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The Ohio Woodland Journal is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System. It is mailed at no charge to Certified Tree Farmers and at no charge for one year to all forest landowners receiving a Forest Stewardship Plan. It is available to all others by mailing an annual subscription fee of fifteen dollars to the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, 1100-H Brandywine Boulevard, Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

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On the Cover
Bigleaf magnolia (Magnolia macrophylla) is a rare treat to see in Ohio. It is known for its large leaves and showy, fragrant flowers. Read more about this delicate woodland dweller in the Leafing Out article on page 23.
Cover photo courtesy of Aaron Apsley.
I have planned to write an “executive summary” for this issue about the Ohio Tree Farm Committee’s work. However, before doing that, I must acknowledge the life and contributions of Janet Sweigart, one of Ohio’s most involved tree farmers. Janet passed away in her sleep on May 24. Her husband Jack had passed in 2009.

While many widows become less engaged with Tree Farm when their husband is no longer involved, Janet may have been at even more forestry-related activities. Jack and Janet were Ohio’s Tree Farmers of the Year in 2005 and the U.S. North Central Regional Tree Farmers of the year in 2006 - the “Final 4” of Tree Farm. Not that the Sweigarts would ever see caring for their trees and forests as a competition – it was just their passion. Janet was also a past chair of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee. Janet will be missed.

Having no suitable transition from that, I’ll just pick up with a summary of what the Ohio Tree Farm Committee has been doing recently.

If you are not aware, the Committee is made up of 34 volunteers including representation from tree farmers, foresters, forest industry, and partner organizations. When comparing Ohio’s program with those from other states, I am always proud to highlight the fact that the majority of the Committee is comprised of tree farmers. We meet quarterly as a whole Committee in order to keep the Tree Farm Program in Ohio moving forward.

The big event for Ohio Tree Farm each year is the Tree Farmer of the Year Tour. This year, it will be Saturday, November 12 at Duckworth Farms in Fayette County.

The Committee offers financial support for expenses associated with such a tour and some logistical support for the nominating forester and the tree farmer (directions are on page 9).

We also participate in the Ohio Forestry Association’s (OFA) annual meeting. At the awards luncheon, we recognize the Tree Farmer of the Year, Inspecting Forester of the Year, and all 50-Year Tree Farms. There is also a silent auction held during the OFA meeting to support the Tree Farm Committee. In the past two years, a new tradition has begun with a gun raffle as part of the evening reception. This year, over $1200 was raised by the raffle benefiting the OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Grant.

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Hopefully you are well aware of the Tree Farm database clean-up project the Committee has been working on since last fall. We certainly appreciate all of those who responded. Thanks to several regional woodland interest groups that are now helping contact tree farmers who did not respond to the survey. To say that this project is “completed” implies no tree farmer ever moves, changes a phone number, or sells their property, so efforts will be ongoing, but the main campaign is completed.

This year, we received a grant to train Tree Farm Mentors from the American Forest Foundation, Tree Farm’s parent organization. That training will take place on August 10th. The goal of the mentoring program will be to provide Tree Farm Mentors with some basic tools they can use to help their peers better care for their woodlands and know where to find the resources they need for help. You will be hearing more about this program in coming issues of The Ohio Woodland Journal.

If you ever have comments, questions, or thoughts about the Tree Farm Program in Ohio, please feel free to share those with me or any other Committee member. We exist for you, the tree farmer! ☑️

Janet and Jack Sweigart were honored as Ohio’s 2005 Tree Farmers of the Year. Janet had many interests, including nursing, tree farming, and mushrooms. The couple became outstanding advocates for woodlands, and Janet continued her involvement after Jack’s passing in 2009.

“I always enjoyed both Jack and Janet and had fun at their Tree Farm Tour in 2005,” said Christine Hodgson. “Janet was so engaged in educating others about forestry and the multiple benefits of managing their woodland. She loved her mushrooms and helping others with the basic identification. She will be missed by so many.”
Greetings – I hope you are all having a safe & healthy summer season!

I am pleased to introduce you to ODNR Division of Forestry Assistant Chief David Lane.

David is a commissioned officer with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and served for 13 years in various capacities of the ODNR Division of Wildlife, including chief of the division in 2011. Most recently, David was assistant chief over operations, law enforcement, and aviation with the Division of Wildlife. He also served as acting district manager, wildlife officer supervisor, and wildlife officer.

Early in his career, David was a forest technician with the U.S. Forest Service in Marlinton, WV and then served 14 years as vice president of Appalachian Timber Services, Inc. in Sutton, WV.

David has a Master’s of Science in Forestry from West Virginia University, Morgantown; a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Glenville State College, Glenville, WV; and an Associate of Science in Forest Technology, also from Glenville State College.

In his current role with the ODNR Division of Forestry, David will serve as assistant chief of resource management and administrator of forest operations/land management. He will oversee hiring and allocation of personnel, and will direct and assist in preparing program budgets. He will share forestry related information with local communities, organizations, and conservation clubs, as well as coordinate forestry activities with other divisions of the ODNR and local, federal, and state agencies.

David’s leadership skills and industrial forestry knowledge and experience will be a great asset to the division.

Welcome David!

Cameron Bushong was selected as the 2016 Ohio Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Year for the great work he does for the Ohio Tree Farm program. He has worked as an ODNR Service Forester for three years covering Athens, Washington, and Morgan counties in southeast Ohio.

Cameron meets with many landowners, and he writes forest management plans for their properties that enable them to enroll with programs that benefit their woodlands. His job has him working primarily with the state Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) and federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which both provide incentives for sustainable forestry practices. He also makes time to help other foresters in surrounding projects to ensure project deadlines are met and landowners are assisted in a timely manner.

Last year, Cameron took part on two Ohio Interagency Fire Crews, allowing him the experience to see western fire control practices and an opportunity to meet other wildland fire fighters from around the country.

Prior to working with ODNR, Cameron gained invaluable experience at the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Wisconsin. He helped with several forestry practices and focused his efforts on invasive species control. Cameron is a native to central Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry. While at OSU, he worked at Chadwick Arboretum and was responsible for leading the effort to inventory all trees campus-wide. Cameron’s interest in trees and helping others are just two of his virtues.

Cameron has many years ahead of him to work as an Inspector for the Ohio Tree Farm System, help landowners identify their forestry values, and prescribe good forest management to reach those goals.

Cameron Bushong, Ohio’s Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Year

Stephen Rist, ODNR Division of Forestry

Cameron Bushong planting American chestnut seedlings at Waterloo Wildlife Area, fall 2015.

Service Forester Cameron Bushong planting American chestnut seedlings at Waterloo Wildlife Area, fall 2015.
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The American Forest Foundation (AFF) recently posted a feature article about the Lavelle Family’s Stonewall Tree Farm. Ohio’s 2013 Tree Farm of the Year. Find it online at https://www.forestfoundation.org/maple-syrup-markets-ohio.

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To whom it may concern,

I wanted to send you a couple pictures and a quick note on something that I thought you might find to be pretty cool. When I was in the 6th grade (1994) my class (Johnstown Monroe) went to Dawes Arboretum, Newark for a field trip. We were learning about trees.

At the end of the workshop, you folks at the DNR gave us all a Solo cup with some dirt and a buckeye in it. We were told that if we watered them and took care of them that they would eventually sprout into a beautiful buckeye tree. I am pretty sure that I am the only nature nerd that took his home and actually took care of it. Well, here we are 22 years later and the picture marked #1 is of that buckeye that has now become a nearly 20 foot tall and absolutely gorgeous buckeye tree. It is in my parents’ yard.

About 6 years ago, I purchased a home in central Ohio and now have a small three-year-old buckeye tree that I started from the buckeyes that tree has produced (picture marked #2). Just wanted to share a quick story and say thanks for all that you do to keep Ohio wild!

Kindest Regards,

Jason Mrugacz

This story was recently received by the ODNR Division of Forestry in an email from Mr. Jason Mrugacz, who has graciously let us share it with our OWJ readers. ♦

The Story of a Buckeye
To mark the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, The Ohio Woodland Journal will feature regional articles in 2016 highlighting one of the four pillars of the Tree Farm System – wood, water, wildlife, or recreation.

For the summer issue, consulting foresters and Ohio Tree Farm Committee members Abby and Alex Kindler share their experience with southeastern Ohio tree farm Camp Otterbein and its amazing RECREATION opportunities.

Nestled in the scenic Hocking Hills region of southeastern Ohio, Camp Otterbein sits quaintly amongst towering eastern white pines and hardwood forest. Located just south of the city of Logan, the 467-acre camp has 390 forested acres that have been certified in the Tree Farm program since 1972. Camp Otterbein is one of three camps owned and operated by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Camp Otterbein embodies the multi-faceted nature of the Tree Farm program with an emphasis on the fourth pillar, outdoor recreation.

The camp hosts conferences and retreats year-round, but the summer camp season is by far the busiest time of year. June through August is loaded with a complete schedule of 3-5 day camps geared towards families and kids of all ages, with themes ranging from woodland survival to science and invention. The camp easily accommodates groups up to 200 in the Albright Lodge dining area. Nearby, Maple Lodge and Dogwood Lodge can sleep 24 people each, while cabins, shelter houses, and wilderness tent sites offer even more options for campers.

Maintaining a wide variety of exciting recreational activities is critical to the camp’s operation. Camp Otterbein offers basketball, sand volleyball, disc golf course, tetherball, archery range, high ropes course and zip line in the forest, climbing wall, treehouses, mud pit, and numerous trails for biking and mountain biking. A 3.5 acre lake provides an opportunity for campers to enjoy fishing, boating, and swimming as well. Aside from the numerous daytime activities, evenings are a time to slow down and take in the sights and sounds of the night while sitting around the campfire or gazing up at the stars.

Over the years, Camp Otterbein directors have sought the assistance of ODNR Division of Forestry service foresters as well as private consulting foresters in developing and following a comprehensive woodland stewardship management plan. These foresters have helped the camp successfully manage their primary objective of providing

Abby & Alex Kindler, Consulting Foresters
Kindler Forest Management, LLC

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high-quality recreational opportunities along with timber management, soil and water protection, trail creation, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Camp Otterbein embodies the multi-faceted nature of the Tree Farm program with an emphasis on the fourth pillar, outdoor recreation.

A few years ago, Camp Otterbein contacted us to assist them with a 30-acre single tree and small group selection timber harvest which was recommended in their management plan. The camp directors had several desired outcomes from the harvest which included providing income for a renovation of the Albright Lodge kitchen facility, constructing a trail system to the remote “North Woods” which would be later used as a hiking trail, and creating forest openings to be used in developing new activity areas. The harvest also needed to take place outside of the busy summer camping season to limit disturbance to camping activities. After the trees were marked and sold via a sealed bid, a contract was developed and administered to ensure all of the desired outcomes were met, and the harvest was successfully completed. The camp is now considering applying for a grant through the NRCS EQIP program to get an updated forest management plan as well as funding for brush management for invasive species control, continuing their commitment to good stewardship and the Tree Farm program.

While many tree farmers enjoy hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and gathering wild edibles as fun and fulfilling activities, perhaps Camp Otterbein will inspire you to pursue more adventurous and engaging recreational opportunities on your own tree farm. Remember to be safe and have fun out there!

Kindler Forest Management, LLC is a professional consulting forestry company owned by husband and wife team, Alex and Abby Kindler. They are 2006 graduates of The Ohio State University’s Natural Resources program and have been serving woodland owners in east central and southeastern Ohio since 2009.

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To learn more about Camp Otterbein, visit www.westohiocamps.org, or contact Camp Otterbein Director Scott Seese at (740) 385-5712.

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Many woodland owners are challenged these days by invasive species. Honeysuckle, tree-of-heaven, garlic mustard, and autumn olive on the plant side; emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, and gypsy moth on the insect side - and the list goes on and on.

Unfortunately, invasive species come in all shapes and sizes, including the large-animal size. Enter feral swine. This invasive species is no small potato - in both size AND damages caused.

Known by many names - wild boar, razorback, feral hog, wild pig, Eurasian boar, or a personal favorite - piney woods rooter, feral swine are not native to the Americas. Wild pigs were introduced to the continental United States in 1539. Settlers and early explorers often used pigs as livestock because they are capable of fending for themselves and are very adaptive, two characteristics that make feral swine very successful invaders.

As exploration and colonization continued, the spread of wild pigs was promoted by using free-range livestock management practices. Then, in the early 1900s, Eurasian (or Russian) wild boars were introduced into the U.S. for hunting purposes, resulting in cross-breeding with wild pigs. Feral swine is now a collective term used to describe these hybrid populations. Ohio's feral swine population can be traced back to three sources: escaped domestic livestock, escape from hunting preserves, and intentional release for hunting purposes.

Currently, feral swine exist in at least 36 states, with the greatest concentrations in the southern and western states. In Ohio, feral swine are primarily concentrated in the unglaciated southern counties; however they can occur suddenly and sporadically anywhere in Ohio as a result of illegal releases.

The life of a feral swine

Due to their mixed ancestries, feral swine vary in size, shape, and color. Feral swine may be gray, dark brown, black, or a variety of light browns and tans. Some will have patterns of striping or spots; some will be solid in color with no patterns.

Adult feral swine in Ohio range in size from 125 to 200 pounds, though larger individuals can occur. Feral swine are habitat generalists, meaning they are adaptive to a wide variety of habitats such as woodlands, riparian and agricultural areas, and even on occasion, urban areas. Feral swine are also generalists when it comes to their diet. They eat mostly plant matter, including acorns, berries, and agricultural crops. However, as opportunistic omnivores, feral swine also consume worms, insects, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, the eggs and young of ground nesting birds, and occasionally the young of large mammals such as white-tailed deer and livestock. Furthermore, feral swine compete with native wildlife species such as white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons, ruffed grouse, and wild turkey for valuable resources such as acorns, nuts, and other mast crops. Feral swine also compete with these species for man-made food sources, such as agricultural crop fields, orchards, gardens, wildlife feeders, and hunters' bait piles.

When it comes to reproduction, feral swine are one of the most prolific large mammals on the planet. They are capable of breeding year-round and typically produce two litters per year. As with their appearance, litter sizes also vary due to lineage. A single litter can be anywhere from 4 to 12 piglets in size. In Ohio, average litter sizes are roughly six piglets, but can increase with habitat quality.

Piglets often travel with their mothers in family units called sounders. Sounders consist of breeding females, weaned offspring, and piglets. Sexual maturity is reached in as little as eight months time. With the reproductive potential of feral swine, populations in areas can quickly escalate. In addition, feral swine have low natural mortality. There are very few predators that pose a threat to feral swine once they are mature, save humans. Piglets are preyed on by owls, bobcats, and coyotes, but not in high enough numbers to help with population control.
Wild WONDERS in the woods Continued…

Wallow, in the mud to cool off. Wallowing out cool, wet places to rest and roll, or of disturbed soil perfect for colonization shrub seedlings, and create large patches can cause erosion, damage to tree and woodlands. Rooting in the forest floor damage and crop loss in agricultural areas. Aggressive rooting can cause substantial losses, and when combined with control environment cause economic and other

As temperatures climb, feral swine seek viral and bacterial diseases, as well as a swine are highly mobile disease reservoirs noticeable in the tracks they leave behind.

In an effort to protect Ohio’s valuable agricultural and natural resources, feral swine are nocturnal, therefore signs of their damaging activity, such as foraging for food, known as rooting, and wallowing are often discovered before the animal itself. Aggressive rooting can cause substantial damage and crop loss in agricultural areas and woodlands. Rooting in the forest floor can cause erosion, damage to tree and shrub seedlings, and create large patches of disturbed soil perfect for colonization by invasive, non-native plants.

At the field level, Wildlife Services, a Program of USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, the ODNR Division of Wildlife, and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. Other key members of this Joint Agency Program include the ODNR Division of Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. This coalition serves to develop consistent program delivery, provide program oversight, address legislation and law enforcement, furnish results reporting, and hold accountability.

In an effort to protect Ohio’s valuable agricultural and natural resources, state and federal officials are working collaboratively with responsible hunters, private landowners, and special interest groups to eliminate this highly destructive species from the Buckeye State. One of the greatest challenges in eliminating feral swine is the illegal movement by irresponsible individuals. When feral swine are moved from one location to the next, the diseases and damage are also moved with them. This relocation is contradictory to the actions of true sportsmen and women and should not be condoned. Anyone aware of individuals partaking in this activity should report it to your local state Wildlife Officer. Another major hurdle is access to property. Many people see feral swine as a new and exciting species to hunt, and therefore are reluctant to provide access for removal. If you have feral swine on your property, and truly share a passion for Ohio’s natural resources, please contact Wildlife Services at the number provided.

For more information . . .

Feral Swine OSU Extension Fact Sheet http://go.osu.edu/fswine
ODNR Division of Wildlife’s Feral Swine Page http://ohiodnr.gov/feralswine
ODNR Division of Wildlife Officers contact information http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/about-contacts/contact-information/wildlife-officers-by-county
To report a wildlife violation to ODNR Division of Wildlife, call 1-800-POACHER (762-2437)
Landowners interested in receiving assistance with feral swine damage may contact the Ohio Wildlife Services State Office at (614) 993-3444, or call toll free 1-866-4USDA-WA.
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My first encounter with this species was at the University of Georgia Thompson Mills Forest in the Piedmont of Georgia. I was exploring a little-used trail when I stumbled onto a lone specimen. I must admit I was astounded by the size of the foliage. Its leaves more closely resembled those of a banana than any broadleaved tree that I had ever encountered.

Twenty years and two states later, I had my second encounter with the species. I was again exploring a little-used trail when I discovered a number of odd looking seedlings and saplings with very large simple leaves. After exploring the area I found the parent tree, a beautiful specimen about 6 inches in diameter and approximately 30 feet tall, nestled at the base of a sandstone cliff in Jackson County, Ohio.

Since 2007, I’ve made several visits, including one with my sons this June to photograph this population.

With leaves that can reach nearly three feet in length, bigleaf magnolia (Magnolia macrophylla) is aptly named. In case you were wondering, macrophylla is Latin for great or big-leaved. It clearly has the largest...
Flower buds on bigleaf magnolia are about the size of a Coke bottle.

Spent flower with cone-like fruit exposed.

Bark is smooth with a few bumps or warts.

Bigleaf magnolia buds are densely covered with downy hairs. Umbrella magnolia buds are smooth in comparison.

Simple leaves of any tree species found in the United States. This characteristic alone makes it a fascinating tree.

However, the flowers are just as impressive. The massive, creamy white flowers are about the size of a dinner plate (more than 12 inches in diameter) with a touch of purple at the base of the petals. Breathtaking! These fragrant flowers begin to develop in late May to early June, but they don’t all develop at once. It is not uncommon to find flower buds, flowers in all stages of development, and fruit pods on an individual tree at the same time.

Bigleaf magnolia is arguably the rarest tree species native to Ohio. The bulk of this species’ range is in southern Mississippi and western Alabama, with a number of smaller populations scattered over several southeastern states. Ohio’s only population is found in the Rock Run area of Jackson County, well over 100 miles north of the nearest known population in eastern Kentucky. Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve is home to several nice specimens. Bigleaf magnolia is listed as endangered in Ohio.

No one really knows why this species is scattered over such a large area in small isolated pockets. Its large leaves likely make it extremely susceptible to damage from wind, thus it may be relegated to locations that provide adequate protection. Native Americans could have also played a role. They used the bark of bigleaf magnolia for numerous medicinal purposes including stomach cramps, sinus problems, and toothaches, so perhaps they dispersed it beyond its original range. This is just one more distinction making bigleaf magnolia such a fascinating tree.

Continued on page 26
References


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The good news from the clearcut is that a new forest is growing, despite the deer that are browsing it. In the clearcut area, a dense stand of blackberry briars is discouraging deer browsing. The briars are protecting thousands of new seedlings of cherry, maple, ash, hickory, and elm that will grow into a new forest.

About five years ago, I marked and sold a selective harvest in the maple woods that preceded the clearcut. That year, about twenty percent of the original trees were cut. Maple is normally a species that regenerates in its own shade. But a year later, the landowner and I noticed that no seedlings were growing up to replace the harvested trees. Then we noticed maple seedlings growing in a patch of briars, where deer couldn’t browse them. We also noticed a browse line where the deer had eaten most other twigs within five feet of the ground.

We devised a plan to regenerate the forest. We could make a clearcut to allow full sunlight to reach the ground. In all those downed treetops and full sunshine, we would grow more brush, briars, and tree seedlings than the deer could eat. We hoped to grow a thick young forest to replace the original.

Why is it important to regenerate the forest? One obvious answer is that we all depend on trees for furniture, paper, and other daily necessities. Another answer is that a forest is one of the best filters for purifying air and water, the real necessities. Since the forest is living, it will eventually die and we are planning to replace it with a forest for the future.

Our deciduous forest is resistant to insect and disease attacks. Because of the twenty or so major tree species that can grow on any acre, the forest is able to survive attackers such as chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease, and emerald ash borer. These pests attack a single tree species, but the forest replaces its losses with other species. Deer browsing is damaging the forest because it not only reduces the number of young trees, but also reduces the number of species of young trees.

The good news is that three years after the clearcut, there is a dense stand of briars to protect the thousands of seedlings of cherry, maple, ash, hickory, and elm. After the seedlings grow above the briars, they must then grow above the reach of the hungry deer. For now though, the news from the clearcut is good.

Marty Michel is a consulting forester based out of Ashland County.
## TUESDAY, September 20, 2016

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Wildlife &amp; Aquatics</th>
<th>Woodland Amphibian/Lizard</th>
<th>Tents &amp; Trees</th>
<th>Other Activities</th>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Using my land plan,Dave Apsly, OSU Extension Bob Mulligan, ODNR</td>
<td>Cabin Wildlife &amp; Aquatics Woodland Amphitheater</td>
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## Farm Science Review/Gwynne Conservation Area Schedule September 20-22, 2016 near London, Ohio

Ride the wagon shuttle from the west end of Friday Ave. running frequently from the main FSR grounds to the Gwynne Conservation Area.
Ohio Forestry Association is dedicated to strengthening and expanding the wood products industry for the benefit of Ohio companies, employees, customers, landowners and the general public.

OFA provides information and services to members through:

- Networking Opportunities
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For information on joining the OFA or to find a Master Logger visit www.ohioforest.org

To learn about becoming an Ohio Tree Farmer, visit ohiotreefarm.org or call Joe Puperi at (419) 424-5004.

Great Firewood Shootout, and a skid-steam rodeo. Other entertainment options include the Great Lakes Timber Show.

The Paul Bunyan Show also offers a wide array of educational seminars for the wood industry professional as well as the general public. Again this year, in conjunction with the Great Firewood Shootout, there will be several fee-based professional seminars on such subjects as lumber drying, log grading, and managing small woodlots.

Hungry? The show offers a variety of food and beverages, including the world famous Bunyan Burger to keep everyone's appetite satisfied.

As I have heard many times over the past 30+ years at the Paul Bunyan Show from one of its famous announcers, "Where would you rather be on a beautiful fall day in Ohio than at the Paul Bunyan Show?" Come join us!

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Advertising Manager
The Ohio Woodland Journal
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Phone: 419-431-1642
Email: tmmills@att.net

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