Rare Forest Plants
Timber Harvesting Considerations
Preparing for Your Tree Farm Audit
## Species List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price per 1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bitternut Hickory</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$1140.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulip Poplar</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$740.00</td>
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<td>Allegheny Serviceberry</td>
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<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$730.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silky Dogwood</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$490.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$690.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp White Oak</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$610.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bald Cypress</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Pine</td>
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<td>Seedlings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Chokeberry</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$740.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contact us today for complete seedling list!*

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Golden-star lily (Erythronium rostratum) is an early spring bloomer growing at the northern edge of its native range in southern Ohio in the Shawnee State Forest region. It is a state-listed endangered plant species in Ohio, but found more commonly in south-central states. ODNR Chief Botanist Richard Gardner describes many rare woodland plant species on page 15. Photo courtesy of ODNR.
Summer is in Full Swing

We are busy with tree farm inspections, and speaking of which, we could always use more Tree Farm Inspectors. I would love it if each Certified Tree Farm in Ohio could receive a visit every five years, as this regular contact is an important part of being a part of the system. If you are a forester and aren’t on our inspection team, please consider getting involved. Even if those you inspect are your clients, all these contacts help.

Speaking of Tree Farm Certification, I made a mistake. In the last issue of the OWJ, I said something about the landowner being able to choose whether to be a tree farmer with a focus on recognition only or going the certification route, in hope of having that flexibility. This tweak in the system will occur on a regional or area basis, not on an individual basis. Ohio chose to be a certified state, with the thought that this puts the state in the best position for the future. However, even if certification doesn’t provide much in the way of increased marketing dollars, it can provide recognition that you are actively sustainably managing your woods. There is pride in doing that.

We have been approved for our next EQIP project on our tree farm. Our timber stand improvement (TSI) vendor and I will be working in an 18-acre hardwood stand. This will include deadening grapevine and invasive honeysuckle, autumn olive, and ailanthus. We want to improve the quality of the stand and increase the quantity of oak, particularly white oak.

In checking on our walnut planting, the survival rate was poor, so more thinning and replanting is planned. There is a lot of honeysuckle and autumn olive foliar spraying to do this fall. We’ll also review all the stands that are completed to catch anything we missed or that has become newly established. This is our active management: keeping up with the TSI. It is great to be out in the woods.

We have a busy Ohio Tree Farm Committee (OTFC) schedule. The OTFC Guide is completed, and we are working on a Tree Farm Inspector’s Guide. Cleanup work on our membership list continues and we’re looking at our inspector’s list. As I’ve said, we need more inspectors in order to do regular visits to tree farmers. There is a third-party assessment to prepare for in 2020 when 21 Certified Tree Farms in Ohio will receive a visit by the national auditors. We’ll be in touch with you when they are selected in January. This visit is intended to review the various Tree Farm processes that the OTFC uses.
Summer is in Full Swing

Tom Mills
Ohio Tree Farm Committee Chair

and to assure that they are correct.
Our August committee meeting was held on the Izaak Walton property near Wooster—Ohio’s first Certified Tree Farm. This was my next to the last meeting as Chair, and we are working to set up a smooth transition to Cassie Ridenour who will serve the next two-year term.

Coming up this fall, our 2019 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour will be held at Paul and Joanne Mechling’s Snowy Oak Tree Farm in Ashtabula County on Saturday, September 21. There is a lot to do in Ashtabula County, so you and yours ought to make a weekend of it (see page 6 for directions). On October 6-8, the Ohio Forestry Association will hold its fabulous Paul Bunyan Show on the Guernsey County Fairgrounds. It is a great trade show with all kinds of things to see for the wood industry, and lots of landowner educational sessions. Again, a most enjoyable family activity. The OTFC’s Flapjacks for Lumberjacks adds a delicious breakfast to start the day on Saturday and Sunday.

We have been having a lot of fun with Tree Farm and it’s due to all the folks involved. Thank you to all for everything that you have done. Your continued efforts to move Ohio’s woodlands to becoming the best in the country are appreciated. Enjoy your fall!

◆

Count the rings on this grapevine branch to age it like a tree. How old do you think the main vine was?

Wild grapevine is a native species that grows well on the Mills Noble County Tree Farm! This vine grew with the tree it was attached to and had a large crown and heavy leaves that weighed down the tree branches. Grapevine provides fruit for wildlife, but the weight of the vine can break a tree apart or even bring it down. This vine is often the object of timber stand improvement control practices, which a forester can provide to you with control tips. In a large woods, you may miss a vine or two that will feed your wildlife!
AUGUST 2019

9  
*A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series***
Hocking Hemlocks and Night Sounds

16  
*Wildlife in Your Woods*
Ohio State U-Mansfield
https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events

SEPTEMBER 2019

13  
*A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series***
Timber Harvesting: things to consider

14  
*A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series***
Family Day in the Woods (Free)

17-19  
*Farm Science Review*
London (details on page 28)
http://fsr.osu.edu/gwynne-conservation-area

21  
*Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour*
Snowy Oak Tree Farm
Ashtabula County
(614) 309-6096
(details on page 6)

OCTOBER 2019

4-6  
*Paul Bunyan Show*
www.ohioforest.org
(details on page 33)

11  
*A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series***
Woodland and Wildlife Research

26  
*Hocking State Forest Fall Color Tour*
(740) 385-4402

NOVEMBER 2019

8  
*A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series***
Winter Tree Identification

**All A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series** are designed for woodland owners and enthusiasts, and take place at Vinton Furnace State Forest and other southern Ohio sites. Pre-registration required.
http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods or 740-596-5212
*Check the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program of Ohio State University Extension website for upcoming classes at https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu*

Presentations/Displays/Exhibitors:

- Red oak regeneration
- Over 140,000 trees planted, representing 21 species
- Maple tubing/sap production
- Wetland construction/WRP
- Bridge construction
- Drone demonstration
- Walking tour with Dr. James Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of National History
- Kids activities
- Various conservation organization displays
- Invasive plant control

Make a weekend of it!  
Come visit Ashtabula County, Ohio’s best perch, walleye, and steelhead fishing. Explore our 23 wineries, 19 covered bridges, and 4 scenic rivers. Check out more at www.VisitAshtabulaCounty.com for lodging and reservations.
Paul and Joanne Mechling welcome family, friends, fellow tree farmers, conservationists, and the general public to their 365-acre Certified Tree Farm. Come explore 8 miles of trails, view forest management, examine 12 acres of wetlands, walk through warm season grasses and pollinator habitat, and learn how to plant wildlife food plots. Professional foresters will conduct interpretive tours of the property.

Location: St. Route 167 East, Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio. Parking is at the Pierpont Township Fire Hall, 6006 Marcy Rd., Pierpont, OH 44082. Shuttle service will be provided to the farm.

This event will take place rain or shine! Hiking footwear required!

Fairly level terrain. Food and beverages available for purchase.

GPS Location (parking):
41.752243, -80.567792

Additional information:
614-309-6096

RSVP’s appreciated:
ohiotreefarm2019@gmail.com
I hope you had the chance to visit Smokey Bear (75 years old this year!) and the Division of Forestry area of the ODNR Natural Resources Park at the Ohio State Fair this summer. And remember to support forestry projects and vendors at your county fairs and festivals!

As we move through the summer season, part of the Division of Forestry’s plans include a strategic refocus of the Service Forestry Program. It is important to us that we reach as many landowners as possible for healthy and productive woodlands throughout the state. There are a limited number of state service foresters in the division, so we are shifting our priorities for those foresters’ duties. We are asking for your support as we increase efforts to share forest management plan writing responsibilities with consulting foresters, SWCD foresters, and industry foresters. As the demand for forest management plan writers continues to increase, we will provide trainings to outside foresters on plan requirements for state and federal programs.

As we implement this shift in services, state service foresters (also referred to as “state foresters”) will be focusing on reaching more landowners with events, workshops, and field days. We want to work with our partners to promote the services of foresters and natural resource professionals as a larger group, e.g. wildlife biologists, private foresters, SWCD technicians, and Cooperative Extension educators. We also want to help increase capacity of Ohio’s service providers such as contractors and vendors who do timber stand improvement (TSI) and wildlife habitat work. Currently there is a state-wide group working to develop a vendor list to be used as

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**Remember:**

- Woodland management can greatly improve wildlife habitat.
- Foresters can provide advice for achieving your goals for your woodlands.
- Boundary marking is important for protecting your woods and is required for OFTL.
- Tree planting can help with erosion control, improve soils and habitat, and increase value of your property.

A Woodland Management Plan is required for basic eligibility for OFTL, Tree Farm, and USDA cost-share programs and It’s the Key to Long-Term Care of Your Woodland!

**We are here to help!**
a resource for landowners to hire contractors for these projects, as well as to help folks get into the field as a career.

We will continue to work hard to improve the Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) program, which is a property tax reduction program administered by the Division of Forestry. The program allows a 50 percent tax reduction on managed forested acres. Qualifying landowners agree to manage their woodlands as working forests and to abide by pertinent rules and regulations.

Finally, we will be focusing more on the division’s Call Before You Cut (CBYC) program, which features a toll-free hotline and a website (callB4Ucut.com/ohio) to give Ohioans information on having a successful timber harvest and links to professional foresters and master loggers.

With this new strategic focus, state service foresters will engage with a broader partner group to offer landowners advice on selling timber, property tax programs, forest stand improvements, wildlife habitat management, tree plantings, forest health and diversity, and assistance with USDA cost-share programs.
The headline of this article says a lot, but at the same time, doesn’t say much. Who is Jake Peer, and how did he get to the point of receiving this award? Does it tell us that he is a Wildlife Specialist with the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District? Does it let us in on the fact that he is an avid birder and outdoor photographer? Or let us know that he has recently started a beekeeping project at home?

When I think of Jake Peer, I think back to that movie several years ago starring Brad Pitt (no, you won’t mistake Jake Peer for Brad Pitt) titled “A River Runs Through It.” In the case of Jake, it should be “A Camp Runs Through It” or more appropriately, “Camps Run Through It.”

I was introduced to Jake at OFA’s Forestry Camp (later Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, now Camp Canopy) by ODNR Forester Jeremy Scherf when Jake came there for his first year. Within a short time, I found out that the three of us had a unique camp connection. Jeremy told me that he knew Jake through Boy Scouts, and that Jake had been part of the troop that Jeremy served as a leader. Jake had attended the same Boy Scout camp in Coshocton County that Jeremy had attended when he was a scout.

As it turns out, that is the same camp that I grew up on, literally, as my father was Camp Ranger there. Jake and Jeremy both knew Ranger Perkins, and all three of us had received a great education through scouting and the camp.

Now the three of us were meeting at Forestry Camp, and another camp thread begins. At that time, I was the Camp Committee Chair, Jeremy was an instructor, and Jake was a camper. A few years later, Jake became an instructor at OFA’s Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, Jeremy was the Camp Committee Chair, and I was still involved as an instructor. Fast forward to the present, and I am now the OFA Executive Director in charge of Camp Canopy, Jeremy is a Camp Committee Co-Chair, and Jake is an integral member of the Camp Committee. Jake even met his future wife while they were both campers here several years ago.

Should I also mention that I was a Tree Farm Inspector, Jeremy was the National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, and now Jake is the Ohio Tree Farm Inspector of the Year?

As this river of camps runs through Jake’s life, I have seen the impact that both scouting and OFA’s forestry camps have had on the three of us. We all learned that when something needs done, you step up and do it. Jake stepped up and became a counselor at Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp. Jake stepped up and became an instructor. Jake stepped up and became part of the Camp Committee. Jake stepped up and became an Area Chair in the Tree Farm Inspection program. And Jake stepped up and made sure required inspections got completed when time was running low in this process.

Jake’s unwavering commitment to being involved, and stepping up and getting things done, has directly led him to becoming the 2019 Ohio Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.

Congratulations Jake!
The topic of properly designed and implemented timber harvesting and its associated benefits has been well documented in previous editions of *The Ohio Woodland Journal*. Hiring a consulting forester, partnering with professional loggers, and following best management practices (BMPs) are critical steps. But what other considerations should landowners make when planning a timber harvest, or perhaps even after securing the services of a consulting forester? There may be aspects of timber harvesting that aren’t initially apparent, and while a consulting forester should cover many of these aspects, it is good practice to be familiar with these items before commencing a timber harvest.

**Road Bonds**

In Ohio, many local townships may require road bonds for various uses and reasons. Heavy equipment, agricultural equipment, and logging equipment may all require a road bond. The amount of the bond may also vary based on the use and origination, but logging is often at the higher end of the list of required bonds. Bond amounts can also vary widely from county to county throughout Ohio. The purpose of the bond is to ensure that road quality will not be diminished while hauling equipment or timber from a logging job. If damage does occur, then there will be money available to correct any road deterioration issues.

Unfortunately, many logging bond requirements can be so costly that buyers must reduce what they can pay for standing timber or not buy the timber at all if the job specifics can’t justify the expense of the bond. This is particularly hurtful for smaller woodlots or woodlots with lower quality timber. To alleviate any possible repercussions on the landowner, a properly developed timber contract detailing how road bonds are to be handled is critical. The contract should detail who is responsible for road bond requirements and acquisition, which is usually the logger.

**Local Municipality Regulations and Restrictions**

There are many municipalities that may have specific ordinances and restrictions that pertain to timber harvest activities within city limits. In extreme cases, some local governments have even banned timber harvesting for economic gain altogether, forcing landowners to make a tough decision of choosing to actively manage their woodland or be lawful citizens. In these situations, landowners cannot legally cut timber from their property and sell them to a timber buyer. There may be, however, allowances for tree removal for utility or structure hazard mitigation.

Other municipalities may have a special approval process to allow harvesting in predetermined sensitive areas such as riparian corridors or areas that are deemed critical to watershed health. If your woodland contains timber located near streams or rivers, it would be wise to find out if preapproval is needed prior to harvesting. This process often requires a visit
from a local agency representative – such as the ODNR Division of Forestry or the county Soil and Water Conservation District – to identify potential problem areas and provide technical guidance to mitigate any issues. Having a sound timber harvest plan with proper BMPs will help get approval from the planning board to commence with harvesting.

Landowners can usually determine if their local government has any of these restrictions by contacting their local planning commission.

**Taxes & Timber Basis**

Taxes exist in the timber world just as everywhere else. Before spending all your timber proceeds, it is important to understand and anticipate the tax implications of a timber harvest. As with many topics related to taxes, it can become complicated. Tax rates for timber can vary based on the property’s tax classification, purpose of land ownership, use of the land, and activities on the land. But there are a few basic concepts to be aware of to position yourself for a more favorable tax situation.

Sales of standing timber held as an investment are taxed as capital gains. Capital gains are defined as either long-term or short-term gains. Long-term gains are advantageous as they are taxed at lower rates than ordinary income, whereas short-term capital gains are taxed as ordinary income tax rates. For a timber sale to qualify for long-term capital gains, you must hold the investment timber for longer than one year prior to the sale. Additionally, some logging companies will issue a 1099 tax form to the seller (landowner) to show money exchanged for the sale. This form is helpful for completing taxes each year. However, many logging companies do not issue 1099 forms. In these situations, the seller is expected to self-report the income when filing their taxes.

Finally, having a timber basis completed can often reduce taxes owed when selling timber. A timber basis is the amount of money invested in the timber itself (excluding the amount invested in the land on which the timber stands) when originally acquired. The basis can then be used to calculate the depletion allowance needed to determine the taxable gain when you sell timber on the stump, cut timber, or dispose of it involuntarily, such as by a casualty, theft, or condemnation. However, the benefit of a basis can vary widely depending on several factors such as length of ownership and if the property was originally gifted or purchased. A timber basis becomes more beneficial the more recent the property was acquired and if it was acquired by purchase. The hired services of a consulting forester are typically required to develop a timber basis.

**Insurance**

When seeking professional services for any project, it is always good practice to find a vendor with proper insurance coverage. The same applies to forestry work which includes consulting foresters, timber stand improvement vendors, and loggers. Most consulting foresters in Ohio carry general liability insurance and some may also carry professional (also known as errors and omissions) insurance. Most reputable logging companies also carry liability insurance that covers bodily injury and property damage. In situations where an Amish buyer may be involved who does not carry insurance, he may instead provide a Statement of Assistance from the Amish Church and a Certificate of Amish Worker Accident Aid Plan. Additionally, the timber harvest contract drafted by your consulting forester should cover insurance requirements as well as indemnification clauses.

**Various Woodland Certification Program Compliance**

Ohio forest owners are often eligible for and choose to participate in opportunities such as the Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) program and the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program to reduce property taxes. Other programs, such as the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), along with various federal incentives such as the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), provide owners with an opportunity to
join with organizations or agencies that promote conservation and sustainable management. Each have unique requirements and standards for ongoing compliance. Generally, sustainable management with proper silviculture as prescribed via a forest management plan or consultation from a professional forester is required.

Non-compliance, whether knowingly or unknowingly, may result in the loss of property tax reductions and carry with it the potential of recoupment of prior property tax savings if enrolled in OFTL or CAUV. Improper or ill-advised timber harvesting is one of the most common ways landowners find themselves in these unfortunate situations. To avoid this scenario, landowners should seek guidance from the relative program administration branches before agreeing to any timber harvesting on their property (the ODNR Division of Forestry for OFTL; the American Tree Farm System Inspectors for ATFS; and the Natural Resource Conservation Service for WRP and CRP).

Similarly, properties could also be enrolled in permanent conservation easements which may have been enacted under prior ownership. Current owners should take initiative to learn about easements tied to property deeds in perpetuity as many of them have restrictions on harvesting timber – violating these restrictions may carry significant penalties. Landowners should speak to the easement holder to learn about specifics of their easement. Easement holders include local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, or nonprofit conservancy organizations.

Aaron Kash is a former ODNR Division of Forestry Service Forester and is currently the owner and operator of Mission Forestry Consulting, LLC which offers professional forest management assistance throughout southwest Ohio. Aaron spends his time guiding forestland owners with management plans, timber sales, timber appraisals, and timber basis as well as spending time with his wife and two children in beautiful Lebanon, Ohio.

http://callb4ucut.com/ohio/expert-help/or call (877) 424-8288

Woodland owners have many great resources available to them when they are considering the environmental and economic benefits of their properties. Sometimes the hardest consideration is knowing where to start. The Call Before You Cut program offers a great introduction with helpful information that can help you consider options. You care for your woodlands and want to have the best outcomes for your family, so check the Call Before You Cut website or call the number for a packet. It may be the best use of your time as you consider the long-term care of your woods.

Fall wildfire season is around the corner. Check the ODNR and OEPA burning regulations at http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/burninglaws; and “Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”

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Leafing Out: Ohio’s Forests Are Home for Numerous Rare Plants

Ohio was mostly forested at the time of European settlement in the late 1700s. Fast forward to 2019 and forests are still the state’s most common natural habitat. Forests provide habitat for many species of plants, wildlife, and fungi as well as for us – recreation, clean air and water, and forest products. They also provide habitat for some of Ohio’s rarest plants, including a few federally listed species.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Natural Areas and Preserves oversees Ohio’s rare plant law and list. The state’s rare plant law was passed in 1978 with the first official list created in 1980. The state list is revised every two years and it contains lichens, mosses, flowering plants, and ferns. The current list has 604 species, of which 256 are endangered and 158 are threatened.

Continued next page
Why are these plants rare? There are several reasons that include habitat loss, invasive species (animals and plants), edge of range, disease, herbivory, poor reproduction, succession, and poaching. There are over 120 rare plants that occur in forest habitats, and many of them grow in our state parks, forests, wildlife areas, and nature preserves. Let’s look at some of these rare plants of Ohio’s forests.

One of the Department’s managed areas – Shawnee State Forest in Adams and Scioto counties – has an incredible number of rare plants. The state forest has 37 state listed plants, by far the highest concentration of state rare plants of any state forest. This high number is related to the forest’s location with several species reaching their northern limit. Three species can only be found in Shawnee State Forest, one being early stoneroot (*Collinsonia verticillata*). This species, found mostly in the Appalachian Mountains, occurs almost exclusively in one valley. Another rarity of the forest and regions is an early spring bloomer – golden-star lily (*Erythronium rostratum*) (on the cover). Like early stoneroot, it is almost limited to one valley within the Shawnee State Forest region. Golden-star lily is very similar to our common yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*) except the petals are not dotted.

Trilliums are some of the most recognized spring wildflowers in our forests and Ohio has eight different species. Large-flower trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) is the state’s official wildflower. There are...
are some very rare trilliums in Ohio – even one, nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), is presumed extirpated (no longer present) and is only known from a single specimen collected from Lake County in 1879. A state endangered trillium is the painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*) (previous page) that occurs in the Grand River Lowlands region in extreme northeastern Ohio. This beautiful trillium has white flowers with a red center. Another rare trillium, prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), occurs mostly in the greater Cincinnati area, a more common trillium of the Midwest prairie states that reaches its eastern limit in western Ohio. It looks very similar to the common toadshade trillium (*Trillium sessile*) except the sepals recurve down.

Some of our rare plants react favorably to fire. Prescribed fire which can stimulate oak and hickory regeneration can do the same for some state listed wildflowers, among them the woodland fern-leaved false foxglove (*Aureolaria pedicularia ssp. pedicularia*). This species is a hemi-parasite, which means it steals nutrients from other plants as well as produces energy through photosynthesis. Woodland fern-leaved false foxglove is only known from three sites in Ohio. One of the sites was discovered after a prescribed fire at the Wayne National Forest, where hundreds of plants

Continued on page 24
In 2012, John Pogacnik, Biologist with Lake County Metroparks, noticed some sickly-looking American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees and saplings at one of his parks. The next year, he noticed the same issue in six additional parks. This led him to contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry for help in determining what could be causing this dieback.

Over the next few years, Alan Iskra (now retired Forest Pathologist with the USDA Forest Service) and I made several visits to northeastern Ohio to meet with John and others to investigate. John showed us the interesting initial symptom of thickened tissue between two or more lateral leaf veins, which stands out as dark areas relative to healthy tissue, especially noticeable when looking upwards at backlit American beech leaves. This leaf “striping” symptom eventually progresses to leaves that are entirely thickened, leathery, and dark-appearing. In subsequent seasons, symptomatic trees will produce fewer leaves and buds and branch dieback occurs, typically moving from the lower branches upwards.

These early explorations were frustrating for us as there were no obvious causal organisms or evidence present on symptomatic trees, such as insects or mites or their feeding damage, fungal fruiting bodies, or discoloration of xylem tissue under the bark. We collected samples and sent them to various plant pathologists and entomologists, but no obvious cause was identified. All the while, this issue—dubbed “beech leaf disease” -- was appearing to spread across northeastern Ohio and symptomatic trees were identified in southwestern New York in 2015, northwestern Pennsylvania in 2016, and just across Lake Erie in Ontario, Canada in 2017. This problem was beginning to get the attention of many concerned landowners, agencies, and organizations. Some of those involved in monitoring and diagnostics in Ohio included Cleveland Metroparks, The Holden Arboretum, Ohio State University, USDA Forest Service’s Northern Research Station and State & Private Forestry, and Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Today, beech leaf disease is widespread and common in several northeastern Ohio counties, and in some areas, nearly every American beech tree is affected. Beech leaf disease appears to be causing mortality of understory saplings and small trees, while mortality of overstory canopy trees has not been observed on a large scale, though many mature beech trees show significant decline.

In late 2017, David McCann, Plant Pathologist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, was examining symptomatic beech leaves under a microscope and noticed what appeared to be nematodes (microscopic worms) within the leaf tissue. He sent some samples to nematologists with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Maryland, who confirmed the...
nematodes were a species in the genus *Litylenchus*, and that this was the first documentation of this genus in the western hemisphere. Interestingly, just after this discovery, an article was published in Japan describing a new species of nematode, which was causing leaf symptoms on Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata*). It has since been confirmed that the nematode described in that article (*Litylenchus crenatae*) is the same nematode species found on beech leaves here in Ohio.

Recent investigations have revealed that symptomatic leaves are nearly always accompanied by the presence of nematodes (up to several thousand per leaf), with none occurring on leaves that lack symptoms. While these findings seem to suggest that the nematodes are playing a role in causing the leaf symptoms of beech leaf disease, confirmation requires the inoculation of a healthy beech tree with nematodes to see if symptoms develop, confirming that they do indeed cause beech leaf disease. A team of scientists from the USDA Forest Service (Northern Research Station and State & Private Forestry), USDA Agricultural Research Service, The Holden Arboretum, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada set out to do just that. They are making progress in confirming a causal agent of beech leaf disease and should be publishing their findings soon.

In addition to identifying the causal agent of beech leaf disease, determining the distribution and symptom development of beech leaf disease are also important areas of work. The USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry is funding much of this work. To determine the distribution of beech leaf disease, Constance Hausman and Daniel Volk with the Cleveland Metroparks, in partnership with Kent State University, have developed a smartphone app called “Tree Health.” The app includes photos of beech leaf disease symptoms and allows
users to submit reports of American beech trees that have been evaluated for symptoms. Anyone can download the app (at this link: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tree-health/id1227301516?mt=8) and submit data, though it is currently only available for iPhone (an Android version should be available soon). The goal for 2019 is to get 10 reports from every county in Ohio. Even though many reports outside of northeastern Ohio will likely not include beech leaf disease symptoms, these “negative” reports are still useful data. To assess how beech leaf disease impacts individual trees, several organizations and agencies are establishing long-term monitoring plots, in which tree health metrics and beech leaf disease symptom severity will be tracked over time.

While American beech typically does not carry great timber value, it has great ecological value, due in large part to its hard mast crop of beech nuts and tendency to hollow out with age, providing food and important habitat for cavity-nesting birds and mammals. This tree species makes up a significant portion of Ohio’s forest composition and increasing awareness and reporting of possible beech leaf disease symptoms will help researchers and managers respond to this issue.

As work on identifying the causal organism, distribution, and impact of beech leaf disease progresses, the next step will be developing options to slow or stop its spread and protect trees from its damage. The ODNR Division of Forestry and other groups working on beech leaf disease will be sure to share the latest news on this important forest health issue as we learn more.

Citations/further reading:


As you know, the American Tree Farm System includes Standards of Sustainability. These key points measure our ability as a group to provide sustainable forests that meet our goals for Wood, Wildlife, Water, and Recreation. Each family tree farm property has their own plans and activity schedule to maintain sustainability, and together as a group we are certified by the American Tree Farm System.

Every year, the system is assessed by an independent third-party entity to ensure that participants meet the Standards of Sustainability. Each region of the country is visited annually, and next year, the great state of Ohio will be visited as a part of the annual assessment.

In early 2020, assessors from Pricewaterhouse Coopers will be selecting a small sample of tree farms from across the state. In late spring, they will visit our forests! A typical visit will take less than an hour, and the assessors will focus on our progress toward our management plans, the handling of recent harvests, and the impact of recent forestry activities on bodies of water on the properties. They will ask about pesticide use for control of invasive species, and check to see that any pesticides used are handled in accordance with label instructions.

A visit is an opportunity to show off your woods, and to get input from trained foresters who have extensive experience with the American Tree Farm System. To ensure our readiness, each tree farm property should have a written management plan that includes the points from the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability. If your management plan has not been written or reviewed since 2015, you can add the 2015-2020 addendum to your plan, available at https://www.treefarmsystem.org/atfsaddendum.

We are glad to help you as well – if you want one of our committee members to talk with you about the addendum, you can reach us at Ohiotreefarm@ohioforest.org. This assessment is a great opportunity to show our passion for our woods, and to get an unbiased view on the health of our system in Ohio.

Lower right photo by Rob Amberg

Cassie Ridenour
Ohio Tree Farm Committee Vice Chair
The 70th season of OFA’s Camp Canopy concluded on Friday, June 14. Except for a couple rain events, and a couple untimely power outages, it was another great week of Camp. Ninety-eight students attended this year, up in numbers again for the fourth consecutive year, and over 40 different resource professionals came throughout the week to instruct the great variety of classes.

The students were quite interested in learning, as evidenced by their attendance at voluntary study sessions during their recreation break periods. It paid off several, as over $8,000 in college scholarships were handed out to the week’s top performing campers at the closing ceremony. A big THANK YOU goes out to Hocking College, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Zane State College, and the Northeast Ohio Forestry Association for these scholarships.

Camp Canopy has always been supported by various divisions of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), especially the divisions of Forestry and Wildlife. This year, we were paid a visit on Tuesday by several new members of the ODNR administrative team, including ODNR Director Mary Mertz, Assistant Director Steve Gray, Division of Forestry Chief Dan Balser, Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker, and ODNR Youth Coordinator Alyssa Sarko. They spent some time observing classes and eating camp food with the students and instructors. I even saw a picture of Director Mertz using a Biltmore stick to measure a tree in class. No doubt they were impressed with what Camp Canopy is all about and will continue their strong support.

We were also fortunate to have a visit from Gordy Mouw from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Camp Canopy received a $5100 grant from SFI to help offset costs of printing Learning Manuals for the students and for renting buses to take them on field trips over three years. Gordy rode a bus with campers on a field trip to a furniture manufacturing company, attended an SFI State Implementation Committee meeting, and joined me for a visit to a local sawmill, before eating dinner with several of the camp committee members and instructors.

Camp Canopy also received a StepOutside grant from ODNR to help offset the cost of ammunition for students using the rifle range this year. OFA wants to sincerely thank all the contributors that make this great Camp a reality. This includes the volunteer Camp Committee members that give of their time and hearts to put this together, the many volunteer instructors that relay their knowledge and expertise to the campers, the camp staff that keeps the facilities running smoothly, parents that encourage and bring their kids, and the colleges and many local student sponsors that financially make this camp a possibility. Thank you!

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For more information about rare plants in Ohio and the current status listing, and to learn more about the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, visit http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/rareplants.

ODNR Field Botanist Andrew Gibson with a Bigleaf magnolia (Magnolia macrophylla). Photos by ODNR

Least grape-fern (Botrychium simplex)
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Members of the ACF are located throughout Ohio and can assist you with the care of and management of your woodland. Visit the ACF website at www.acf-foresters.org or call 888-540-tree.

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Ryan Waid, ACF 740-705-2102

Find tips, programs, and fact sheets on tree health and invasive species control at http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/ and http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/treehealth.
The Gwynne Conservation Area is part of the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio that hosts the annual Farm Science Review. The Gwynne contains 67 acres and is home to natural resource demonstrations, and during the review offers a wide variety of presentations targeting natural resource topics. These programs feature Ohio State and Purdue specialists that offer the latest in research based educational programming.

This year’s show runs September 17-18 from 8 am until 5 pm and September 19 from 8 am until 4 pm. The Gwynne Conservation Area hours are September 17-18 from 9 am to 3:30 pm and September 19 from 9 am to 3 pm. Presale tickets are available for $7 while tickets at the gate are $10 (children under 5 are free). Information on demonstrations and programs can be found at the Farm Science Review website http://fsr.osu.edu under visitors.

OSU’s Marne Titchenell is among the many speakers at the Gwynne Conservation Area, where you can learn about landscaping for wildlife and common frogs and snakes of Ohio from Marne, as well as other instructors demonstrating chainsaw maintenance and cutting techniques, exclusion fencing, trees and taxes, soil testing, timber selling tips, the future of oaks, alternative grazing, and other topics. Photo by OSU Extension.
Forestry and Conservation Featured at the 2019 Farm Science Review

Kathy Smith
Program Director, Forestry
Ohio State University Extension
**Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**

Wow! What a busy spring and early summer we have had! Our annual NEOFA banquet and fund-raising auction was held in late April. Nearly 100 members and guests attended. After a hearty meal, auctioneer Darryl McGuire and his sidekick, George Houck, coaxed over $3000 from us. We had great support from local businesses, plus donations from our members. Add in the chainsaw raffle and 50/50 drawing, and we had a very successful evening.

Most of our funds are used to sponsor campers to Camp Canopy. This year, we were able to sponsor 12 campers. In addition, NEOFA has provided a $500 scholarship to any camper that scores well on the test at the end of the week. We think this is a great investment in future foresters and natural resource professionals.

Our first summer twilight tour was hosted in May by Wil Fuhrman and Janice Cowell. The evening was cool and a little damp, but the program was well attended. After a delicious meal of barbeque ribs and chicken wings with all the sides, Wil led us on a walking tour of his woodlot. He and Janice have done some serious brush and invasive species control so they could plant timber trees. We also looked at a six-year-old timber harvest. Brush and invasive control are a major issue in the woodlot. It was an educational evening with good food and fellowship.

Soon after the twilight tour, we had a “Team NEOFA” work day at The Backwoods Resort property of Bob and Genia Friend. Thirteen members spent the day clearing trees, cutting brush, spraying roses, and moving logs for the Friends. They will be planting trees next spring in some of the areas. The “Team NEOFA” work crew is auctioned at the annual banquet for a day of work on a member’s property. The host provides lunch and refreshments for the group.

Mid-June was our second twilight tour at the farm of Jim and Karen Dillon near Lisbon. Jim is a man of innovation, ambition, and hard work. Since he retired from farming, he has harvested over 200 ash logs from his woodlot, milled them on his own sawmill, and built a post and beam barn. Not just a little barn, but a 32 x 72 foot two-story with a 12-foot lean-to on the long side. Posts and beams are 12 x 12 and put together with mortise and tenon joints. Hemlock siding on the barn is also cut and milled on the farm. Quite impressive. Of course, what would a NEOFA get together be without lots of good food. A potluck picnic proceeded the barn tour.

Monthly meetings will resume in September. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at Mill Creek MetroParks Farm in Canfield at 7 p.m. Watch our Facebook page for more information. Contact Mitch Cattrell at (330) 429-9734 or mitchcattrell2@aol.com. Everyone is welcome.

**East Central Ohio Forestry Association**

The principle focus for the East Central Ohio Forestry Association (ECOFA) in the spring of the year is to assist young people who want to attend the week-long, natural resource learning experience at OFA’s Camp Canopy. We believe that the future of caring for forests, wetlands, and other natural resources lies with the education of our youth. Camp Canopy is a great place for them to learn and be inspired to care about the natural world.

To assist those who want to attend Camp Canopy, but cannot afford the tuition, ECOFA annually hosts a banquet and auction to raise funds. This year we generated $3770 which helped five campers, with some left over for next year. Camp Canopy had almost 100 young people attend the camp this year!

In addition, another fund was created as a memorial to one of our members who recently passed away. This generated an additional $2425—enough to send eight more to camp.

At Camp Canopy, young people learn about careers in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, and other natural resource professions. Colleges in Ohio offered over $8000 in scholarships for campers to pursue one of these fields of study.

The Top Ten Campers for 2019 were recognized for their hard work at Camp Canopy. Photo courtesy of OFA
Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Hello all!

We are gearing up for our annual photo contest. We take member submissions of trail camera and hand-held camera photos. We will also be holding our member auction to raise money for our scholarship fund for Camp Canopy, the Ohio Forestry Association Camp held annually at FFA Camp Muskingum.

We toured a Christmas tree farm for our monthly meeting in June. In July, we had a program on feeding our feathered friends in the backyard. August will be our planning meeting for next year, and September is an Ohio State Park activities presentation. October takes us to a member’s farm for a tour of woodland improvement and other management practices.

All are welcome to our monthly meetings held at OSU South Center on Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio. The latest news from Southern Ohio Forestland Association can be found at www.ohiosofa.org.

Fern Beathard
Secretary, SOFA

Northwest Ohio Woodland Association

The NWOWA meets four times a year, and the third meeting of the year was Saturday, July 20 at the Siefker Sawmill northwest of Elida, Ohio. The meeting included the usual secretary, treasurer, and other committee reports along with updates from the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the state service foresters.

The program was about sawmill operations presented by Siefker Sawmill. Seth Siefker gave us a tour of the facility. The sawmill is a full-service operation with their own timber buyers and a logging crew. They also offer planning and kiln services, and sell mulch and lumber to residential, commercial, and farm operations.

One surprise opportunity was a joint gathering with the Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group on May 4. Several MRWIG members from eastern Ohio were going to travel to northwestern Ohio to see Gall Woods and Kitty Todd Park in the Oak Openings Region. Unfortunately, the folks from MRWIG couldn’t make it. However, a half a dozen members of NWOWA did visit Kitty Dodd Park, a most interesting Oak Openings woodland area.

The last meeting of the year will feature the program Managing Your Woods on October 12, from 9:30 am to noon at the Don Ruffing Farm; 3422 State Route 4; Bellevue. We will be discussing management plans, the services of a forester and good loggers, and review management practices. Our Annual Meeting is in January 2020 at the ODNR Division of Forestry Office at 952 Lima Ave, Findlay, when we will roll out our 2020 calendar.

For more details on the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association and future meetings contact Keshia Krout at (419) 424-5004.

The Ohio Walnut Council held their spring field day April 27 at Spring Hill Woodlands in Caldwell, Ohio. It was a big day and included coffee, donuts, lunch and a presentation at the historic Ball – Caldwell Homestead followed by tours of young and mature walnut stands. Bob Ball, who hosted the tour, is a Missouri and Ohio tree farmer who manages his family forests of over 300 acres as a Certified Tree Farm with a special interest in black walnut trees. He discussed site selection, pruning, and grading of walnut trees.

The Ohio Walnut Council meets twice annually. Their fall field day will be held October 12 at Bill Hammitt’s farm in southwest Ohio. The address is 8626 New Haven Rd, Harrison, about 20 miles northwest of Cincinnati. For more information, contact Bill at hammittw@clemson.edu.
Sounds Around

Our ears are constantly being bombarded with sound - so much so that we automatically “tune out” a lot of it. This activity helps children “tune in” to the sounds of their environment and helps them to explore the sounds of nature.

Nature provides us with many unforgettable sounds. Breezes whistling through the leaves, birds singing early in the morning, and streams gurgling over rocks are just some of the sounds children recognize.

Sound helps animals in a number of ways. Explain to children that having ears on opposite sides of our heads enables us (and other animals) to judge the location a sound comes from. Find a safe, comfortable outdoor space where children can sit quietly. Then have them close their eyes and listen to the sounds around them for several minutes.

- Provide pencils, crayons, and paper, and ask children to make a “sound map.” They can put an X in the middle of a page to represent themselves, and then use pictures or words to show the locations of the sounds around them. Encourage them to use lines to show directions and distances.

- When reviewing the sound map, ask children: Which sounds did you like most? Least? What else did you hear? What might have caused the sounds you heard?

- Ask children to name some animals that are active at night. Do they have any special adaptations for seeing and hearing in the dark? For example, foxes have large ears for picking up small sounds. Have children mimic fox ears by cutting off the bottoms of paper cups and gently fitting the cups over their ears (see example below). How does this change what you hear? Can you add any new sounds to your map after listening with these new ears?

Make-Your-Own Animal Ears

Make Learning Fun!

For more activity ideas and materials:
- Attend a PLT workshop: www.plt.org/ohio
- Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator: Sue Wintering, plt@dnr.state.oh.us, 614-265-6657
- Visit shop.plt.org

www.plt.org

Literature Connection

Try using your hearing with The Listening Walk, by Paul Showers. In this book, a young girl takes a quiet walk with her father and identifies the different sounds they hear. Take your own walk and give it a try. You’ll be surprised!

Things have changed quite a lot since the first Paul Bunyan Show was held in McArthur, Ohio in 1957 in the forest products industry, the Ohio Forestry Association, and the Paul Bunyan Show itself. Shown to the right is the program cover from the 1957 event. You can view and read the entire 1957 Paul Bunyan Show program and check up on this year’s show schedule and vendors on the “Paul Bunyan Show” page under the “Events” tab at www.ohioforest.org.

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If you would like to assist in placing the Journal in your county schools or need additional information, please contact: Gayla Fleming, Ohio Tree Farm Committee, 507 Main St., Suite 200, Zanesville, Ohio 43701 • 888-388-7337 • Gayla@OhioForest.org

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