National Outstanding

Tree Farmers of the Year
Randy and Koral Clum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price per 1000</th>
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<td>Black Chokeberry</td>
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On the Cover
Ohio’s Randy and Koral Clum, named the 2018 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System. The Clums are shown at their Hepatica Falls Tree Farm in Harrison County, where they have hosted numerous tours to highlight the environmental and economic importance of their working family forest. Ohio’s only other previous National Outstanding Tree Farmers were John and Mary Schmidt, recognized in 1989. Photo by ODNR
Winter is Here!

Winter is here! As of this writing we haven’t had much snow (that changed!) in most parts of Ohio, though Paul Mechling says they generally have more snow up there, with their average annual snowfall of 130 inches. Regardless of where it is at, snow provides opportunities for recreation. Recreation is the fourth part of the Tree Farm Program. There are a lot of opportunities for fun outside in the winter time: hiking, snow shoeing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hunting, and much more. Forest management can increase the variety of wildlife that you have, and logging roads used in timber harvests may be maintained for hiking and other activities. In order to maximize the use of your woodland, make sure you include recreation as a part of your management plan.

Our woodland management work at the farm has slowed for the winter. We couldn’t finish foliar spraying because we ran out of warm weather. We’ve been to the farm several times since it turned cold. We closed the house down and drained water pipes in November. Then in December, I went down for a hardwood pruning workshop put on by the Noble County Soil and Water Conservation District. Noble County Tree Farmer and Ohio Walnut Council chapter member Bob Ball led the event focused on black walnut. This was a very helpful workshop and provided much information on planting, caring for, and pruning trees.

En route back home to Findlay, I was able to stop at the farm, and things were fine. Our walnut planting is in good shape. The tractor started, and I ran it a bit to keep the battery charged. I also made sure the stock tank was draining. It is great to be out in the woods!

Our Tree Farm Committee has been busy as well. Vice Chair Cassie Ridenour is working with Tree Farm Inspectors across Ohio to complete our database project. We began this project in 2015. Recently, the American Forest Foundation used a consulting company to help several states make one last effort to contact those hard-to-reach tree farmers. They recommended that one group of our folks should be pioneered, one group should be dropped, and they had one group of folks that they couldn’t find, so we are making one last attempt to locate them. Those we can’t find will be dropped from our roster. If you are one of these folks and want to remain an Ohio Certified Tree Farmer, please contact Gayla at the OFA office at (888) 388-7337.

Cassie has also added four new committee members in her role as nominating committee chair: John Kinne, Dan Sprutte, Allen Frederick, and Linda Sims. Bob Mulligan has been officially added to the committee via his role as the ODNR Division of Forestry Pollution Abatement Coordinator. Welcome to all these new folks!

Adam Beichler, former Area 2 Chair for Tree Farm Inspections, has stepped down. Sorry to lose Adam’s experience. Thank you for all you have done.

Our Ohio Tree Farm Committee Program Administrator Joe Puperi is working on an Inspectors Guide and our By-Laws Chair Mike Besonen is working on a Tree Farm Committee Guide. The Committee is also working to maintain and strengthen our relationships with the Regional Woodland Interest Groups throughout Ohio.
Paul and Joanne Mechling, Snowy Oak Tree Farm, have been selected as Ohio’s 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year! Our Tree Farmer of the Year Tour has been set for Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend. There are a lot of things to see up there in Ashtabula County, so why not make a long weekend of it?

We are making plans to attend the American Tree Farm System’s National Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in February 2019 to support our 2018 Outstanding National Tree Farmers Randy and Koral Clum as they are recognized. We also hope to learn more about some changes that are coming to the American Tree Farm System Program.

We are also preparing to participate in the Ohio Forestry Association (OFA) Annual Meeting March 6-7. We hold a silent auction at this meeting and I would like to invite you to contribute an item for it. Proceeds are used to bolster the programs of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee. If you would like to donate something and are coming early to the meeting, you may bring it then. Otherwise, contact Gayla at the OFA office at (888) 388-7337.

OFA is planning to add several speakers that will focus on woodland owners’ subjects. All Certified Tree Farmers and Regional Woodland Interest Group members are invited to participate. Registration details are on page 26.

Thank you for your support of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and for all you do for woodlands here in Ohio! ♦
Sad News.

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, Ohio’s forestry community lost a dear friend, mentor, soldier, and fellow forester – Tom Berger, age 69, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family.

Tom had been battling Lewy Body Dementia.

Tom served in the Marine Corp Reserves and was retired from the ODNR Division of Forestry. He was a member of the Ohio Tree Farm System, not only as a leader, but also caring for his family’s 91-acre Certified Tree Farm in Perry County. In the previous issue of this magazine (The Ohio Woodland Journal, Fall 2018), I was honored to mention that Tom had
been inducted into the ODNR Division of Forestry’s Forest of Honor at Zaleski State Forest on October 11. That was a great day spent with him – seeing his smile and hearing him chuckle are memories of that day that I will always treasure.

Well-respected by his peers and the public he served, Tom was known for his thoughtfulness, passion for his profession, and innovative leadership. He loved sharing his time with others, whether at their woodland property, writing for this magazine, or a quiet moment spent catching up about hunting trips or family news.

In memory of Tom and at the request of his family to plant a tree to honor Tom’s love of forestry, a bur oak tree has been planted at the Division of Forestry’s central office headquarters in Columbus.◆
Sometimes when trying to actively manage a sustainable forest, you identify a need for growth of one species or one tree over another. This is true on our land, where we have been approved for participation in the Oak EQIP program offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For this program, we will do a mid-story thinning cut, allowing light to reach the forest floor. This will allow our small oaks to grow, unencumbered by trees which grow more quickly and more quickly fill the canopy. We are thinking about the long term for our forest, and the oak-hickory forest is an important forest type for our area.

As we in the Ohio Tree Farm Committee try to actively manage a sustainable program, we are faced with a similar quandary. Our Ohio Tree Farm Program is certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), an international, independent third-party certification process. Therefore, we must ensure for the sustainability of our certification that our members are meeting certification requirements – that is, working from a forest management plan that meets the national Tree Farm Standards of Sustainability.

We have been working for four years to confirm that all our certified tree farm members are actively managing their woods according to a plan. Sadly, there are many certified tree farmers who have not responded to our repeated efforts to contact them. To ensure that we meet our national certification standards, we have recently removed 107 tree farms from certified status, and another 300-400 will be removed by the time you read this article. These are tree farms for which we have not heard from since 2015.

We need to make these changes for the overall health of the program. Certified Tree Farmers who market woodland products get recognition for certification. We are trying to grow the program in both volume and recognition, which requires active management by all participants.

**Woodland Interest Groups in Ohio**

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

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

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

**Muskiongum River Woodland Interest Group**
Jim Stafford
2769 Dresden Rd.
Zanesville, OH 43701-1703
(740) 453-4400
jim72staff@gmail.com
www.mrwig.org

**Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**
James Elze
2145 Merle Road
Salem, Ohio 44460
(330) 337-8974
neoaf1972@gmail.com

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

**Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group**
Perry Brannan
ODNR Division of Forestry
360 E. State St.
Athens, Ohio 45701
(740) 594-9915
perry.brannan@dnr.state.oh.us
seowig.weebly.com

**Southern Ohio Forestland Association**
Jim Meacham
4332 St. Rt. 776
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 998-2073
jmeach42@gmail.com
OhioSOFA.org

**Southwest Ohio Woodland Owners Association**
Pat Migliozzi
ODNR Division of Forestry
8570 East State Route 73
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
(513) 897-1082
pat.migliozzi@dnr.state.oh.us
If you are removed from Certified Tree Farm status, this may be your last issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal*. If you believe you have been removed in error, please contact us at ohiotreefarm@ohioforest.org. If you are no longer managing a woodland, but want to continue receiving *The Ohio Woodland Journal*, subscription information is on page 5.

Thinning the forest is difficult. In 2005, we did a commercial thinning on our pine plantation – pines my grandfather planted in a program with the state in the late 1960s. The trees at the time of the thinning averaged about 8 inches in diameter. The plantation was so dense it was always dark. Nonetheless, these were the trees I had, and I hesitated to cut and disrupt the forest. Ultimately, thinning seemed the right direction to go to let the forest grow and be healthy. As a result of the thinning to provide more space and available sunlight, the size of the pines now ranges from 8 to 22 inches in diameter! Plus, we have a beautiful understory now of cherry, maple, poplar, and oak.

Thinning the forest is difficult – watching regrowth is amazing. ◆

*Cassie Ridenour is actively involved with the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, and currently serves as Vice Chair. She has been managing the 239 acres she bought from her grandparents for 25 years.*
Whispering Ridge Tree Farm, Monroe County

Photos courtesy of ODNR
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For information on joining the OFA or to find a Master Logger visit www.ohioforest.org

Help share your love of the woods! See page 34 for school and public library sponsorships.

Since 1948, the members of the Association of Consulting Foresters of America (ACF) have worked with respect and cooperation with woodland owners to keep their land healthy, while also providing for wildlife, recreation, and the growth and harvesting of quality trees.

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.

Joel Berry, ACF 330-567-3902
James Chattin, ACF 740-357-7506
Paul Helser, ACF 740-501-3469
William Sistrunk, ACF 740-401-0866
Stanley Swierz, ACF 614-262-1501
Scott Costello, ACF 937-284-2544
Adam Beichler, ACF 330-749-4040
Richard Cappell, ACF 937-408-5715
Koral & Randy Clum, ACF 330-364-2386
Walter Saaranen, ACF 937-393-4032
James Stafford, ACF 740-453-4400
Jed Coldwell, ACF 330-223-2364
Gary Vollrath, ACF 740-286-4884
Ryan Waid, ACF 740-705-2102
Friends,

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, works to provide hands-on support for America’s more than 20 million family woodland owners, giving them the tools they need to manage healthy and sustainable woodlands. ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in the United States. Clean air, clean water, habitat for wildlife, wood for sustainable building, and nature for hiking, hunting, and fishing all come from family woodlands.

Each year, the American Tree Farm System recognizes four Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers out of the 73,000 Tree Farmers nationwide. In 2018, ATFS was proud to recognize the regional awardees: Russell Black from Maine; Jon and Carol Gould from Florida; Dan Kingsbury from Washington, and Randy and Koral Clum from Ohio.

The National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year is selected annually from the regional awardees by the ATFS to recognize private landowners who have done an exceptional job of woodland management on their property and are actively promoting sustainable forestry.

Individuals considered for the award must demonstrate exceptional efforts to preserve and enhance their woodlands, which conserves and enhances clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and the wood for homes and paper products that come from their land, all of which are exemplified on the ATFS sign.

I am pleased to announce that Randy and Koral Clum from Ohio were selected the 2018 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They are the second Ohioans to be selected for this recognition since John V. and Mary Schmidt were selected for this prestigious award 29 years ago in 1989. The Clums have been sustainably managing Hepatica Falls Tree Farm, their 152-acre woodland in southwestern Harrison County, since they purchased the property in 1993.

Over the past 25 years, Hepatica Falls Tree Farm has seen five timber harvests. However, thanks to wise stewardship, the land today holds larger trees and has more volume growing than when the couple bought it in 1993. The property is home to a long list of trees and wildlife, as well as interesting rock formations, creeks, waterfalls, and a trail system. Their best management practices and their love of the land have ensured erosion control near Stillwater Creek and they have protected and improved habitat for many wildlife species, including bobcat, coyote, river otter, deer, spring peepers, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, wood duck, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, pileated woodpecker, woodcock, barred owl, kingfisher, wren, towhee, scarlet tanager, goldfinch, hummingbird, and Louisiana water thrush.

Please reach out and congratulate Randy and Koral.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Mills
Chair
Ohio Tree Farm Committee
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Leafing Out – Oriental Bittersweet

Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) is a perennial vine native to China and Japan, thought to be introduced to the United States in the mid to late 1800s. As with most other non-native invasive plants, Oriental bittersweet was cultivated (and unfortunately, still is by many people) for ornamental purposes and has since naturalized across most of the eastern United States. It is now commonly found in fencerows, rights-of-way, yards, and most alarmingly, unmanaged woodlands.

This vine invades established woodlands where it can – and in a matter of a few years – overtop saw timber-sized hardwood trees. Those familiar with grapevine infestations can attest to how wild grapevines hinder the productivity of a woodland and exacerbate

Continued next page
storm and ice damage in trees; Oriental bittersweet can cause the very same issues. However, unlike a grapevine, Oriental bittersweet tolerates deep shade, will frequently girdle trees due to its twining habit, and can under the right circumstances blanket an entire forest with smothering vegetation. These tendencies have earned it the nickname “Kudzu of the North,” and rightfully so. There are several properties in eastern Ohio where this noxious weed has blanketed dozens of acres of forest, effectively destroying any timber value these areas once had.

Identification of Oriental bittersweet is relatively simple, although it is confused with American bittersweet (Celastrus scandens), an uncommon relative native to eastern North America. The primary distinction between the two species is the location and color of the fruit. Oriental bittersweet will contain clusters of reddish-orange fruit in a yellow capsule at leaf axils (potentially anywhere on the vine), while American bittersweet will only contain reddish-orange fruit in a reddish-orange capsule at the ends of vines. Oriental bittersweet generally also has a relatively round leaf, a “warty” vine, and a very aggressive climbing habit. In the vast majority of instances, the variety of bittersweet encountered in Ohio’s woodlands is the Oriental variety. It is important to note that American bittersweet and Oriental bittersweet can hybridize, complicating identification during control efforts in areas where both species are present.

Control options for Oriental bittersweet are currently limited to chemical and mechanical control, with the latter being nearly impossible due to the extensive root system and prolific seed produced by the plant. The most effective chemical controls combine a multi-year treatment employing a foliar and cut-stump application of the appropriate herbicide. Anecdotally, herbicides containing the active ingredient triclophyr that are mixed in a carrier oil (Garlon® 4 Ultra Herbicide, Triclophyr 4 Herbicide, Remedy Ultra, etc.) appear to cause greater mortality in Oriental bittersweet when used in a cut-stump application than herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate (Roundup, Accord® XRT II Herbicide, etc.). New sprouts will likely be encountered after the first herbicide application,
and either originate from surviving root systems or seed. As with any herbicide, wear appropriate protective clothing and eye protection, follow label instructions for mixing and application, and call your local extension agent or service forester for further technical assistance.

While Oriental bittersweet is not necessarily a newcomer to Ohio, it is quickly becoming one of the biggest forest pests in the region. This fact has been recently reinforced by its addition to a list of 38 plants now illegal to sell in the state. While we can’t stop birds from eating the fruit and spreading this unwanted vine to new areas, we can still do our part by controlling

Oriental bittersweet in our woodlots and by not buying wreaths or floral arrangements with Oriental bittersweet fruit in them.◆

Service Forester Adam Komar provides information and assistance on forest management to woodland owners in Coshocton, Muskingum, Noble, and Monroe counties. His office is at Blue Rock State Forest and he can be contacted at (740) 303-4427 ext. 2.

For a listing of the plants now illegal to sell in Ohio due to their invasive behavior, check the Ohio Department of Agriculture website at https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/invasive-plants; and more information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at http://ohiodnr.gov/invasiveplants.
Ohio’s Clums are the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year!

Koral and Randy Clum are both, both the best at who they are and the best at what they do: as people, as a couple, as family, as friends, as foresters, as mentors, and as woodland owners. Ohio has in the Clums outstanding individuals and leaders in the forestry profession, as well as landowners who selflessly share the passion and pride of caring for the woods they have been blessed to own.

For these reasons, the American Tree Farm System has selected Koral and Randy as the 2018 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year!

Not only do the Clums have a beautiful 152-acre forested property in Harrison County—teeming with waterfalls, rock outcroppings, flowers, and wildlife—but the couple enjoys it as a retreat, a recreational experience, and as a learning lab. For 25 years, their property has been an experiment in forest practices to better the woods, where they can bring others to learn as well. They also take their experiences on the road to share with clients and fellow woodland owners at numerous classes and field days throughout the state.

Their Hepatica Falls Tree Farm is a showcase, where they freely share with others their enjoyment of wood, water, wildlife, and recreation, and how sustainable stewardship practices can improve these benefits. Hepatica is the purple spring flower common on their property.

If you haven’t been to Hepatica Falls to visit, you may well have attended a field day or workshop where one or both Clums shared their wisdom, or, had a visit from a Clum when they were state service foresters—or more likely in their current occupation as owners.

“It was very eye-opening to own land after giving advice to so many other landowners. It’s like having your own kid—now you know!”

Koral Clum

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director and Division of Forestry Chief Robert Boyles (now retired) with Koral and Randy Clum at a reception in the Clum’s honor held in December 2018 at ODNR headquarters in Columbus. The Clums were presented with a congratulatory proclamation from Ohio Governor John Kasich and a Director’s Conservation Award from ODNR Director Jim Zehringer.
Ohio’s Clums are the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year!

Greg Smith, Editor
ODNR Division of Forestry

Hepatica Falls Tree Farm is the place where their woodland knowledge and appreciation is most enjoyed, where they practice what they preach, and where they have become better foresters—all of which has influenced and inspired many others.

◆

Watch “2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year: Randy and Koral Clum” on Vimeo:


Randy Clum

“Don’t be in a hurry. If in doubt about cutting that tree, leave it. It will be there later!”

Koral and Randy are both very personable, which helps convince others to carry out the good forest practices they promote. They care about the landowner first, the future of their forest resources, and that the landowner’s goals are met. The Clum’s

of Clum Forestry Consultants. Sharing with clients and other fellow landowners is at the core of who they are as people and as professionals.

Division of Forestry Chief Robert Boyles (now retired) honoring in December 2018 at ODNR headquarters in a proclamation from Ohio Governor John Kasich and a Zehringer and Boyles. Photo courtesy of ODNR
Specializing in building with natural materials is Christopher Fox’s passion. Knowing the forest, assessing the trees, felling and milling them, and bringing intriguing structures to fruition through the use of traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery is what he’s been doing for nearly two decades.

Growing up a country-loving boy in southern Ohio, Chris grew very fond of nature and all its splendor. He attended Ohio University where he studied environmental biology. From there, he attained his master’s degree in industrial engineering from Cleveland State University. Fusing his academic background and love for nature, he began his own building company within a couple years of graduation; its focus – building with natural materials, specifically, live edge character timbers.

Today, Mr. Fox, owner of Fox Natural Building Company, spends his time between his southeastern Ohio farm, where he manages 40 acres of woods, and other privately-owned woodlands where he selectively cuts for building projects and other value-added goods. Trees are cut into timbers and slabs with a Wood-Mizer bandsaw, as well as a 72-inch wide Tru-Cut bandsaw which allows him to saw wider slabs, curved timbers, and forks that may be used to take the place of posts and knee-braces in a timber frame.
Fox enjoys the freeform style of building that comes with using forked and curved timbers. “I find building more rewarding working with the natural shapes of the tree,” he says. When scoping out a woodlot, he looks for trees that have been damaged or will allow for the more vigorous growth of a neighbor. If those trees are anything but straight, all the better. This style of building is what makes Fox’s work unique.

In early 2017, Fox teamed up with Stonewall Farms in Amesville, Ohio, to tackle the dying ash trees on the property that resulted from the feeding of the emerald ash borer. Working adamantly since, he's been felling, milling, and stacking as much of the dying ash as possible. The goal of this venture has been to build up an impressive inventory of a species whose fate is uncertain.

In partnership with Stonewall Farms (the 2013 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year), Fox has hopes of supplying both craftsmen and builders alike with locally, sustainably harvested material, most specifically, ash. As a result of this collaboration, Liv’en on the Edg was born as a means to reach a market for larger timbers, slabs, and furniture. Though still in the juvenile stages of growth, Liv’en on the Edg is heading towards taking low-impact, sustainable forestry to the next level. More on this can be seen on
Fox also plans to continue building unique timber frames. His latest frame, shown in process in the photos, displays both square-cut and live edge timbers, as well as upside down forks and curved knee braces and struts. With this particular frame, he allowed the trees at hand to bring life to this freestyle masterpiece. Many of his smaller productions, such as artsy live edge shelves and racks, can be found on the web at www.haulinhooffarmstore.etsy.com.

A business run by him and his wife, Haulin’ Hoof Farm Store’s focus is to utilize many of the smaller pieces that are remnants of the 20-30 ft. timbers he saws. The goal here is to select out and save the pieces that have an abundance of character and create something beautiful with them, whether it be a shelf or something as small as a piece of jewelry.

At the end of the day, the mixed deciduous hardwood forests are to thank for so much of what Fox has achieved over the years. His workmanship reflects the care and great reverence he holds for the woods. The hope is for each of his handcrafted frames to be appreciated by not just the initial dwellers, but that multiple generations to come will be embodied by his labor of love…for the trees and all they provide.

Christopher Fox can be reached at his home in New Marshfield, Ohio at (740) 664-2126, or emailed at buildgreen@earthlink.net. Learn more at https://www.foxnaturalbuilding.com.

LaVelle’s Stonewall Farm and Coonskin Sugar Bush was the 2013 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year, as featured in the Winter 2013 issue of The Ohio Woodland Journal.
Chris on the Wood-Mizer sawmill.

A non-traditional, traditional mortise and tenon timber frame utilizing curved and forked members. Large, live edge rafters and decking make up the curved roof system.

Chris drilling holes in the rafters to lag to the curved top plate.

More on page 24
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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: www.plt.org/ohio
- Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator:
  Sue Wintering, plt@dnr.state.oh.us, 614-265-6657
- Visit shop.plt.org

©Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. Adapted from Activity 45: Web of Life from Project Learning Tree’s PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.
What is the Ohio Forestry

Unknown to some folks, the Ohio Forestry Association has two distinct sides to its organization. Most of the time the articles in this column are centered around the happenings of the Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. (OFA), the trade association side of the organization. This side of the association is geared towards membership activities and advocacy that works directly to support the forest products industry in Ohio and to the benefit of the members of OFA. There is, however, another side; the Ohio Forestry Association Foundation (OFA Foundation).

The Ohio Forestry Association Foundation is the charitable contributions, 501(c)(3), side of the organization and has focused most of its energy towards educational endeavors. Some of the activities housed under the OFA Foundation umbrella include Camp Canopy, the Ohio Tree Farm System, the E. B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Lumbermen’s Outing.

The OFA Foundation was born in 2008 when the Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. Board of Directors decided to split the trade association part of the organization off as a 501(c)(6) organization and rename the charitable organization side as the Ohio Forestry Association Foundation.

Both organizational sides of the Ohio Forestry Association have boards of directors and their day-to-day operations are both overseen by the association’s Executive Director and two staff personnel.

Camp Canopy is one of the key educational components of the OFA Foundation. Camp has been around since 1950 and has seen approximately 10,000 high school-age students become introduced to the outdoors and educated in all things related to forestry and wildlife.
Association Foundation?

The Ohio Tree Farm Program is another key area housed under the scope of the OFA Foundation. As one of the program’s two main sponsors—the ODNR Division of Forestry being the other—the OFA Foundation handles the financial matters for the Ohio Tree Farm Program, its web-based information, and other communications functions.

The E. B. Miller Memorial Scholarship program was started with a gift made in honor of E. Burns Miller, a former sawmill owner and tireless supporter of the forest products industry in Ohio. As this fund grew, it was invested, and the proceeds of that investment are used each year to provide financial assistance to one or more college students enrolled in a natural resources field of study.

In the past, the OFA Foundation has supported other educational opportunities, such as helping fund a portable sawmill for a high school natural resource class; sponsoring and setting up an educational display at the Art of Our Appalachian Woods art exhibit; and funding the printing and distribution of Ohio Invasive Species calendars.

If you would like to support the Ohio Forestry Association Foundation, or one of its specific activities like the E. B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund, Camp Canopy, or the Lumbermen’s Outing, you can by making a tax-deductible donation by contacting us at (888) 388-7337, or by donating on-line at www.ohioforest.org/page/Foundation.

Continued on page 28.
Another activity supported by the **OFA Foundation is the Lumbermen’s Outing.** This is a golf outing, clay shoot, and benefit auction fundraising event held each year in east-central Ohio, and supported tremendously by the forest products industry in that area. The proceeds from this event go to benefit someone in need that is part of, or connected to, the forest products industry. In just the past two years, $75,000 was raised and used to assist four separate families that were in need due to catastrophic injury, illness, or death. The event held this past September was extra special because two individuals that had received assistance from this outing came and thanked the group at the steak dinner held at the end of a fun-filled day of helping others.
Help for Your Woods Any Time

By Perry Brannan, ODNR Service Forester

The wooded areas on almost any property could provide better wildlife habitat and grow better timber with just a little help at the right time. Every season brings opportunities to improve your woodland.

Some tasks can be done only at certain times. Bare-root seedlings must be planted in the dormant season. Foliar herbicides work only after full leaf development in the spring and before autumn color sets in. Basal-bark treatments cannot be done with snow or ice around the trees. Chainsaw work is easier in the winter.

If you plan to make the most of each season, you might be amazed at how much you can benefit your woods in just one year. This calendar proposes examples to help you make the most of your time in the woods.

These suggestions are intended mainly for southeast Ohio. In northern Ohio, the best times might be a few weeks earlier in the autumn, or a month later in the spring. Check your written forest management plan, and ask your ODNR service forester or your favorite local Tree Farm Inspector for more specific ideas.

**January:** Thin around desirable trees to enhance wildlife habitat and timber growth, and to produce firewood. Trees cut now can give you seasoned firewood for next winter.

**February:** Apply basal-bark herbicide to control multiflora rose. Ailanthus and other woody invasive species can be controlled on nice, sunny days in late winter. It’s easier to see through those thickets, and you can wear heavy clothes to protect yourself from thorns.

**March:** Plant native tree seedlings. Mark them with wire flags, or protect them with tree shelters.

**April:** Pull garlic mustard to allow for the survival of native wildflowers and beneficial fungi.

**May:** Double-girdle cull trees to create dens and snags for wildlife and to increase the growth of desirable trees nearby.

**June:** Treat Oriental (Asian) bittersweet and other non-native, invasive species. Cut stump, foliar, and basal-bark treatments all work during June to September, unless plants are drought stressed. Basal-bark applications work best below 85° F.

**July:** Apply grass-specific herbicide on Japanese stiltgrass to save native plants that provide food for wildlife.

**August:** Apply basal-bark herbicide to control paulownia and ailanthus taller than shoulder height. Apply foliar herbicide to non-native, invasive plants shorter than shoulder height. This will improve the growth of native trees that provide timber and wildlife habitat.

**September:** Mow, spray, and/or till to kill grass in spots where trees can be planted next spring. Order tree seedlings in the fall before the nurseries sell out of the species you need.

**October:** Apply foliar herbicide to control bush honeysuckle. After the native plants have dropped their leaves, you have a few weeks when the bush honeysuckle is still green. Properly mixed foliar herbicides will not harm your native trees.

**November:** Fell patches of sassafras, basswood, aspen, or black locust. They will re-sprout and provide great cover for deer, turkeys, rabbits, grouse, and songbirds.

**December:** Apply foliar herbicide on Japanese honeysuckle where it is tangled all over your raspberry, blackberry, sumac, dogwood, and other flowering shrubs. This can work wonders on a warm day in December after the native plants have dropped their leaves but the Japanese honeysuckle is still green.
**Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association**

Hello again from Northeast Ohio. We hope you all had a great Holiday Season and we wish you all the best in the upcoming year.

Mother Nature had other thoughts for our November monthly meeting. Our area was given a nice coating of ice on the roads the day of the monthly meeting and had to be cancelled. This meeting, featuring Alan Walter’s barn relocation, will be rescheduled for February. This meeting was also our annual election for Officers and Directors; this will be held during our January meeting.

After six years as president of the NEOFA, Mike Lanave is stepping down and Mitch Cattrell will be taking his spot. We thank Mike for his service and wish Mitch the best in the coming years.

Our monthly meeting for January was a panel discussion on Lyme disease. Dr. Michael O’Brien was joined on the panel along with a few of our members who are dealing with this ailment. February will be Alan Walter and his barn relocation presentation. In March, ODNR Service Forester Ryan Clester will be giving a talk on oak wilt disease. April will be our annual banquet and auction. Money raised here is used for our Camp Canopy sponsorships. Our summer Twilight Tour schedule is being developed at this time.

Our Chainsaw Safety and Felling Clinic continued with a session in December and a Chainsaw Maintenance Clinic in January. These clinics are a great way to provide folks with training, giving them the confidence to be more actively involved with the work required maintaining their woodlot. For more information on these clinics, contact Jim Elze at jim.elze@gmail.com.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. Like our Facebook page to see upcoming events. For further details, contact President Mitch Cattrell at mitchcattrell@aol.com, or by calling him at (330) 482-9393.

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**Northwest Ohio Woodland Association**

The NWOWA meets four times a year, and the first meeting was in January at the ODNR Division of Wildlife office in Findlay. This was our Annual Meeting, when we elected officers and members at large. Elected were: Candi Miller, Vice Chair – Program; Deb Border – Secretary/Treasurer; Sue VanDyne -- Facebook Coordinator; Bob Wilson – Mentor Coordinator; and Jim Spurgat and Tom Deeds – Members at Large. There are still opportunities for a chair and a member at large.

The meeting included the usual secretary, treasurer, and committee reports along with updates from the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and local ODNR service foresters. The additional 2019 programs include: Woodlands and Taxes – March 30, from 9:30 am – noon; Sawmill Operations – July 20, from 9:30 am to noon, and Managing Your Woods – October 12, from 9:30 am to noon at Don Ruffing’s farm.

The January program was presented by Stephanie Miller, Regional Urban Forester, ODNR – Division of Forestry. Stephanie discussed the progress and status of local and state-wide urban forestry programs in Ohio. There are six ODNR urban foresters in the state, and she covers northwest Ohio assisting communities in this area.

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

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**Regional Woodland Interest Groups Update**

So much to learn— from each other and natural resource experts!
The Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group (MRWIG) had a successful completion of the second annual Forestry Field Day in September. The Annual Meeting was held in November, featuring ODNR Urban Forester Ann Bonner who spoke about landscaping with native plants and providing advice on what trees might grow in specific difficult situations.

We began the new year at the Zane State College Natural Resource Center in January to learn about the life history, extirpation, and return of bobcats in Ohio from a wildlife biologist with the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss the current population status, updates on any future trapping seasons, and how they can manage their property for bobcats and other wildlife species.

In March, MRWIG will bring back a popular shiitake mushroom workshop. Pre-registered participants will learn how to inoculate and care for logs in preparation for a mushroom harvest and take an inoculated log home with them. New this year will be the inclusion of oyster mushroom logs and care. All materials will be provided, and extra logs will be available for purchase.

In May, we have a long-distance event as we head northwest to Fulton County, Ohio to visit Goll Woods State Nature Preserve. Goll Woods, a 321-acre preserve, is reputed to be the “least disturbed woodland known to remain in extreme northwestern Ohio.” A remnant of the Black Swamp, Goll Woods is home to trees thought to be 200-400 years old. While in northwest Ohio, we will also visit Oak Openings, a Toledo Metroparks oak savanna ecosystem. Trails will allow us to explore the wetlands and vegetated dunes as we enjoy spring wildflowers and the end of the spring bird migration.

July will find us in Knox County at Zuck Riparian Preserve. This gem of a property, located along the Kokosing State Scenic River, consists of riverine floodplain species—box elders and sycamores with eastern hemlock and an oak-hickory complex on the slopes. As we explore the floodplain forest, we will discuss how they can help with improving water quality vital to this ecosystem that is home to the state endangered eastern hellbender. We will be joined by scientists from The Ohio State University who will discuss the Ohio Hellbender Partnership and the reintroduction program.

Plans are under way for MRWIG’s third annual Forestry Field Day to be held the last Saturday in September. More information will follow in a later update.

To really change MRWIG in 2019, in lieu of our traditional annual meeting in November, we will host a potluck dinner at Blue Rock State Forest on Saturday, October 26. The afternoon activities will begin with several options to include fall foliage walks, autumn fungi identification, and foliage photography tips. The evening will conclude with discovering nighttime forest creatures and a journey through the October sky as we study the autumn constellations.

Watch for more information on MRWIG 2019 program times and dates at the website https://www.mrwig.org, and be sure to join our Facebook group.

At the November MRWIG meeting, Jim Stafford tendered his resignation as treasurer. Jim was responsible for organizing MRWIG over twenty years ago and has held various positions in the organization throughout the years. Thanks, Jim, for all the work you have done for Ohio forests, and for those who care for them! Here Jim (center) is shown leading a discussion on walnut management at the 2017 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour at Clum’s Hepatica Falls Tree Farm.
East Central Ohio Forestry Association

Tentative schedule for the East Central Ohio Forestry Association 2019 monthly programs:

January 2 - Tom Macy, ODNR Forestry, spoke on forest health issues germane to Ohio.
February 6 - Aaron White of Stillwater Outfitters will speak on kayaking and canoeing opportunities in Ohio.
March 6 - June Wiese and Chris Schiefer of Nationwide will speak on “Land As Your Legacy.”
April 3 - Annual Banquet and Auction to benefit Camp Canopy attendees.
May 1 - MaLisa Spring, OSU, will speak on dragonflies of Ohio.
June 5 - Frank and Bernice Skalak, ECOFA members, will share the highlights of their Costa Rican forestry excursion.
July 3 - Dean and Ruth Varian, ECOFA members, will share their experience with conservation easements/land trusts and nature preserves.
August 7 - Tom Macy, ODNR Forestry, will share additional highlights regarding forest health issues.
September 4 - Dave Myers, ECOFA member, will talk about his experiences with a horizontal band mill.
October 2 - Ryan Clester, ODNR Forestry, will speak on oak wilt and its status in Ohio.
November 6 - Tom Cushing, ECOFA member, and Don Ogonek, Contractor, will share their story on timber frame construction.
December 4 - TBA

For information, call (740) 439-9097.

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