

The OHIO WOODLAND Journal

Volume 25 • Number 3 • SUMMER 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO TREE FARM COMMITTEE



- ◆ Oak Management/Monroe
- ◆ For You and Your Woods
- ◆ Woodland Interest Groups

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The OHIO WOODLAND Journal



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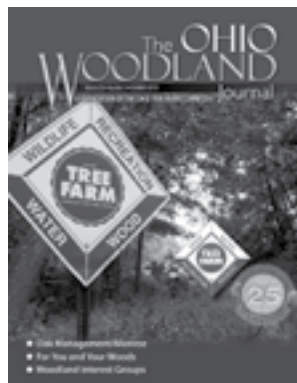
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24



30



On the Cover

Ohio's 1603 Certified Tree Farms are but a portion of the family-owned woodlands comprising the forested lands of Ohio. Tree Farm Certification shows an extra commitment to the care of wood, water, wildlife, and recreation, and serves as a stellar example of long-range stewardship of Ohio's ecologically and economically valuable natural resources.

The cover illustration was taken at the Coldwell Family Tree Farm, a truly family-owned and operated 689-acre property in Columbiana County, with 620 acres of managed woodlands representing Ohio's 2014 Tree Farm of the Year. Photo courtesy of ODNR

Out In the Woo

I believe that some people equate Tree Farm with harvesting timber. However, Tree Farm is much more.

Water is a part of Tree Farm, as water is critical for all life. Woodlands play an important part in keeping water clean. Woodlands also absorb a lot of water, slowing it down. There are a variety of critters that live in the water that you find in woodlands, so it is important to protect wet spots or vernal pools. It is also important to protect streams that run through a woodland. In fact, there is a booklet called Best Management Practices or "BMPs" that can provide information in this regard. Management plans can be developed to cover multiple uses of the woodlands, like water. You just place emphasis on your interests.

I've been watching the black walnut seedlings that we planted in April and they are growing well. I have only found one that didn't make it. Whenever I check them, I'll find the occasional stake leaning which needs straightened. The other thing I must watch is the amount of shade now that the existing trees have leafed out. In preparing the planting area, I deadened quite a few of the poorer quality trees, but I may need to deaden more to make sure the new walnuts get enough sunlight. I'll be touching base with our ODNR service forester about that.

Our timber stand improvement (TSI) vendor and I recently set a date to continue work at our farm. We'll be doing part two of our EQIP project in August. I do enjoy being out in the woods!

Your Ohio Tree Farm Committee is continuing to focus on our strategic plan. There are three parts to this plan which we put together in 2015. The first part deals with certification compliance, the second emphasis is on tree farm inspectors, and the third is about communications. We pretty-well have these areas wrapped up and are working to fully incorporate our activities with our strategic plan into the meeting agenda. The thought is to finish the plan by July 2018, so I hope we can have all three areas concluded by the next Committee meeting in August. We'll want to continue several of the focuses that we began in 2015, so I would expect that a new plan will be developed to move us forward.



Congratulations to Koral and Randy Clum for their Hepatica Falls Tree Farm being recognized by the American Tree Farm System as Regional Tree Farm of the Year!

See their nomination write-up on the American Forest Foundation web page at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/north-central-nominee-clums>.



ds

We have a couple of big happenings on the horizon. The Paul Bunyan Show is Friday, October 5 – Sunday, October 7, 2018 at the Guernsey County Fairgrounds; 335 Old National Rd.; Old Washington, Ohio 43768 (east of Cambridge off I-70). In addition, John and Bess Lusk of Whispering Ridge Farm in Monroe County were named Ohio Tree Farmers of the Year and their Tree Farm of the Year Tour is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2018. Refer to details in a related tour article in this issue of the OWJ. Plan to be a part of these great activities.

Thanks to one and all for all your efforts with the Tree Farm Program here in Ohio! ♦

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



Members from the Caldwell and Shenandoah FFA chapters in Noble County planted 300 black walnut seedlings on the Mill's Nobel County Tree Farm in April. Here they are carefully cropping the over-sized roots before planting to ensure better fit for the planting bar hole, avoid tap root bending or J-rooting, and to stimulate lateral root development. Photos courtesy of the author



AUGUST 2018

10

A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Woodland Stewardship Opportunities

18

A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Family Day in the Woods (Free)

SEPTEMBER 2018

14

A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Timber Harvesting

18-20

Farm Science Review

London (schedule on page 10-11)

<http://fsr.osu.edu/gwynne-conservation-area>

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MRWIG Forestry Field Day

Wolf Run Farm, Coshocton County

<http://www.coshoctoncounty.net.swcd>

(details on page 30)

OCTOBER 2018

5-7

Paul Bunyan Show

www.ohioforest.org

(details on page 16-17)

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A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Fall Treasures in Your Woodland

20

Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour

Whispering Ridge Tree Farm

Monroe County

(740) 303-4427 ext. 2

(details on page 8)

20

Hocking State Forest Fall Color Tour

(740) 385-4402

NOVEMBER 2018

9

A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series**

Woodland Wildlife Habitat

****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>

The ODNR Division of Forestry has a long history of identifying issues affecting the forests of Ohio, developing action plans, and then implementing those plans. One of the most significant concerns to the current condition of Ohio's forests is the rapidly growing number of invasive species, both plant and animal, and the havoc they wreak on our forest resource.

Non-native invasive species are having a profound effect on all of Ohio's forest land, public and private. To help in addressing this concern, particularly for the invasive insect known as hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) which threatens eastern hemlocks in Ohio, the ODNR Division of Forestry has recently brought on a forester, Stephanie Downs, to coordinate detection surveys for HWA and treatment of eastern hemlock trees on ODNR land. Stephanie has returned to the division as a forester in the Division's Forest



Robert Boyles
ODNR Deputy Director and
State Forester



Health program and is currently focusing on these hemlock treatments. Stephanie had worked for the division in the past as the Forest Health Program Manager and most recently was an instructor at Hocking College.

As part of her current hemlock duties with the division, Stephanie works with two intermittent forestry employees, Sara Toskin and Page Weckbacher, protecting critical hemlock stands by treating HWA as part of a rapid-response effort on state lands. This effort is focused on protecting a significant portion of some of the most highly-prized eastern hemlock forests in Ohio. Managing this issue on state forests and other ODNR woodlands provides the department with a testing ground for innovative techniques including the application of cutting-edge technology.

HWA, which is native to Japan, was discovered in native hemlock forests in southeastern Ohio in 2012. Because eastern hemlock trees share no history with this insect, the tree has no chemical defenses to fight off attack by HWA. Additionally, there are virtually no predators established in

the eastern U.S. that specialize in feeding on HWA to help limit its population growth.

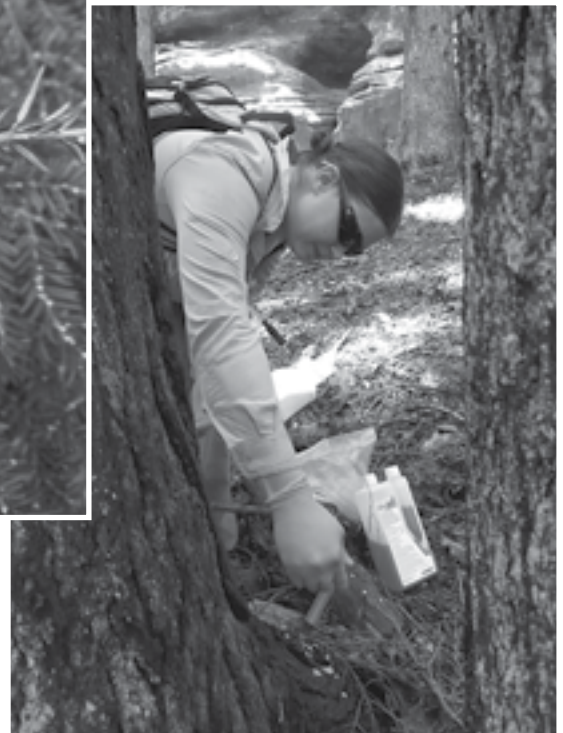
Since its accidental introduction to Virginia in the 1950s, this insect has killed millions of eastern hemlock trees throughout Appalachia. It is now known to be present in 12 Ohio counties. While several strategies exist for managing this invasive insect, the only rapid-response measure for protecting eastern hemlock trees is to treat individual trees with insecticides.

Some of the highest-priority eastern hemlock stands in Ohio are in the Hocking Hills area of Hocking County, including Hocking State Forest, Hocking Hills State Park, and Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve. The ODNR Division of Forestry has been applying protective treatments to hemlock trees in these special areas and working with partners around the state to raise awareness of HWA and minimize its impacts to the health of Ohio's forests. To learn more about HWA, and to report suspected sightings of HWA, visit ohiodnr.gov/hwa. ♦

Affected Tree



Stephanie Downs injecting a tree with the pesticide Imidacloprid for hemlock woolly adelgid. Several sites are drilled around the root flare for those trees treated by injection, and taps are inserted for the syringes to convey the correct dose of chemical. Hemlocks are treated by basal bark spray, soil drench, or injection depending on their location, size, or proximity to water drainages. Photos by ODNR



Page Weckbacher applying a basal bark treatment for hemlock woolly adelgid in Hocking State Forest. The chemical is absorbed through the bark into the vascular tissue and conducted throughout the tree. The pesticide is effective for 5-7 years before another preventative treatment is warranted to help preserve this eastern hemlock tree.

2018 Ohio Tree Farmer of the Year

John & Bess Lusk, Whispering Ridge Tree Farm



Come join us Saturday, October 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Whispering Ridge Tree Farm, 2018 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year! Participants will enjoy guided walking tours of John and Bess Lusk's woodland located in rugged Woodsfield, Ohio. Some features of the day include:

- A presentation about oak management by David Apsley, OSU Extension
- Three different trails that highlight unique areas of the forest
- Portable sawmill demonstration
- The Lusk's small-scale maple syrup operation
- Distinct plant communities
- Examples of completed timber stand improvement projects
- Food and refreshments available on-site for purchase



Parking will be available at the Swiss Hills Vocational School, with busses shuttling participants to the Tree Farm.

Directions

Address for the Swiss Hills Vocational School (Parking):
46601 State Route 78, Woodsfield, OH 43793
GPS Coordinates: 39°45'08.9"N 80°58'41.8"W



From Columbus:

Take Interstate 70 East towards Wheeling approximately 100 miles to Exit 202 (OH-800 S, South Dennison/Barnesville) and head south on OH-800 for 24 miles to Woodsfield. Once in Woodsfield, head east on OH-78, 8 miles to the address.

From Cincinnati:

Take Interstate 71 North towards Columbus, OH for approximately 100 miles. Take exit 101 to merge onto I-270 E toward Wheeling; Use the right lane to take exit 43B towards I-70 East towards Wheeling. Proceed east on I-70 towards Wheeling approximately 100 miles to Exit 202 (OH-800 S, South Dennison/Barnesville) and head south on OH-800 for 24 miles to Woodsfield. Once in Woodsfield, head east on OH-78, 8 miles to the address.

From Akron/Canton:

Take Interstate 77 south to Exit 81 (US 250 E toward Uhrichsville); continue on US 250 E approximately ten miles then merge onto US 36 E using the US-250 E/OH-800 S exit toward Cadiz/Dennison. Continue south on OH-800 approximately 50 miles to Woodsfield. Once in Woodsfield, head East on OH-78, 8 miles to the address.



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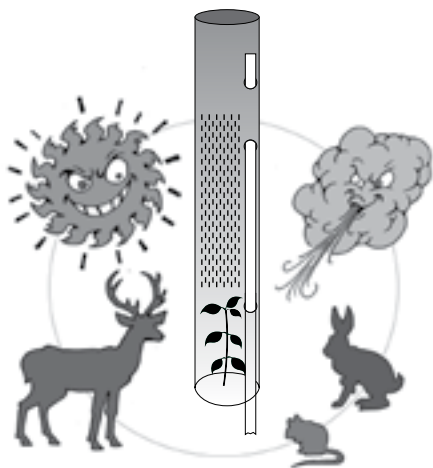
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2018 Farm Science Review

The Farm Science Review offers a wide-variety of opportunities for woodland owners to experience. Check out the talks featured at the Gwynne Conservation Area and you will find something of interest for YOU!

The 2018 Farm Science Review is September 18-20 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center, two miles north of London, Ohio at the intersection of US 40 and SR 38. Type in "Farm Science Review, London, OH" in your mapping device and it will guide you to the show. Online ticket sales are available at <https://fsr.osu.edu>. ♦

TUESDAY, September 18					
OSU ACEL Science of Agriculture Demonstrations: 10-2:30 daily, beginning every half hour					
SWCD National Archery Program for Schools-style Archery: 10:00-2:00 daily					
	Cabin	Wildlife and Aquatics	Forages and Grazing	Woodland	Chainsa
10:30	Native Plants	K-9 Units	The Role of Prairie Grasses for Livestock and Quail	Mushrooms: What are they and how to identify	Chainsa mainte sharpe demo
11:00		Managing aquatic vegetation			
11:30	Midwest Cover Crop Council Resources	Ohio EPA stream ecology/electro fishing	Grazing Cover Crops	Trees and Taxes	
12:00	If a Tree Could Talk: What Can a Fungus Tell Us About Our Woods				
12:30		Native bees		Resistance! The Future of Elms and Ash?	Chain techn
1:00	Maple Syrup Production for the Beginner	Threats to Ohio's Bat Populations	Versatility of warm-season annual grasses	Invasive Species Update	
1:30		K-9 Units			
2:00	Ensuring Your Woodland's Future	The Ever-flipped Pond: Better Water Quality through Aeration	Year-round grazing		
2:30		Deer Fencing			



OSU ACEL Science of Agriculture Demonstrations		
SWCD National Archery Program for Schools-style Archery		
	Cabin	V
10:30	Common Frogs and Snakes of Ohio	Is M H
11:00		
11:30		
12:00	Pollinator Habitat	A B
12:30		
1:00		

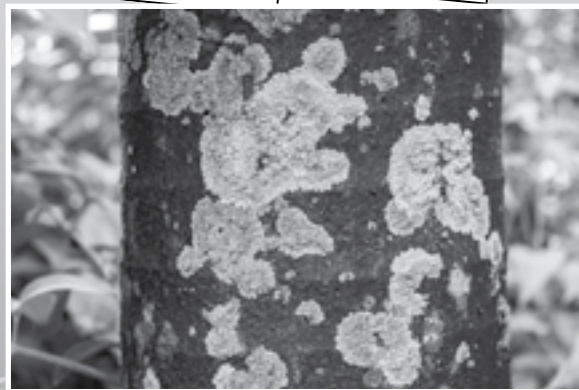


Offerings for YOU!

Chainsaw Demos
Chainsaw maintenance, sharpening and safety
Chainsaw cutting techniques (demo)

WEDNESDAY, September 19					
OSU ACEL Science of Agriculture Demonstrations: 10-2:30 daily, beginning every half hour					
SWCD National Archery Program for Schools-style Archery: 10:00-2:00 daily					
	Cabin	Wildlife and Aquatics	Forages and Grazing	Woodland	Chainsaw Demos
10:30	Managing Wildlife Habitat along Edges: Challenges & Opportunities	Chronic Wasting Disease in White Tailed Deer			
11:00					
11:30	Ponds and Law: What You Need to Know	Aquaponics in the classroom: teaching real-world skills through conservation	Winter stock piled forages	Mushrooms: What are they and how to identify	Chainsaw maintenance, sharpening and safety demo
12:00		Important steps for safe and successful prescribed fire on private land			
12:30	Soil properties and plant diversity under native prairies at The Wilds		Grazing Cover Crops	Ohio's Woodland Property Tax Programs	
1:00	Converting your yard into an edible landscape	Is My Pond Toxic? Managing Against Harmful Algal Blooms		The Basics of Tree ID	Chainsaw cutting techniques (demo)
1:30		Beyond the food plot: managing weeds for wildlife	How Important is Soil Sampling?		
2:00	Deciding if a timber harvest makes sense for you and your woodland	Threats to Ohio's Bat Populations		Woody Invasive species Identification and Treatment	
2:30			Grazing Alternative Forages		

THURSDAY, September 20			
Science of Agriculture Demonstrations: 10-2:30 daily, beginning every half hour			
SWCD National Archery Program for Schools-style Archery: 10:00-2:00 daily			
Wildlife and Aquatics	Forages and Grazing	Woodland	Chainsaw Demos
Is My Pond Toxic? Managing Against Harmful Algal Blooms			
	Summer Grazing	Self-guided Invasive Species Update	Chainsaw maintenance, sharpening and safety demo
Attracting Insect-Eating Birds to Your Farm	Grazing Native Warm Season Grasses		Chainsaw cutting techniques (demo)



2018 TREE FARM INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR: JIM ELZE,

After retiring as a service forester with the ODNR Division of Forestry in 2006, Jim started his own consulting forestry business. Saying he is busy is an understatement. He works many hours helping landowners with advice and timber sale administration in northeast Ohio. With all his responsibilities as a business owner, he still finds time to volunteer for the Ohio Tree Program as an inspector.

Jim has been involved with the Tree Farm Program for many years and is responsible for countless land owners signing up for the program. He always finds time to follow up with all the tree farms that he helps manage through inspections. Jim has always been a good mentor to young foresters, and mentors many young foresters who are interested in starting their own consulting forestry business. It really is incredible the impact he is having on the future of forestry in Ohio.

On top of that, he remains highly involved with the North East Ohio Forestry Association (NEOFA). He organizes, promotes, and helps lead instruction in their highly sought-after chainsaw safety courses, which also encourages memberships into NEOFA. He makes sure the NEOFA newsletter gets put together, copied, and mailed to the members. During the annual banquet, he sees that two awards are given out to deserving members as well as coordinates the auction item of labor for a day, where a team of people show up to the winning bidder's land to help them improve their forest.

During NEOFA's summer twilight tours, he serves as a guide and helps showcase interesting topics for the members. Jim is a wealth of knowledge for the organization and is always surrounded by a sea of landowners asking questions. One member said, "I believe he is an educator at heart. I've seen him stop and take the time to explain things to folks regardless of their age or level of experience."

Another long-time cooperator said, "I have known him for over 28 years. He is one of the most honest and dedicated foresters that I know." His long-standing relationship with the woodland owners of northeast Ohio and the stewardship of the timber resources that they have managed over the years with his guidance speaks for itself!

Jim is respected by those he works with, and his relationship with the landowners and the logging community is exemplary. He is truly a shining light in the industry, while being a stellar example over the years of what a tree farm inspector should strive to be: in fact, he was named Ohio Inspector of the Year in 2001 and Regional Inspector of the Year in 2002. Jim has also been recognized by his forestry peers in 2018 as one of 11 regional Presidential Field Forester Award Recipients by the Society of American Foresters.

Congratulations, Jim, on being awarded the 2018 Ohio Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. There is not a more deserving person. ♦

Adam Beichler is a forester with TWC Consulting Forestry, part of The Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio. He serves as the Area 2 Chair (northeastern 12 counties) for the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and is a Certified Ohio Tree Farm Inspector.



Forester Jim Elze (far right) describing tree selection for harvesting at the 2014 Coldwell Family Tree Farm of the Year tour in Columbiana County.

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
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jeremy.scherf@dnr.state.oh.us

Killbuck Valley Woodland Interest Group

Bob Romig
3511 Clearview Pl.
Wooster, Ohio 44691
(330) 345-5077

Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group

Jim Stafford
2769 Dresden Rd.
Zanesville, OH 43701-1703
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jim72staff@gmail.com
www.mrwig.org

Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association

James Elze
2145 Merle Road
Salem, Ohio 44840
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neofa1972@gmail.com

Northwest Ohio Woodland Association

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Joe Puperi
Advanced Tree Health
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seowig.weebly.com

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

P.J. Gordy
3813 Potts Hill Road
Bainbridge, Ohio 45612
(740) 634-2470
OhioSOFA.org

Southwest Ohio Woodland Owners Association

Pat Migliozi
ODNR Division of Forestry
8570 East State Route 73
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
(513) 897-1082
pat.migliozi@dnr.state.oh.us



For You and Your Woods: Management Plan

The first step to becoming a tree farmer is developing a management plan--but becoming a tree farmer isn't the only reason to develop a management plan. Management plans are required to maintain eligibility for Ohio's woodland property tax reduction programs called Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) and Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL).

CAUV values land for property tax purposes based on the current agricultural use (not true market value) and results in a substantially lower tax bill for working farms and forests. Agricultural use valuation is calculated using the capitalization of net income from agricultural products, cropping and land use patterns, and crop yields for given soil types. CAUV tax valuation varies significantly across the state but is generally between a 40 and 70 percent reduction of value from true market value. So, an annual property tax bill of \$2000 could be reduced to \$1000 or less if CAUV is applied. In the OFTL program, property taxes are based on half of true market value, so the taxes owed are consistently around half of properties not in any program for the wooded acres.

How do you get into the CAUV or OFTL programs? **You must demonstrate that you have a forestry management plan**, and then apply to the county auditor for CAUV or the ODNR Division of Forestry for OFTL. In CAUV, every year thereafter you sign a document confirming the land continues to have a primarily agricultural use – this includes timber production. In OFTL, you make the affirmation of managing your

woods for timber every 5 years, which could coincide with an inspection by the Division of Forestry.

A forest management plan is a site-specific plan that is developed based on landowner's management objectives and the professional expertise of a forester to achieve long-term management goals. The management plan will include a summary of your woods, with typically a five to ten-year window to perform the activities needed to maintain the woods, enhance the timber value, and perform timber sales if the woods are ready. This may include activities like removal of invasive species, performing crop tree release, or commercial thinning. These plans provide long-term visions for woodland owners and help them know where to start.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the benefit of forest management plans and has placed a high priority for funding them through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). If you would like to see if you can be funded for management plan development, contact your local USDA Service Center (<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>). They can also provide you with a list of professional foresters in your area who are qualified to work with you to develop your management plan.

If you don't wish to apply for government assistance or want to start by finding a forester you can work with, two forester directories exist in Ohio: the Ohio Chapter of the Society of American Foresters directory at osafdirectory.com, and the Association of Consulting Foresters directory at www.acf-foresters.org.

Certified Tree Farm management plans follow the Tree

Farm System Standards of Sustainability and include things like protection of water and special sites and proper use of pesticides. We will discuss these in more detail in future articles – but in the meantime, if you are developing a management plan, we hope you will consider asking your forester to incorporate the Tree Farm Standards of Sustainability. ♦

Cassie Ridenour

Cassie Ridenour currently serves as Vice Chair of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee. She has been actively managing the 239 acres she bought from her grandparents for 25 years. Look for more “For You and Your Woods” updates from Cassie in future issues.





OHIO FORESTRY

Paul Bunyan October



Preparations for the 2018 version of the Paul Bunyan Show are in full swing! October 5-7, 2018 are the dates for this year's show, the 62nd year that the official trade show of the Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. has been in existence. This will be the 13th consecutive year that the show is being held at the Guernsey County Fairgrounds, near Cambridge, Ohio in Old Washington, a few miles east from the intersection of I-77 and I-70.

The Paul Bunyan Show originated in McArthur, Ohio in 1957. The show was held in various locations over the next 15 years, before coming to rest for over 30 years on the beautiful campus of Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. The show was moved in 2006 to the Guernsey County Fairgrounds, where it has been held for the past 12 years. Since moving to the Cambridge area, the show has continually grown in size, variety of exhibited products, and attendance. This year's show looks to continue that trend.

As one of the largest forestry and logging equipment expos east of the Mississippi River, the grounds will once again be filled with equipment ranging from small, hand-

Show 2018 5 – 7, Cambridge, Ohio

held landowner tools to the largest professional timber harvesting and wood processing machines on the market. Everything in between will include wood stoves, firewood processors, portable sawmills, chainsaws, safety equipment, arborist supplies, outdoor boots, clothing, and other equipment and supplies too numerous to mention.

For those looking for competition and/or entertainment, the Paul Bunyan Show will have a full slate featuring lumberjack competitions, a log loader competition, a truck cruise-in, the Great Firewood Shootout, and a skid-steer rodeo. Other entertainment options include the Great Lakes Timber Show and musical entertainment by Barefoot McCoy.

Great craftsmanship is also a hallmark of the show. Check out the many chainsaw sculptures being created during the show, or other fine products being displayed and sold in the exhibit areas.

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

Paul Bunyan was a big dude with a large appetite, and he would never have gone hungry while at this show. A wide variety of food and beverages are offered to keep everyone's appetite satisfied, including the world-famous Bunyan Burger, and a Flapjacks for Lumberjacks Breakfast sponsored by the Ohio Tree Farm Committee 7-10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings in the Education Hall.

The weather is never an issue for the show (that's my story and I'm sticking to it!). The Paul Bunyan Show is put together by, and for, folks that have spent their lives working in the woods, rain or shine. So, if it rains, put your boots on and come on out and see us. We'll be there! ♦

Check for further details, including the show schedule, on the OFA website at <http://www.ohioforest.org>.

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Oak Management Ohio's Appalachians

Oaks are keystone species in much of the eastern United States, with many plants, animals, fungi, and insects dependent on oak forests for survival. This importance is tied directly to the large ecological niche oaks fill; there is a different species of oak for nearly every habitat type, from chestnut oak on dry ridgetops, to pin oak in swamps. Wildlife--from wood ducks to black bears--depend on the acorns produced by oaks as a major part of their diet, while other animals such as the cerulean warbler feed on the diverse and abundant insect communities that associate with oak forests.

Oak in Southeast Ohio

While their ecological importance cannot be understated, they also have enormous economic and cultural importance. From bourbon barrels to fine furniture, the wood products industry relies heavily on oak for a wide variety of products and applications; oak also happens to be our National Tree. With so

many services provided by this species, it is now more important than ever to sustainably manage oak forests.

Oak/hickory forests have been the historical cover type for much of southeastern Ohio, but this trend has been slowly changing over the past few decades due to timber harvesting methods used, fire suppression or lack of prescribed fire, and the proliferation of non-native invasive plants. These factors have contributed to a lack of recruitment of younger oak trees, and have accelerated the conversion of oak/hickory forests to woodlands dominated by American beech and maple. Beech/maple forests have limited value to humans and wildlife, and generally host less plant and animal diversity than forests dominated by oaks.

Beech and maple also benefit from “selection” type timber harvesting methods often used by landowners because of aesthetics, which usually do not create large enough openings to allow younger oak to become established. Single-tree selection will let these shade-tolerant and faster growing beech and maple thrive and out-compete the young oaks which require more



Before thinning – Oak forest being overtaken with American beech and red maple.



After thinning – Oak forest with the beech-maple component eliminated, allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor to encourage oak regeneration.

Management in Southern Forests

Adam Komar
ODNR Division of Forestry

Ted Rhodes
Monroe County Tree Farmer

sunlight to become established. If nothing is done to reverse this trend, oak/hickory may be challenged to retain its status as the dominant forest type in southeastern Ohio in a few decades.

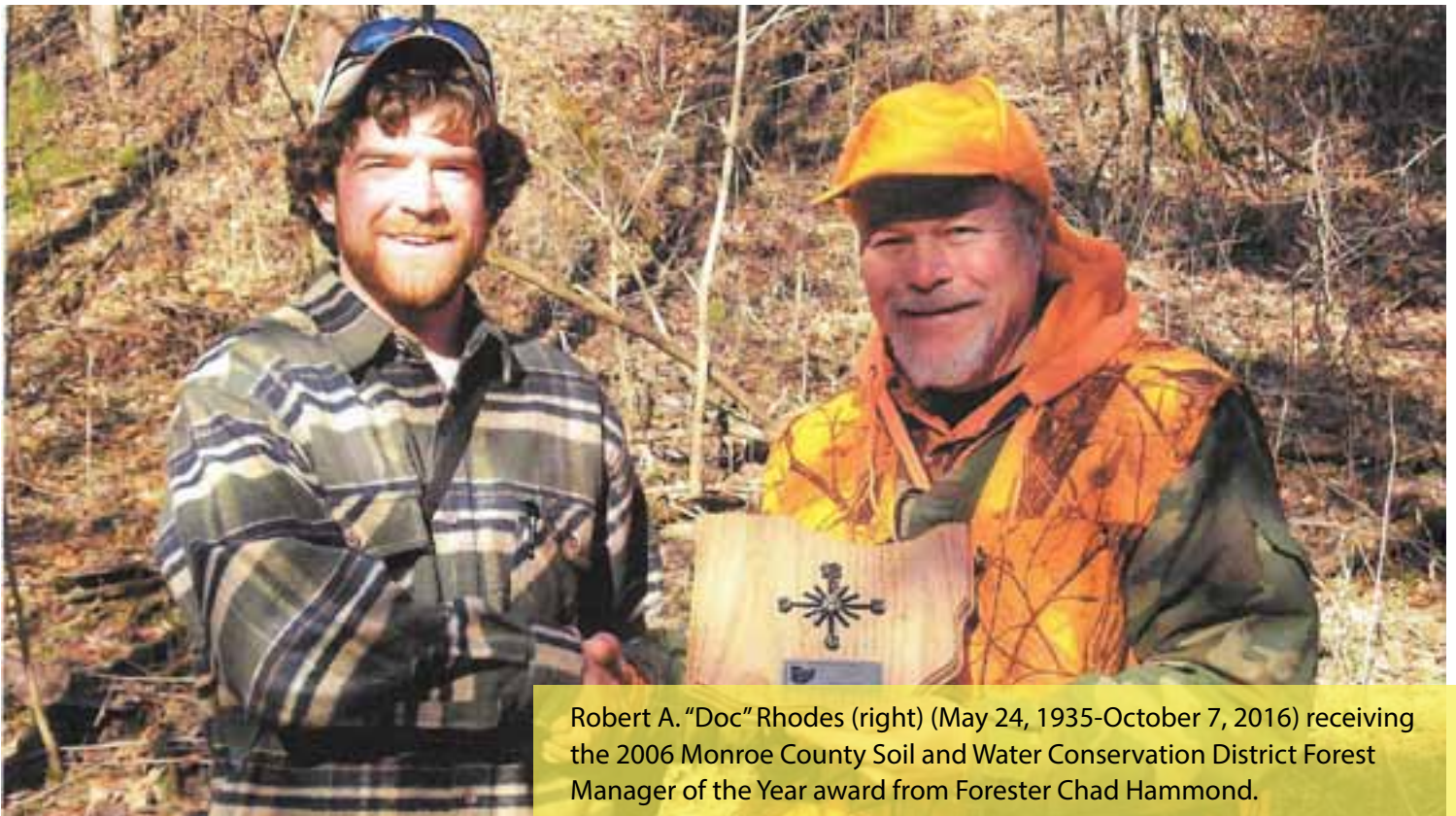
Collaborative Oak Management

The Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership is a collaboration between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Forest Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, and others. The purpose of this partnership is to coordinate oak management across federal, state, and private lands in seventeen counties through cooperative agreements, data sharing, and public outreach. Part of this collaboration includes providing cost-assistance to private landowners for woodland improvement projects that promote oak through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Progress on private land

The Rhodes family has owned and actively managed their 251-acre tract of woodland in southern Monroe County for over fifty years. During this time, they have planted and pruned trees, controlled grapevines and non-native invasive plants, and completed various timber stand improvement projects under the supervision of various foresters with and without cost-assistance.

Their latest project was a "thinning from below" intermediate practice funded through the NRCS-EQIP. The goal of this project was to mechanically kill beech, maple, and other undesirable tree species that were directly competing with oak--in essence mimicking the effects of prescribed fire without the cost and liability (See photos on page 18). The work was completed in 2017 by Ted Rhodes and his sons, along with the assistance of consulting foresters Chad Hammond and Tom McDonald.



Robert A. "Doc" Rhodes (right) (May 24, 1935-October 7, 2016) receiving the 2006 Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District Forest Manager of the Year award from Forester Chad Hammond.

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Monroe Future Spoken by Ted Rhodes

My journey began in 1967 when I was born to my parents Robert “Doc” Rhodes and Alice Rhodes, who introduced my siblings and me to the outdoors very early in our lives. Doc had many accolades in his life, but one of the things that he was most proud of was his stewardship of his properties. At the time of his death, he was actively involved in managing several tracts of land he owned in the Ohio counties of Carroll, Jefferson, and Monroe, all totaling about 450 acres. Doc worked with state service foresters, government organizations, and private businesses obtaining cost-sharing funds and materials to bring his dreams to fruition.

His dream was to leave the land a better place than when he got it and to be able to pass it on for future generations. Through savvy management practices, communication, and sweat equity, our family and friends have been able to see our little slice of heaven change for the better and bring us decades of enjoyment. This is a brief introduction to our legacy property we affectionately call “Monroe.”



Brother Dru Rhodes



Family and Friends: Luke Rhodes, Alex Zielke, Cole Rhodes, and Ted Rhodes standing with the cabin recently sided in May 2018.

Background

The original farm purchased was the 151.3 acres farm in Benton Township, Monroe County. This farm was purchased by David J. and Mary Jones in the 1960s and is referred to as the Jones Farm. In 1962, Neil Berry of the USDA Soil Conservation Services wrote the first forestry management plan for this property in which he noted, "This entire tract of land was heavily cut in the past and its wooded areas are primarily composed of soft maple, poor quality oak, aspen, and many undesirable tree species."

In the 1960s, the first forestry management on the property was started which included grapevine control, tree culling, and tree planting. Most notably was the planting of 10,000 white pine seedlings on 10 acres of clear-cut area by Dave and Mary in honor of the loss of their only son who was KIA in what I believe was the Vietnam War. Doc purchased the Jones Farm in 1977. The Dillon Farm was later purchased from Charles and Irene Dillon in 2007 and consists of two tracts of land totaling 102.3 acres. The composition of "Monroe," which consists of the Jones Farm and the Dillon Farm, is 253.6 acres, with 251 acres forested.

Under our current forestry management plan, Monroe is divided into six different timber stands and is differentiated as follows:

- Stand 1: 17 acres of 20-year-old white pine pole timber with competitive yellow poplar
- Stand 2: 7 acres, 50-year-old medium-large saw timber of white pine
- Stand 3: 12 acres, 30-year-old large pole-saw timber white pine
- Stand 4: 28 acres, large pole-medium size hardwood saw timber
- Stand 5: 28 acres, clear-cut regeneration harvest with fully stocked hardwood seedling and saplings
- Stand 6: 159 acres, small-medium saw timber oak, hickory, beech, poplar, and red maple

Monroe forestry management

Over the past four plus decades, our family (including my brother Dru who recently passed away) and friends have done a majority of the timber stand improvements (TSI) on Monroe. Most notably over the years has been the 8 feet by 8 feet grid planting of white pine seedlings in stands 1 and 3 and the maintenance done to the areas to allow the seedlings to proliferate and thrive. More recently, in 2016, Doc had received approval for a 73-acre EQIP funded oak regeneration project in the 159-acre stand 6, which was to be completed over the next three years. We were to cull beech and other undesirable trees to allow oaks a chance to proliferate.

Much of this project was completed by Doc, Chad Hammond, and Tom McDonald in 2016 prior to Doc's death on October 7, 2016. My sons Cole and Luke and their friend Alex Zielke worked to complete the project in 2017 and early 2018. This was a great opportunity to get my sons involved in TSI projects. It was amazing to see the woods before and after we attacked it with "Hurricane Stihl." I am looking forward to seeing how the woods progress over the next 5, 10, 15 years. The work is extremely difficult with an obvious element of danger due to the steep, uneven terrain. But I am always amazed at how much our efforts can help progress the forest positively.

So, don't be afraid to get out and do some work in your woods. Make some mistakes, and learn from them. Include and educate your family and friends. Join organizations such as East Central Ohio Forestry Association (ECOFA); there are great people in these organizations. Listen to the recommendations of your forester--they are there to help you. Be safe and enjoy the fruits of your labor and enjoy the time spent on your own little slice of heaven, your "Monroe." ♦



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Wild Wonders *in the Woods*

The Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and Sharp-shinned Hawk

We've all done it before -- tilted our heads skyward to gaze at the hawk soaring above, watched as it circled round and round on a thermal (column of rising warm air), or followed its smooth flight across the sky. Hawks are quite mesmerizing, often causing us to hit the pause button on life while we enjoy a few seconds of nature.

Ohio is home to seven species of hawks, four of which belong to the genus *Buteo*, such as the red-tailed hawk and red-shouldered hawk. The other three species of Ohio hawks, the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks and the rarely seen Northern Goshawk, belong to the genus *Accipiter*.

DID YOU KNOW? Ohio is home to many species of raptors, a group of predatory birds that includes hawks, vultures, eagles, owls, harriers, kites, the osprey, and falcons. They are found in a variety of habitats, from forests to fields to cities.

The Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are among the smallest of Ohio's raptors. The sharpie (its nickname in the birding world) is the smaller of the two, and the smallest hawk in North America. Think of the size of a blue jay and add a little height and bulk, and you have the rough size of a sharp-shinned hawk. The female, however, is much larger and can be up to three times the size of a male sharp-shinned hawk. Differences in size also exists between the sexes of the Cooper's hawk. The Cooper's hawk is roughly the size of a crow with males being significantly smaller than females.

Using size alone to identify these hawks can be tricky, as female sharpies can be as large as a male Cooper's hawk. These two woodland accipiters are perhaps two of the trickiest birds to tell apart; in their adult plumage they have very similar colors and markings. Therefore size, location, and multiple field markings must be used to determine the species. The Lab of Ornithology's Feeder Watch site (www.feederwatch.org) has a great article on how to distinguish these two species. The table has some of the tips included in the article:

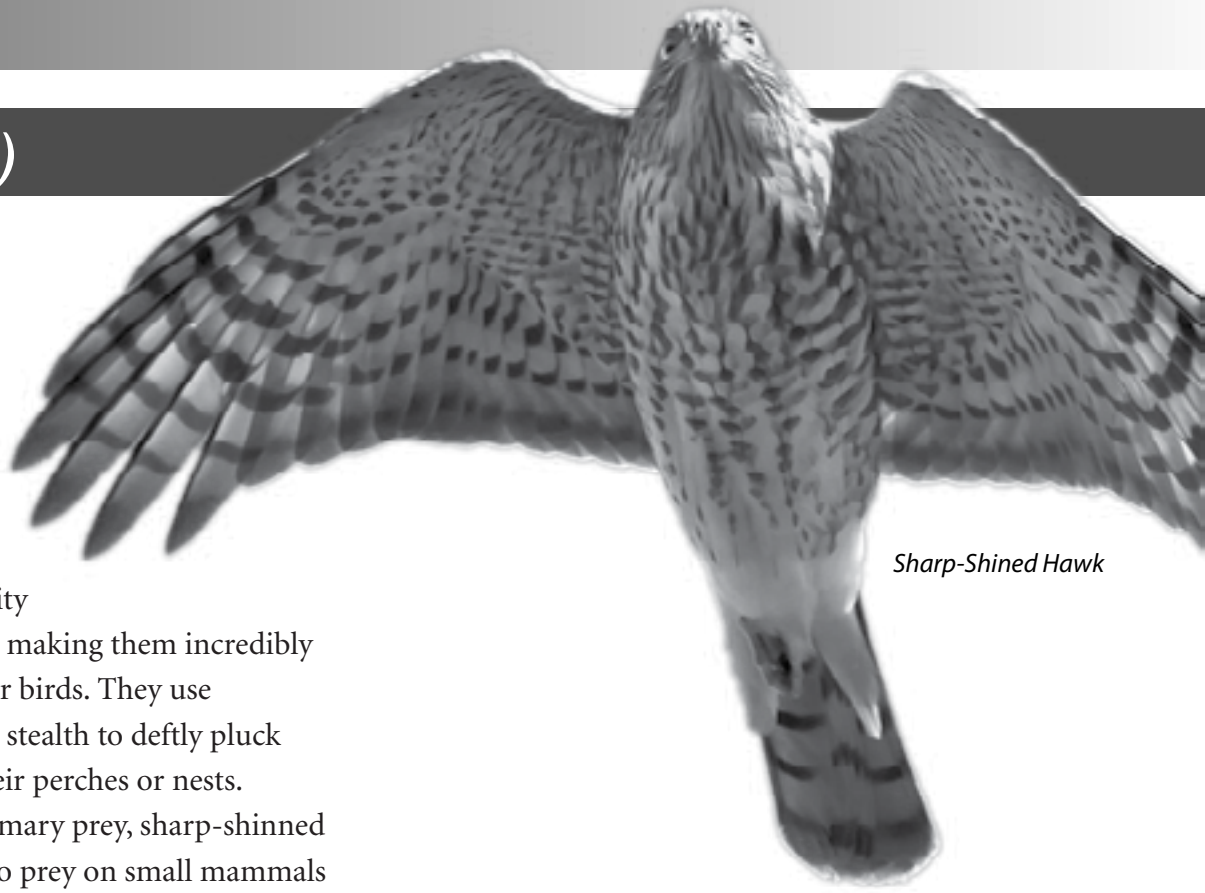
ID Characteristic	Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk
Location	Woodlands, occasionally urban areas	Woodlands, urban areas
Tail	Square-tipped tail	Rounded-tipped tail
Head	Appears small compared to body	Appears large compared to body. Feathers on the back of head are often raised to give crested look.
Body	Chest is broad and high. Center of gravity is high.	More tubular in shape. Center of gravity is low.
Flight shape	Small head barely extends past wings	Larger head extends well beyond the wings

(Accipiter striatus)

The life of an Ohio Accipiter

Both the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks are woodland specialists. Their broad wings and long tails give them the ability to hunt in dense vegetation, making them incredibly efficient predators of smaller birds. They use speed, maneuverability, and stealth to deftly pluck unsuspecting birds from their perches or nests. Although birds are their primary prey, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks will also prey on small mammals and occasional insects, in the case of the sharpie.

The sharp-shinned hawk is a species of concern in Ohio and therefore not as common as the Cooper's hawk. Sharp-shinned hawks are seen more often in the southern and eastern parts of Ohio, while Cooper's hawks are seen throughout the state. Both sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks may be seen in residential areas, but Cooper's hawks have displayed an impressive



Sharp-Shinned Hawk

ability to adapt to human landscapes. The Second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas reports, "Their expansion into urban areas has been among the most dramatic distributional changes seen in a North American bird in recent decades."

Both species tend to nest in woodlands with dense understories and mature trees, in which they build their nests. The female sharp-shinned hawk is responsible for most of the nest building, but both parents help to bring food to the nestlings. Life is a bit different for the male Cooper's hawk. He needs to tread carefully even before nest building commences. Due to his much smaller size, he must approach the female cautiously lest he become her next meal, as she specializes in hunting medium-sized birds. Once a mate is secured, the male Cooper's hawk is the primary nest-builder. He also provides the food for the females and nestlings until fledging (when the young leave the nest).

DID YOU KNOW? The Second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas is a great resource for learning more about the status and life history of Ohio's birds. Check it out at www.ohiobirds.org under 'Publications.'

Signs to look and listen for

Remember the hawk flying above our heads? When in flight, shape is sometimes the best defining feature we have for identifying hawks. Buteos typically have rounded wings and short tails. Accipiters also have rounded wings, but their longer tails are quite noticeable. Once you have placed the hawk into its respective genus, you can take note of other defining characteristics like color and overall size to help with identifying them.

Have you seen a sharpie or Cooper's hawk hanging around your backyard bird feeders? Remember that both the sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks prey on smaller birds, so a bird feeder often acts to concentrate their prey in an easy-to-target area (in this case, the name bird feeder has more than one meaning!).

If you are concerned for your songbirds, place your feeders near dense cover (a shrub or conifer) where birds can take shelter quickly if they are attacked. You can also take down your feeders for several days to a week. Songbirds frequently deal with food fluctuations



Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Photograph courtesy of
Pixabay.com

DID YOU KNOW? A life spent speedily cruising through woodlands isn't always easy! Mistakes and miscalculations do happen. Studies of Cooper's hawk skeletons have shown fractures to chest bones. Outside of the forest, hawks have other challenges. Vehicle strikes and collisions with windows and other human-made structures account for a surprising amount of fatalities.

and will seek out other food until the feeders return. Without the attractant of bird feeders, the hawk will likely move on to different hunting grounds.



Cooper Hawk feeding chicks.

Wrapping it up

Raptors intrigue us. Whether it's the soaring flight, the impressively sharp talons and beak, the stealthy attacks, or the smooth maneuverability of the woodland accipiters, they often make us sit up and take notice. And while it can certainly be distressing to see an accipiter capture a bird at your feeder, know that in other parts of the world, accipiters are actually helping birds successfully fledge young. How, you ask? Black-chinned hummingbirds in Arizona that placed their nests within 300 feet of a Cooper's hawk or Goshawk's nest had a higher fledgling success rate. It seems a bit counterintuitive, but the hummingbirds were too small to be prey themselves, and

the raptors drove away other potential predators, like jays and raccoons. Pretty neat, huh?

To learn more about the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, two of Ohio's many wild wonders, see the ODNR Division of Wildlife's new *Raptors of Ohio* field guide at www.wildohio.gov. Additionally, *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors* is an excellent resource. The guide has fully illustrated pages designed to test your recognition abilities. If you are looking to sharpen your raptor ID skills, I strongly recommend this guide (watch out for the Cooper's and sharpie test page – it's a tough one!). Happy Birding! ♦



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REGIONAL WOODLAND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

So much to learn—
from each other and
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Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group

MRWIG Second Annual Forestry Field Day

Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group (MRWIG) is partnering with Coshocton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the 2nd Annual Forestry Field Day to be held on Saturday, September 29 at Wolf Run Farm in Bedford Township.

This year's event will provide woodland owners opportunities to learn ways to enhance the value of their woods and fields as they have the option of choosing from the numerous sessions offered.

Wolf Run Farm owners have partnered extensively with the ODNR Division of Forestry service foresters, consulting foresters, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to manage and enhance the woodland and wildlife habitat on their farm. With the construction of a wetland, planting native grassland/pollinator habitat, invasive plant control, reforestation of 20 acres of native hardwoods, and two timber harvests, there is a great opportunity for field day participants to learn from the benefits of natural resource partnerships.

Consulting foresters will walk participants through one and two-year-old harvests, focusing on tree selection to meet the landowner's management goals, applying BMP's during and after a sale, and the importance of invasive plant control. Woodland road management will be highlighted, and we will have the opportunity to observe proper water and erosion control practices that protect woodland roads, enhance valuable wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities for the landowner.

ODNR service foresters will update participants on new forest invasive threats, identify invasive plants, and provide information on the importance of controlling these woodland invaders. They will also be leading a discussion on Ohio Forest Tax Law and the value of keeping current with your forest management plans.

A soil scientist from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will host a session on woodland soil structure and help participants better understand the critical importance of soil conservation in their forest management plans. An update on EQIP and other cost-share assistance will be addressed by NRCS staff as well.

USFWS Partners Program wildlife biologists will conduct sessions on habitat management, giving attendees the chance to learn more about how they can enhance wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities for their property.

A popular session from the first field day returns as we will have a timber buyer conduct a session on current market trends and his opinion on what the future holds for Ohio timber resources.

Chainsaw safety will be addressed with a focus on safety equipment and proper felling techniques.

Real McCoy BBQ will have a food truck available for lunch with a variety of items to choose from.

Raffle tickets will be available for the many prizes provided by sponsors, including a chainsaw to be given away. All proceeds from this program will be utilized for camp scholarships at Camp Canopy (formerly Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp).

To register for the Forestry Field Day, contact the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District at <http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/swcd>.

For information on this and other MRWIG activities and programs visit our web site, www.mrwig.org.

Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group

The Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group (SEOWIG) has been busy planning programs for the coming year. We have had recent programs on the American chestnut tree and a woodland tour of native prairie and oak regeneration. We are also looking forward to another woodland tour and potluck in September. Additional programs are also being planned for August and November.

If you would like to keep up with what is going on in southeast Ohio, we send out updates on our Facebook page: Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group, and our website: seowig.weebly.com.



Northwest Ohio Woodland Association

Come join us on Saturday, October 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, as we learn about the University of Toledo R. A. Stranahan Arboretum (4121 Tantara Dr. in Toledo, OH 43623). The NWOWA meets four times a year and our calendar for 2019 will be available at our October meeting.

Our summer meeting at Tom Barnes's farm was most interesting. He has a fun fantasy woods with purple martins, bees, and guinea fowl and a wonderful escape cabin in the woods. We learned how he has chosen to craft his woods for his enjoyment.

The 2018 officers will be presiding at the meeting with the usual secretary, treasurer, and other committee reports along with updates from the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the ODNR service foresters. We will begin 2019 with our Annual Meeting at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry office in Findlay, Ohio.

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



Southern Ohio Forestry Association

Members recently convened at the home of Joe and PJ Gordy to present them with a plaque expressing appreciation to these swell people and dedicated founding members of our woodland interest group. We owe them the fact that our organization's culture values thoughtful preparation, organization, and communication and cultivates consistent convivial breaking of bread at our gatherings!

Phyllis (PJ) Gordy passed away peacefully at her home July 1. Her dear husband Joe, her family, her constant canine companion Annie, and her many friends will miss that twinkle in her eye and spark in her being. She has left each of us a better person in some way.

We were happy to be able to sponsor two students at Camp Canopy this summer. Most of us wish we were of an age to enjoy this wonderful learning and experiencing opportunity!

As you might expect, SOFA members are staying busy in the great outdoors. We recently pooled our forest clothing to send off to Insect Shield for tick and chigger treatment certified good for 70 washings, and we received a great volume discount. Testimonials so far have exceeded our expectations!

Our summer programs include a farm tour at John and Shirley King's homestead in scenic Highland County; a program at the OSU South Centers' Endeavor Center by forester Wayne Oney about marketing your timber; and a program planning meeting for the 2019 calendar year.

Anyone interested in our group or any of its programs is always welcome. And come hungry - we always have plenty of food. The calendar of our meetings and other programs of interest can be found at OhioSOFA.org. If you have any questions, give Betsy Pierson a call or e-mail her at (740) 703-1645 or GodivaPoodlesmith@gmail.com.

*PJ and Joe Gordy,
founding members of SOFA.*



Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association

Hello again from northeast Ohio. On April 27, the NEOFA held our annual banquet and auction with 100 members and guests attending. The auction brought in \$4750, which is used to fund our Camp Canopy sponsorship program. We are truly blessed to have so many generous members willing to support this great cause. This year we were are proud to announce that we sponsored nine students to attend camp.

Our May meeting featured Steve Ohman, who gave a presentation on Bonsai trees. This was an interesting look at trees from an entirely different perspective. Members attended a tour of the newly remodeled Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center on July 17. This is a must-see facility if you are in the area.

The NEOFA co-sponsored two field days recently. In April, a Timber Sale 101 Educational Field Day was co-sponsored by the NEOFA, the Columbiana and Stark county SWCDs, ODNr Division of Forestry, and ODNr Division of Wildlife. On June 23, a Wildlife and Food Plot Symposium was co-sponsored by the NEOFA, Mahoning County SWCD, and ODNr Division of Wildlife along with several corporate sponsors. These are great events for meeting folks who may not be aware of woodland interest groups such as the NEOFA.

Plans are underway for our annual information and education display at the Canfield Fair. The NEOFA has been a part of the fair for longer than anyone can remember, and this outreach is coordinated by Dave and Nancy Hively. The fair booth is a great opportunity for us to share knowledge with the general public about proper forest management. The Canfield Fair runs from August 29 through Labor Day.

We will resume our indoor meeting schedule September 20. The event schedule is still in the works at this time.

Contact Mike Lanave for more information at (330) 831-8201 or neofa1972@gmail.com.



ENJOY



JOIN

Summer 2018 | 31

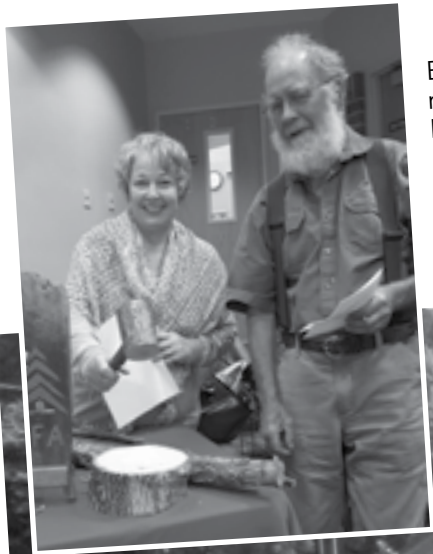
East Central Ohio Forestry Association



Evening ECOFA tour at Rob Davis' Tree Farm. Rob has planted THOUSANDS of trees and has put various types of tree tubes on them. Rob and family also have an old farmhouse that they have fabulously renovated, and it is used for church retreats and sabbaticals for pastors.



A fascinating group tour of DeNoon Lumber, Bergholz, Ohio (Jefferson County).



ECOFA officers Kathy Myers and John Quimby. Monthly meetings are held in the Dover Public Library, Dover, Ohio. For more information, contact John at (740) 269-3038.



ECOFA has sponsored hundreds of kids to Camp Canopy, held in June at Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake, Carroll County, Ohio. Here is Keith Schmuki arriving at camp in 2018 for his third year of sponsorship by the landowner association. Keith is employed this summer with the Muskingum Water Conservancy District, New Philadelphia, and he will be a second-year student at Hocking College this fall, with plans to attend West Virginia University for his 3rd and 4th years of college.



Connecting Kids to Nature

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

Adopt a Tree

In this activity, children "adopt" a tree, deepening their awareness of individual trees over time and encouraging a greater understanding and appreciation of their local environment.

The next time you are on a walk in a familiar area, invite children to choose a particular tree to observe. Suggest they become better acquainted with it by using their senses of sight, touch, hearing, and smell to describe the tree. Encourage critical thinking by asking:

- Is this tree alive? How do you know?
- How is this tree similar to and/or different from other trees around it?
- How does this tree help the environment around it?

Complete the Adopt a Tree Journal Entry below. Revisit this tree on a regular basis throughout the year and in a variety of weather conditions. Have children guess reasons for the changes they see and then predict changes for the future.

Adopt a Tree Journal Entry

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Describe the tree _____

What color is the bark? _____

Why did you choose this tree? _____

What type of tree is it? _____

My Adopted Tree



In the box, draw a picture of your tree or use a crayon or pencil to complete a leaf or bark rubbing.

Make Learning Fun!

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

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

How many seasonal signs can you find?

Fall

- Leaf color change
- Fallen leaves
- Colder temperatures

Winter

- Bird migration
- Increased precipitation
- Bare branches



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— Division of Forestry and
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The editorial board of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* is looking for businesses or individuals who are willing to sponsor annual subscriptions of the *Journal* for all of their county public and private high school libraries. Partial sponsorships are certainly welcomed from those who reside in urban counties with numerous school districts.

Individual subscription rates are \$15.00 per year for four issues. Each high school principal will receive a letter prior to their first issue of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* announcing that you or your business is generously supporting the county's schools by supplying four free issues to their library. You will also be listed in the *Journal* as a sponsor.

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

Thanks to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who sponsor the OWJ for these counties:

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 Walter Lange..... *Williams*

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The *Ohio Woodland Journal* is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System.
 It is published and mailed each year in February, May, August, and November.

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1/2 pg. (5"H x 7 3/4"W)	\$155	\$500
1 pg. (10"H x 7 3/4"W)	\$300	\$990

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Size (approximate)	Single Insertion	Four Insertions
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1/4 pg. (5"H x 3 3/4"W)	\$200	\$700
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To submit an ad, send a high resolution PDF.

Contact Information for reserving your place in the magazine:

Tom Mills
 Advertising Manager
The Ohio Woodland Journal
 Ohio Tree Farm Committee
 Phone: 419-423-3422
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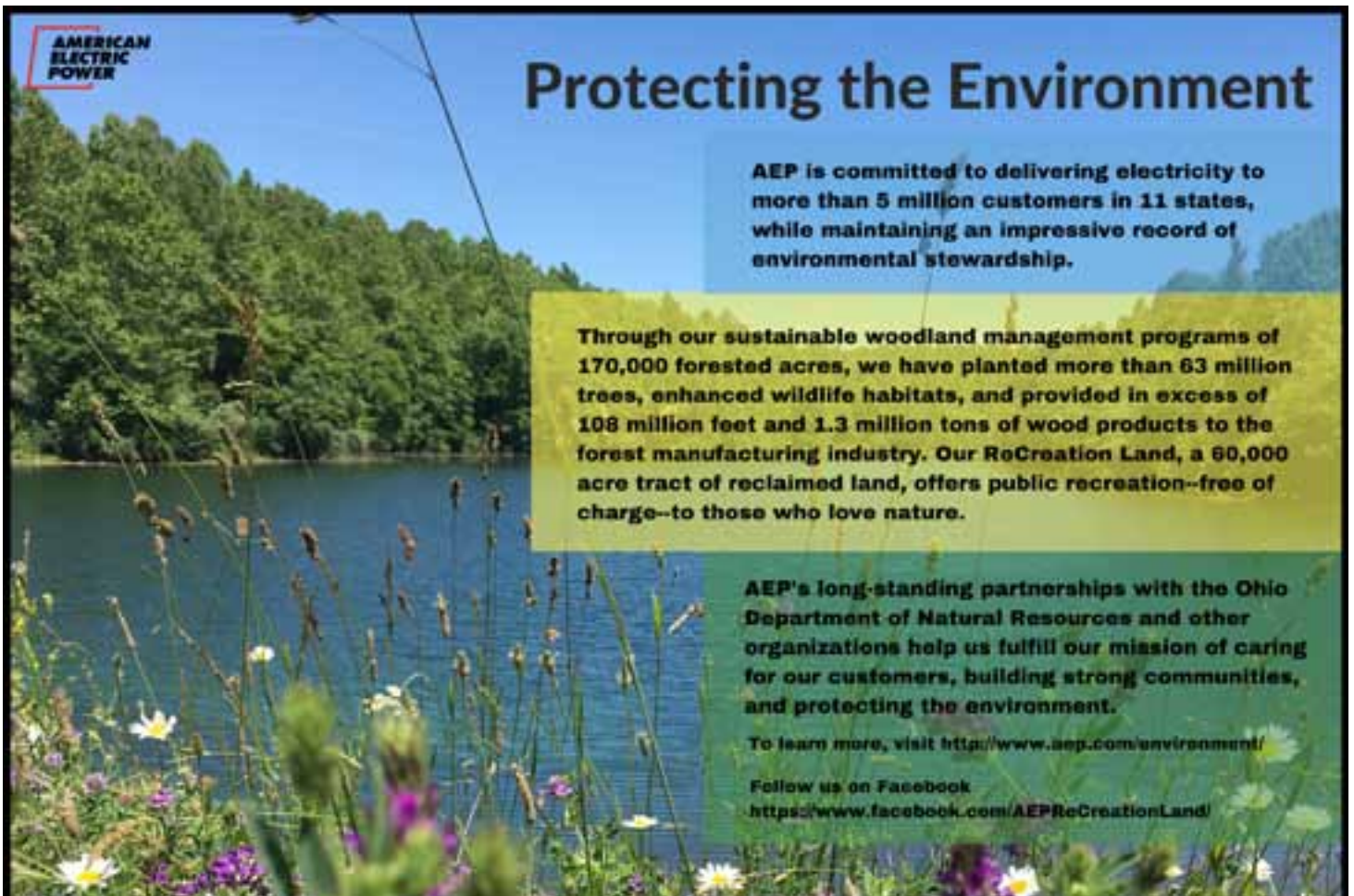
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