts, health care directives, powers of attorney, and other legal papers.

Implement the plan

Your transition planning team will likely have several solutions to achieve your goals. Often these options will include what is involved in implementation along with a discussion of how this would be done, and the consequences associated with it. The key is to get the plan implemented as quickly as reasonably possible. Many advisors will have an implementation strategy written as part of the discussion to get your plan in place very quickly.

Take family members along for these meetings. We often include everyone once the plan is agreed upon in the advisor's meeting with the client. This way everyone knows exactly what is going to happen in the future and they don't have to guess how things are going to be distributed and to whom.

We recently planned to meet early one day with a gentleman who had completed all of his planning. Everything was done, and all the plan documents were waiting to be signed, right there on the client's desk. His son became concerned, as his dad always showed up at the farm shop every morning like clockwork at 7:30 am for the last 30 years.

That day it was already after 8:00 am, and still no Dad. He tried calling, to no avail. Finally he went down to the house to see what was up. You guessed correctly: right there the son found his father had passed away. The strain of the loss of a father or any loved one is tremendous. This man, his brother, and his father were in business together. The sons were convinced everything was taken care of. They would inherit the business when then father passed away, just as they had discussed it.

After consulting with their attorney, they found the papers there on Dad's desk, unsigned, right where the father had been reading them over again the week before. You see, at that moment, these sons not only lost their father, their business partner, their mentor, and the one person who had the treasure map of everything in his head. They also added a partner to the operation, as their step-mother was now part owner of the business. This business was what they had worked in for over 30 years to build. Because these papers were not signed, they had to then buy out their new partner's interest to continue doing business, at quite a cost. Timing does matter, and taking action is imperative as soon as the plan design has been agreed upon.

Review the plan

Life is not static, and the plan will need to be reviewed from time to time to make sure it is up to date with your wishes. The plan should be reviewed every three to five years, when your family, health, or financial situation changes, and if the tax laws change – as they almost always do. Usually a review with all of

CAMP CANOPY *continued from page 21*

"We've always incorporated the more traditional activities of a summer camp into ours, which is possible because of the beautiful grounds and awesome amenities of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum, but a lot of potential campers may not have realized that or may have been misled by our former name," said Scherf. "At the end of the day, we want our campers to discover forestry and to discover wildlife; but most importantly, we want them to discover adventure."

Camp Canopy is open to incoming freshmen through graduating seniors and is sponsored by the Ohio Forestry Association Foundation. Most campers are able to get full or partial sponsorships from local OFA Loggers Chapters,

Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Forestry and Woodland Interest Groups, and others.

At the end of the week, college scholarships are awarded to high-performing campers. Over \$5000 in scholarships have been awarded each of the past 2 years. Colleges offering these scholarships are Hocking College, The Ohio State University, and Ohio University.

For more information about Camp Canopy, visit: ohioforest.org/page/forestrycamp, campcanopy.com, or call the Ohio Forestry Association at (888) 388-7337.

You can also hook up with Camp Canopy on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram. ♦

YOUR ADVISORS WILL NEED TO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THE FOLLOWING ARE TO YOU:

- Providing financial independence for a spouse or an incapacitated family member
- Assuring continuity of the land for the next generation and beyond
- How you will pay potential estate, inheritance, and probate expenses
- Who will be your executor? Will this be one person or many people?
- How will you protect against the costs of long term care expenses?
- Providing for family members in a fair manner, and what does that mean to you?
- Protecting the land from potential impacts from creditors, divorce, or family disputes

the planning team is advisable every few years, just to make sure everyone is still on the same page.

Your land is unique; there is nothing on earth like it. Your plan is also unique--it is your plan. You decide what is best for the land and also best for your family.

Have the conversation..... make the decisions....take action today! ♦

YOUR LAND....YOUR LEGACY.... LET THE LAND SPEAK

Chris Schiefer is a Certified Financial Planner and Land as Your Legacy® advisor with Nationwide Insurance. Chris regularly conducts seminars on the process and planning necessary for successful property, asset, and family dynamics transitions.

He has offices in Tiffin, Fostoria, Galion, Amherst, and Norwalk, Ohio. Chris can be reached at (800) 589-9740, or chris.schiefer@nationwide.com.

Federal income tax laws are complex and subject to changes. Neither Nationwide nor its representatives give legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for answers to specific questions.

Your Land, Your Legacy— New Resources Available for Ohio Woodland Owners

In order to be good stewards, many Ohio woodland owners invest considerable time, energy, money, and other resources into their land.

Throughout their tenure, they build a legacy for the future. The next

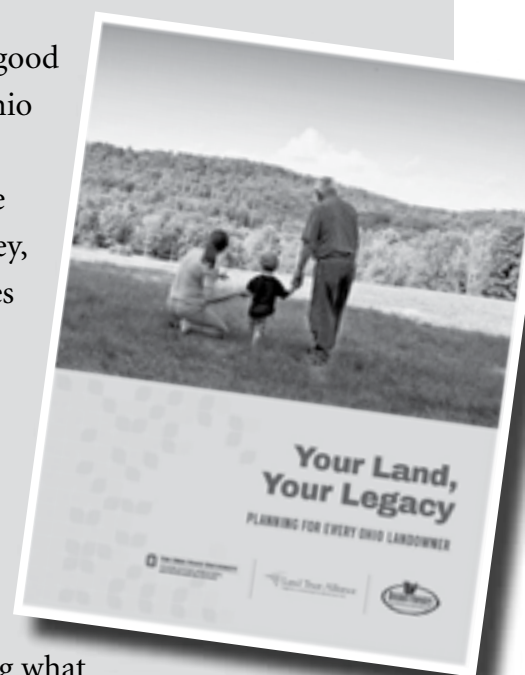
step to ensure that this legacy

endures is planning what

will happen to your land after you are gone. In fact, planning may very well be the most important step that you take as a landowner.

Now with the help of several Extension foresters, especially Paul Catanzaro from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and funding from the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Ohio woodland owners now have new resources to guide them through the process of deciding what happens to their property after they are gone.

You Land, Your Legacy- Planning for Every Ohio Landowner is a detailed guide with resources for Ohio landowners. This publication and a narrated white-board video are both available under the publications tab at the Ohio Woodland Stewards webpage at <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>.



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Drones – Modern, Helpful Contribution



ODNR Videographer Josiah Wade brought an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), or drone, to survey the 143-acre prescribed burn conducted by ODNR on March 26 at Zaleski State Forest. Here Josiah is monitoring the controls, which on this model, enables him to attach his cell phone for filming.

Alistair Reynolds, ODNR Division of Forestry Invasive Species Forester, launching a second drone at the Zaleski burn. Both operators captured some amazing video of the ground crews and successful burning operations. Both Wade and Reynolds, and the respective equipment they fly, are licensed through the Federal Aviation Administration.

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Wild Wonders *in the Woods*

The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

I'm sure at one time or another we've all been buzzed by a hummingbird. You know what I mean, right? Maybe you were out enjoying the sunshine, weeding your garden, mulching your flowerbeds, or spending some time hiking through your woodland--when suddenly you hear a rapid buzzing zip by you followed by a high-pitched, squeaky chatter. Maybe you even glanced up fast enough to catch a flash of the emerald green or ruby red feathers that identify the ruby-throated hummingbird. The ruby-throated is Ohio's only breeding hummingbird, though we do get occasional visitors of other species from the west.

DID YOU KNOW? *Western species of hummingbirds show up in Ohio on occasion, usually during their late summer-fall migrations. Rufous hummingbirds are the most common visitors, but not the only ones! This past fall, a male calliope hummingbird stuck around Delaware, Ohio until mid-December. Biologists are unsure of why western species occasionally venture this far east, but they do know that while the hummingbirds are here, they are taking advantage of late season blooming plants like asters and goldenrod, as well as hummingbird feeders.*

Hummingbirds belong to the order Apodiformes, which means "unfooted." Of course hummingbirds possess feet, although when in flight it is quite difficult to see the two paperclip-thin legs of a hummingbird. In addition, the fact that hummingbirds are not able to walk or hop make them appear to be "unfooted."

While they can maintain a clumsy shuffle along a branch, they prefer to take to the wing when navigating a perch, feeding, and well, just about everything. A hummingbird's hovering flight is just one of many adaptations that make it feature-worthy of this issue's 'Wild Wonders *in the Woods*.'

The life of a ruby-throated hummingbird

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are found in deciduous and mixed deciduous woodlands, along forest edges, and within orchards, gardens, and open woodlands. These tiny birds have emerald green backs and a wing span of 8-11 centimeters. Males sport a vibrant ruby-red throat patch while females are mostly white on their throat. Perhaps you have seen a hummingbird with a black throat patch? It's not another species, but rather an adult male ruby-throated hummingbird. Hummingbirds, like many birds, have reflective feathers. When a male's throat patch isn't reflecting light, it appears black or dark gray in color, which often occurs on a cloudy day or when the hummingbird is in the shadows.

Many are familiar with some of the unique characteristics of hummingbirds, such as a long, narrow bill, hovering flight, and an extendable tongue. These adaptations help the hummingbird obtain nectar, an important component of its diet. Other equally important dietary items are spiders and insects (mosquitoes, gnats and other flies, and small bees), of which hummingbirds are able to obtain with yet another adaptation – a flexible lower jaw.

The upper jaws of other birds are often flexible along their length, while the lower jaw is flexible only where it meets the skull. This is not true in hummingbirds. Their lower jaw, particularly the distal half, is flexible, allowing the hummingbird to open its mouth (bill) even wider to increase the success of insect capture. This adaptation speaks to the importance of an insect diet, which provides hummingbirds with essential amino acids not obtained from nectar.

The life of a ruby-throated hummingbird cannot be discussed without addressing migration.



Hummingbirds migrate due to a lack of food rather than the cold temperatures. In fact, hummingbirds can withstand colder temperatures, especially at night, by going into a hypothermic torpor, a resting state in which the body slows down to conserve energy. However, they can't withstand a lack of nectar and insects, so ruby-throated hummingbirds travel thousands of miles every year to overwinter in parts of Central America, Mexico, and Florida.

The migrational journeys of a bird as small as a hummingbird are quite a feat. No, they are not traveling on the backs of large birds (a common myth). They are traveling on their wing-power alone reaching speeds of up to 50 mph, and capable of traveling 1200 miles non-stop! The strength and energy needed for such a journey is incredible, so before leaving, hummingbirds nearly double their weight in size. Ruby-throated hummingbirds can travel down to Mexico and Central America across the Gulf of Mexico in a 20-hour, 500-mile non-stop flight. Whew, I'm tired just writing about it.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds typically arrive back in Ohio in April. Males usually arrive first, and begin setting up territories. When females arrive, males are in place and ready to begin courtship.

Given their impressive speed and flight abilities, courtship displays are something to see. Males dip and dive in front of females in a dynamic display,



with wings beating up to 200 times per second (as opposed to the normal 50-60 beats per second). After mating, males and females separate. The female selects a nesting site, usually on top of a narrow branch of a deciduous tree with good canopy cover from above.

Nests are built with delicate fibers from thistle and dandelion, for example, and held together with spider webbing and sometimes pine resin. The finishing touches are added with a covering of lichen around the outside of the nest, perfectly concealing the nest from below to look like part of the tree. The female then lays 1-3 eggs, and will raise up to 3 broods each year.

Signs to look and listen for

Perhaps the best way to catch a glimpse of a ruby-throated hummingbird is to provide a source of nectar. Hummingbirds feed on nectar from a variety of herbaceous and woody plants, such as jewelweed, columbine, cardinal flower, *Salvia sp.*, beebalm, trumpet vine, red buckeye, and yellow poplar (aka tulip tree), to name a few.

Hummingbirds have excellent color vision, which aids them in selecting preferred plants. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are attracted to red and orange flowers, so incorporating blooms in these colors can work to attract hummingbirds to your yard. Once there, hummingbirds will visit a variety of colored blooms, as long as there is nectar to be had.

A hummingbird feeder is another great way to watch hummingbirds. Feeders should be filled with a solution of 1 part table sugar to 4 parts water. No red

food coloring is needed in the solution. A better strategy is to use a red-colored feeder, which is often easy to find. Males that include a feeder into part of their summer territory will actively defend the feeder and aggressively chase intruding hummers away. In this case, locate a few other feeders around the property to provide food to other hummingbirds.

Please note that feeding hummingbirds is work! Sugar solution should be changed before it gets cloudy. On hot summer days, new solution may be needed every 2-3 days, sometimes daily. Choose feeders that are easy to clean as they should be cleaned weekly.

Wrapping it up

In my mind, hummingbirds are associated with warm temperatures, long summer days, beautiful

DID YOU KNOW? A hummingbird's pectoral muscles account for roughly one-third of its body weight. That would equate to 50 pounds of chest muscle in a 150 pound human!

blooms, and a deep sense of wonder and appreciation. As I write this article, it is March and there is snow on the ground, so I have enjoyed the warmth that this article has brought me. Here's to warmer weather on the horizon and many emerald and ruby jewels glittering amongst your gardens and sunlit woodlands this summer. Enjoy! ♦





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Web of Life

In this activity, children will learn about food webs, discovering the many ways that plants and animals of a forest ecosystem are connected.

A forest is a complex living system. While its appearance is often dominated by trees, a healthy forest is composed of many different animals and plants that interact with and depend on each other.

A **food chain** is a simplified way of showing energy relationships between plants and animals in an ecosystem. For example, a food chain of sun > plant seed > mouse > owl shows that a plant seed that grows from the sun's energy is eaten by a mouse, which in turn is eaten by an owl. However, in reality it is rare for an animal to eat only one type of food. A **food web** represents the interaction of many food chains in an ecosystem.

Invite children to think about the food web of a nearby wooded area. Ask:

1. What plants and animals might you find in a healthy forest ecosystem?
(Be sure to include mammals, insects, birds, reptiles, trees, and other plants).
2. What might happen to the forest ecosystem if we remove an item from this list?
3. What might happen if humans are introduced to this ecosystem?

Have children visually depict a food web by drawing a woodland scene (hills, valleys, streams, trees, etc.) on sheets of cardboard or poster paper. Add photos or drawings of the organisms they came up with in Question 1. Place a push pin next to each plant or animal, and use yarn to connect the organisms to others with which they interact.

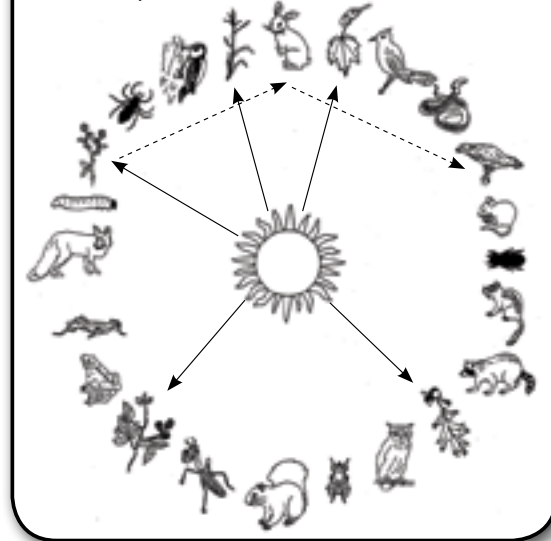
The diagram shows examples of organisms that depend on each other for food. Starting with the sun, can you connect the organisms into five different food chains to form a food web? One food chain has been completed for you. Hint: there are multiple combinations! When you have connected all the organisms you have created the food web!

Make Learning Fun!

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

- Visit www.plt.org/ohio
- Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator, Sue Wintering at Sue.Wintering@dnr.state.oh.us, 614-265-6657

Example Forest Food Web



In Ohio, PLT is sponsored by the
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— Division of Forestry and
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REGIONAL WOODLAND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

*So much to learn—
from each other and
natural resource experts!*

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Members continue to pursue their outdoor passions and bring status reports and questions to our meetings. We enjoyed a rousing and informative game of "Forest Health Jeopardy" hosted by Dave Apsley in March, and this year are looking forward to a tour of Speyside Cooperage, learning about how to harvest our timber, and a farm tour of the King Family Farm in Highland County. As always, any curious outdoorspeople are welcome at all our meetings. We enjoy eating, and the food is always delicious! You don't have to bring anything, just your appetite and curiosity.

Member John King is not only a skilled wildlife photographer, but a website professional as well. He volunteered to design and maintain the OhioSOFA.com website, and keeps content current and comprehensive. As our program presenters and speakers recommend websites, John captures them and includes them on our links page. We've recently received recognition and appreciation from several student groups for the quantity and quality of our site's links to conservation and environmental science resources. Check them out!

Betsy Pierson,
SOFA Co-Chair

*PJ Gordy, a SOFA
founding member,
prepares for a
meeting. Her culinary
skills have no doubt
increased our
membership roster!*



Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group

Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group (MRWIG) hosted a Shiitake Mushroom workshop in March. Several members met prior to the workshop to cut and inoculate northern red oak logs from a recent timber harvest.

Participants were treated to a breakfast prepared by Friendly Hills Grange staff prior to the presentation by Service Forester Adam Komar. Adam and MRWIG member Jim Murphy, a longtime Shiitake producer, fielded questions from future growers. A hands-on demonstration capped the workshop with participants inoculating and waxing a predrilled log.

Extra logs were sold with proceeds to provide scholarships for campers at OFA's Camp Canopy (formerly Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp).

MRWIG is planning to inoculate additional logs and offer them for sale at local SWCD's during their tree packet sale with proceeds going to provide additional camp scholarships.

On May 8, MRWIG will host a spring wildflower and bird walk. Watch the MRWIG website mrwig.org for time and location.



East Central Ohio Forestry Association

The East Central Ohio Forestry Association has an exciting slate of activities in store for the balance of the year. First and foremost is the Annual Banquet where we host a fun-fundraiser to help support young people to attend Camp Canopy, the OFA Forestry and Wildlife Camp held at Camp Muskingum every year. We are blessed with having one of the camp directors, Jeremy Scherf, as one of our members. As part of the program, Jeremy will provide us an overview of the camp's amazing program.

Other programs for the year include, May: Rick Stahn, retired District Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, with a view into that national organization; June: Marsha Freeland, of the Norma Johnson Center will present "Introducing Children to a Conservation Ethic;" July: ODNR wildlife officers Kirk Kiefer and Jeff Berry will give us a run-down on ginseng; August: Erica Lyon, OSU Biologist, will talk on the importance of mycorrhizal fungi in the forest; September: Rome Marinelli of the Sustainable Wildlife Area Restoration Movement will fill us in on their activities; October: Alan Walter, our very own ECOFA Treasurer, will talk about moving and reconstructing a large barn onto his property; November: Sara Fitzsimmons, Pennsylvania State University biologist, with the latest developments in American Chestnut restoration; December: Award-winning Guernsey County wildlife expert Levi Arnold will surprise us with "Things Wildlife."

We have two field trips planned for the summer. August 4 we will meet with Walt "Mycowalt" Sturgeon at Jefferson Lake Park to learn about edible and non-edible mushrooms. Later in the fall, we will visit the timber-frame house that member Tom Cushing has constructed from his own tree farm trees with the assistance of Dan Ogonec.

John Quimby, Vice President
(740) 269-3038

Northwest Ohio Woodland Association

Come join us as we learn about The Birds and the Bees! Tom Barnes will be hosting our summer meeting at his farm where he will be discussing the birds and the bees that he works with on his farm and in his woods. He focuses on proper habitat for these creatures. The NWOWA meets four times a year, and the next one is scheduled for Saturday, July, 14, 2018 near Arlington, Ohio.

Our spring meeting at Frank Pauff's Moraine Maple Farm was most interesting. We learned how his woods grew and changed over the years and how he brought special plants to his farm to enhance its uniqueness.

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 ODNR service foresters. Our last program for the year will be at the R. A. Stranahan Arboretum - October 20, 2018 in Toledo.

For more details on the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association and future meetings, contact Keshia Krout at (419) 424-5004, or Tom Mills at (419) 423-3422.



ENJOY



JOIN

Spring 2018 | 31

WOODLAND INTEREST GROUPS IN OHIO

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Central Ohio Small Woodlot Interest Group

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

East Central Ohio Forestry Association

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Killbuck Valley Woodland Interest Group

Bob Romig
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Wooster, Ohio 44691
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Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group

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Zanesville, OH 43701-1703
(740) 453-4400
jim72staff@gmail.com
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Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association

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Northwest Ohio Woodland Association

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

P.J. Gordy
3813 Potts Hill Road
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OhioSOFA.org

Southwest Ohio Woodland Owners Association

Pat Migliozi
ODNR Division of Forestry
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Waynesville, Ohio 45068
(513) 897-1082
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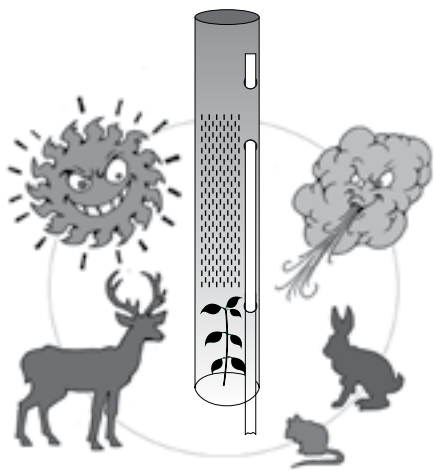
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