• 2016 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year
• Japanese Cherry Makes Living Memories
• New OFA Executive Director
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price per 1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spicebush</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Arborvitae</td>
<td>8-15&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$260.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Maple</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$590.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$640.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silky Dogwood</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp White Oak</td>
<td>12-18&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speckled Alder</td>
<td>36-48&quot;</td>
<td>Transplants</td>
<td>$3,250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>7-10&quot;</td>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway Spruce</td>
<td>16-24&quot;</td>
<td>Transplants</td>
<td>$795.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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On the Cover

Ohio woodland owners gathered around forester Wayne Lashbrook (center, leaning on tree) at a 2015 2nd Friday Series program at Vinton Furnace State Forest. Wayne, retired Mead Company forester and Ohio’s 2012 Tree Farmer of the Year, was instrumental in creating and promoting forestry education programming for landowners around the demonstration practices installed at the forest, as well as the establishment of the modern training facility during Mead’s ownership of this experimental forest. Learn more about the 2016 2nd Friday Series on page 20.

Photo courtesy of Dave Apsley, OSU Extension
As I reflect on that one-liner, I see the four corners of the Tree Farm sign – wood, water, wildlife, and recreation – as a constant reminder of some of those potential problem areas to which managed forests offer the best solution. To help you realize how much positive impact your woodland has, imagine how dire each of those areas would become if our managed forests were gone.

Back in Ohio, the annual Tree Farm Awards Lunch was held on March 10 as part of the Ohio Forestry Association annual meeting. We recognized:

• Paul Mechling for his service as Chair, 2014-2015
• Dave Schatz for his 47 years of dedication to the Tree Farm committee and his efforts as the founding editor of The Ohio Woodland Journal
• John Dorka for his dedication to the Ohio Tree Farm Program while Chief of the ODNR-Division of Forestry and Director of the Ohio Forestry Association
• Dean Berry for his service coordinating Tree Farm Inspectors and Inspector training
• Cameron Bushong as the 2016 Ohio Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Year
• Duckworth Farms as the 2016 Ohio Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year

If you have been around the forestry community in Ohio, you have likely seen Jeremy’s name somewhere because it seems he is everywhere. Jeremy, in his acceptance speech, reminded us that being a forester means never having to “go to work.” Thank you to Jeremy and all of the other Tree Farm Inspecting Foresters who keep the Tree Farm Program strong in Ohio.

Tom Martin, President of the American Forest Foundation – the parent organization of the American Tree Farm Program – encouraged everybody to remember the importance of forestry. Not only do we need to remember this, we need to share it more often. One of his statements summarizes the importance of forestry: “We solve important problems in the communities we are a part of through woodland stewardship.”

As I reflect on that one-liner, I see the four corners of the Tree Farm sign – wood, water, wildlife, and recreation – as a constant reminder of some of those potential problem areas to which managed forests offer the best solution. To help you realize how much positive impact your woodland has, imagine how dire each of those areas would become if our managed forests were gone.

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I told Brad Wireman, nominating forester, that the Duckworths would be given an opportunity to speak about their tree farm at the annual lunch. I asked Brad to request them to please highlight what is unique about their property. I had no idea what I was asking! Chris Duckworth started his history lesson at Fort Pitt. I thought it an odd place for a tree farm in Ohio to start, but Chris traced back the eight generations of his family that have owned the property since 1808, and sure enough, that is where it all began! I hope you will be able to make it to the Tree Farm of the Year tour of Duckworth Farms in Fayette County on November 12.

See Brad Wireman’s feature about the Duckworth Tree Farm on page 14.

Joe Puperi can be contacted at the ODNR Division of Forestry office in Findlay at (419) 424-5004, or by email at joe.puperi@dnr.state.oh.us.

Certified Tree Farm Owners ... There is still time to complete your survey! Visit treefarmsurvey.com

Jeremy Scherf, right, receiving his National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year award from Tom Martin, President of the American Forest Foundation. Scherf assists private landowners in a four-county area in east-central Ohio as a service forester for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. The award was presented at the Tree Farm National Leadership Conference held in Seattle, Washington in February.
CALENDAR

MAY 2016
13
A Day in the Woods
2nd Friday Series**
Spring Edibles

21
Woodland & Wildlife
Family Festival
4-H Camp Palmer,
Fulton County
419-424-5008

JUNE 2016
7-8
Teacher Forestry Field Days
Vinton Furnace State Forest
greg.smith@dnr.state.oh.us

10
A Day in the Woods 2nd
Friday Series**
Roads and Trails

12-17
Ohio Forestry and Wildlife
Conservation Camp
FFA Camp Muskingum,
Carroll County
1-888-388-TREES

JULY 2016
22
A Day in the Woods
2nd Friday Series**
Tree Identification

31-August 3
2016 Annual Walnut
Council Meeting
Lawrenceburg, IN
765-583-3501

AUGUST 2016
5
Tree Diagnostic Workshop
OSU-Mansfield Campus
woodlandstewards.osu.edu

12
A Day in the Woods
2nd Friday Series**
Preparing Your Woods for an
Uncertain Future

**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.
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SELECTIONAL SERVICE

Spring 2016 | 6
Springtime greetings to you all! I am pleased to update you regarding several forestry-related awards, honors, and accomplishments – on local, state, and national levels.

Service Forestry

Service Forester **John Mueller** was honored as the Outstanding Individual in Government Service at the 2016 Ohio Forestry Association’s (OFA) annual awards luncheon this past March. OFA recognized John for his outstanding effort in the field of forestry-related conservation work. John has been a service forester in northwest Ohio since 2007 and has served as a Best Management Practices Inspector for the OFA Master Logger Program for many years. He also played a key role in getting a Logger’s Chapter established in northwest Ohio and re-establishing a private woodland interest group in the same region called the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association. This work is in addition to his dedication to assisting private woodland owners in his nine-county area as service forester. Congratulations John!

Service Forester **Adam Komar** was selected as Ohio’s Outstanding Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year and nominated as Outstanding Forester for the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters 20 northeastern and midwestern states. This award recognizes dedication and professional work of state service foresters based on their impact on sustainable forest management, contributions to the forestry profession, and community involvement. Adam has been a service forester for three years and quickly became the “go to” person for forestry assistance in his four counties. He is active as an officer for the local woodland interest group, Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group, and also volunteers his time and expertise on diverse topics from mushroom production and collection to interagency wildfire crews. Congratulations Adam!

Service Forester **Stephen McGinnis** was selected as the Forest Conservationist of the Year by the League of Ohio Sportsmen. Stephen has been a service forester in west-central Ohio since 2006, currently covering six counties. He served on the Gwynne Conservation Area Committee at the Farm Science Review grounds for many years and currently is the Division of Forestry representative on USDA’s Conservation Planning Advisory Committee, a statewide committee that advises on USDA conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program. Congratulations Stephen!

Service Forester **Cameron Bushong** was named 2016 Ohio Tree Farm Inspector of the Year at OFA’s award luncheon this past March. Cameron covers a three-county area in southeast Ohio that includes Athens, Morgan, and Washington counties. Congratulations Cameron!

Urban Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation’s **Tree City USA** program is marking its 40th-year anniversary this year. It’s a credit to Ohio’s strong commitment to healthy, vibrant urban forests that three Ohio communities (Springfield, Westerville, Wooster) have been Tree City USAs for all of those 40 years and that 2016 marks Ohio’s 35th consecutive year as the top Tree City USA state, with 241 participating cities, villages, and townships.

Forest Industry

Congratulations to **John Schulte** of Schulte’s Logging (Pandora, Ohio) who was selected as the Master Logger of the Year at the 2016 Ohio Forestry Association’s annual awards luncheon this past March. ✪
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, recreation, or wildlife. For the spring issue, northeastern Ohio tree farmer and forest products producer Mark Hochstetler shares about the value of sustainable WOOD in our lives.

Trees are a wonderful resource. Not only are they renewable, but automatically so. Rarely do you need to plant to maintain a woods, as a properly managed forest will have advanced regeneration prior to the harvest. Land left to its own naturally reverts to trees, first with weeds and woody brush, then finally with trees. Wind and wildlife distribute seed from existing trees. Planting abandoned or marginal farmland with seedlings or seed speeds the process and allows you to influence the species composition of the new stand of trees.

In their lifespan, trees provide us many benefits. Shade and windbreaks help moderate temperature. Some trees have great beauty in form, others in bloom and foliage. Some tree fruit and sap are not only tasty and healthy, but economically valuable.

Trees have environmental benefits as well. Carbon is common to all living things; it exists in animals, plants, soils, and fuels. It is also in the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Trees have the remarkable ability to capture or fix carbon through photosynthesis to turn it into a useful end product of wood, so the carbon becomes stored when processed, then preserved in buildings and furniture.

Trees are useful at the end of their life and do not require expensive disposal, but rather are useful and even valuable.
Forest products industries provide many good jobs in forest management, harvesting, transporting, manufacturing, and retail sales of products. Wood products from Ohio's woodlands include furniture, flooring, kitchen cabinets, trim, residential and commercial building materials, chemicals, rail ties, pallets, crating, and cooperage.

Trees are a great tool for influencing people. When asked about forestry practices or woodland management, it is nice to be able to say “this is what I did on my tree farm” and “I would be happy to show you the result.” Forest management can seem overwhelming to new landowners, and often they like to speak to someone who has some experience. Professional help is available both privately and through various public agencies.

From an investment standpoint, it is important to note the difference in value of various tree species and to know what you have growing. While you may not be able to change what is growing in your woodlot at the time you purchase or inherit land, it is well worth your effort to influence what trees species regenerate in your woodlot. You can increase the value of the annual growth by removing low value trees earlier in their life to promote more valuable regeneration after a harvest. Since each acre of land will only produce a certain amount of wood fiber each year, it is important to grow as many well-formed trees of valuable species as possible.

While the future for trees is bright green, it is not without challenges. Many people and organizations want to control what you can do in your woodlot, some of whom are misguided. With that in mind, give careful thought to the goals for your woodlot. You can be a positive influence with the help of a well-managed woodlot.

Mark, his family, his brothers’ families, and his parents are Certified Tree Farmers owning (as Tiverton Timber Ltd.) about 1,500 acres in Holmes, Coshocton, Knox, and Monroe counties in Ohio, and woodland property in Ritchie County, West Virginia. Mark and his extended family manufacture furniture in Holmes County.

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

Join Now!

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:

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- Educational Programs
- Trade Shows
- Legislative Representation

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Woodland Owners – learn the benefits of having a Certified Tree Farm by calling 419-429-8314 or visit http://www.ohioforest.org/mpage/OhioTreeFarmHome.

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Have Seeds, Will Travel

Most plants reproduce using systems that include flowers and seeds. In this outdoor investigation, children observe, collect, and classify plant seeds.

Gather a collection of seeds from a wooded area. Try using one or more of the following methods:

• Drag an old blanket or fuzzy cloth behind you on the ground.
• Place a large, old, wool sock over hands or shoes to see what you can pick up.
• Wear bracelets made of masking tape (sticky side out), to hold the seeds you find.

Have children examine their seed collections and invent a system for sorting or classifying them. Explain that plants have developed many different methods of seed dispersal to ensure the success of their species. Some seeds need the help of other external variables to disperse.

These three examples represent only a few of the many ways that seeds can be dispersed. Conduct your own research to determine how common Ohio tree species spread their seeds. Possible species for your research might include sycamore, cottonwood, and Ohio buckeye. Try to identify the multiple seed dispersal methods that these species employ.

Explore and Review:

• How do a seed’s shape and size affect its dispersal?
• Why is it important for seeds to be dispersed in different ways?
• What are three mechanisms of seed dispersal?
• Can some seeds travel farther than others?

Answers: ACORN (such as oak), SAMARA (such as maple), CRANBERRY

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• Attend a workshop near you to receive PreK-12 PLT activities, ideas, and materials.
• Encourage your child’s school to incorporate outdoor learning and PLT.
• Contact your Ohio PLT State Coordinator:
  Sue Wintering, plt@dnr.state.oh.us or 614-265-6657.

www.plt.org
When Boreman Hardwoods, Inc. contracts with a landowner to remove trees, the goal is to harvest the timber for the future benefit and health of the woods. This is accomplished while making sure the landowner’s needs are met.

Company owner and President Russell Boreman is responsible for evaluating the property and marking the timber. Russell has been in the business since he was 18 years old. When a landowner calls into the office to sell their standing timber, Russell is the one that makes the initial visit.

“We are looking at a lot of things,” Boreman said. He takes into consideration how the timber was harvested in previous years along with the landowner’s future plans for the forest. Market conditions, terrain, accessibility, and job scope are factored in, and the landowner is then given an estimate.

“Each factor is considered and is important,” said Maralee Boreman, Russell’s wife and the company’s secretary and treasurer. Thoroughly evaluating the woods allows the best timber harvest of the property and ensures its longevity and profitability. “Our goal has always been to select cut so the next generation will have the opportunity to generate income from their timber,” she said.

“When Boreman Hardwoods, Inc. signs a contract with a landowner, the company harvests the trees using contracted crews,” says Maralee. “We work hard to find and use loggers that share our meticulous concern for the woods and the property.” Russell and son Brad, the company’s vice president, watch the progress to ensure the landowner’s preferences are met.

Brad is on location frequently and makes decisions about which markets the logs will be sent to and when loads will be hauled. Brad drives the haul truck and is constantly on top of log quality for the industry customers that will be receiving the logs.

Logs are brought to Boreman’s log yard, processed according to industry specifications, and then sold to a variety of buyers with whom the Boremans have enjoyed a long-term business relationship. According to Russell, the company sells to 30-40 different clients. Those clients use the wood for veneer, flooring, furniture, tool handles, and other products, and many of the logs are sold to high-end European markets.

The company works primarily within a 100-mile radius of its home base in Wooster, Ohio. On several occasions, they have had the opportunity to do second, third, and fourth harvests for the same customer.
“Landowner and customer satisfaction are extremely vital. Having a good relationship with the landowner is the key to the longevity of our business. We want to do the job for them that we would like to have done ourselves, and we are diligent to maintain this mindset on both ends of the load,” Maralee said. “That’s who we are.”
However, many years prior to that, the woodland on the Duckworth Farm had been managed as an unofficial tree farm. The origin of forest stewardship on the farm can be traced to Benton R. Duckworth, well-known as B.R. B.R. Duckworth was a professional educator for forty years at Greenfield McClain High School, where he served as a science teacher and later as Superintendent. He wrote detailed reports explaining his work to establish, maintain, and maximize productivity of the forest resource on the farm.

This story of stewardship, spanning multiple generations, began in 1933 when B.R. Duckworth fenced out an area with erosion issues from crop rotation in a riparian area bordering Paint Creek. A year later he planted 300 sprouted black walnut seeds among elm, boxelder, hackberry, silver maple, and sycamore seedlings and saplings. From this, he embarked on the journey of forest stewardship. This journey has been aided over the past five decades by several ODNR service foresters and a consulting forester.

There is an island on the Duckworth Farm within Paint Creek that I’ll refer to as the “island of intrigue.” This island of intrigue captured B.R.’s attention in 1980 when he decided to clearcut this area. The timber was purchased and harvested by Mead Corporation of Chillicothe. From this harvest, B.R. realized that half of the value of the entire harvest came from a select number of black walnut trees growing on the island. He then started to understand the relative value of certain tree species.

March 1, 1986 marked the inauguration of the Duckworth Farm into the American Tree Farm System.
The island of intrigue sparked the interest of B.R. to actively manage the establishment and growth of desirable trees for a timber crop. Subsequent plantings of various species here included black walnut, white oak, red oak, and yellow-poplar. The battle with deer over growth of desirable tree species prompted B.R. to put up packets of human hair surrounding the perimeter of the tree planting to deter them. He noted that, over the course of nine months, no deer damage occurred.

B.R. was inspired to examine other areas of the woodland on the farm. As a result, various timber stand improvement (TSI) projects were conducted, including girdling the Undesirable Growing Stock (UGS) of trees, such as hackberry, boxelder, and elm. This improved the growth and productivity of the Acceptable Growing Stock (AGS), such as black walnut and white oak. B.R. also performed lower limb pruning on desirable species, especially black walnut. Tree plantings were done for a variety of reasons--to enhance desirable species composition, reduce soil erosion, and provide food and cover to support a variety of wildlife species.

*girdling: restricting nutrient flow of a tree by cutting into the sapwood layer, completely encompassing the circumference of the trunk with either an axe or chainsaw. The intent is to leave the tree standing, allowing it to slowly decline. Advantages to girdling include that it is safer than felling, and it can create a standing wildlife cavity.
B.R.’s interest and dedication to the woodlands on the Duckworth Farm became embedded in his son, Winston Duckworth. Winston carried on the desire for woodland improvement by conducting a variety of TSI projects that included crop-tree release, wild grapevine control, and lower limb pruning. He remained cognizant of the growth and productivity of the trees, and particular attention was placed on the black walnuts that were established by his father. In 1995, a consulting forester marked a single-tree selection regeneration harvest on the north end of the property and developed and administered the contract with the logger. In March of 1996, the timber harvest was completed with success.

Winston’s era of woodland management, like with many fellow woodland owners across Ohio, became greatly complicated by the establishment and spread of invasive plant species, like bush honeysuckle. Duckworth Tree Farm experienced a rapid transition of invasive plant species, from their establishment to them over-taking space in the understory and threatening the recruitment and growth of desirable species. Fortunately, cost-share assistance was made available to help with the tremendous expense associated with the initial phase of controlling invasive plants. Winston’s dedication to improving the woods and increasing tree productivity was passed on to his son, Christopher Duckworth.

The battle with invasive plants has continued under Chris’s management. Although this on-going battle continues, adequate control of the invasive plants has been achieved throughout the entire woodland. However, the past few years have ushered in a new issue for the Duckworth Tree Farm, the presence of the dreaded and fateful emerald ash borer (EAB). These tiny insects have decimated countless ash trees throughout Ohio and surrounding states as the larvae eat their way through the life-giving sapwood of native ash trees, eventually restricting the nutrient flow and leading to tree mortality. Chris has sought the assistance of a consulting forester to prepare a selective timber harvest to mitigate the onset of the EAB and obtain income from the trees while they are still economically viable.

Over the years, the generations of the Duckworth family have been involved with different woodland issues, from reducing the stocking of undesirable trees and vines, to controlling the invasive plants, to handling the issues with exotic insects plaguing a tree species representing a fair composition in the woodland.

Through interest, dedication, hard work, and advice from professional foresters, desirable woodland conditions have been attained for multiple generations of the Duckworth family. These fundamental woodland stewardship qualities have become a family tradition that has served the Duckworth Tree Farm well. In passing the stewardship torch, B.R. stated the following in one of his numerous detailed reports: “When I finally abandon my shovel, planter bar and grub hoe, I will have the satisfaction of knowing this project will be in good hands.”

The Ohio Tree Farm of the Year tour is scheduled for Saturday, November 12 at the Duckworth Family Tree Farm in Fayette County. Mark your calendar, and check the summer OWJ for details and directions.
ODNR Service Forester Brad Wireman works with private woodland owners to promote the sustainable management of their woodlands in his project area of Clinton, Fayette, Highland, and Pike counties.
There has been a long-standing relationship between Ohio and the Japanese cherry tree, with many groves and plantations of Japanese cherry trees sprinkled throughout our state. The importance of the cherry tree to the Japanese people dates back to 800 AD with poems written about them. So now, let’s begin the journey surrounding the Japanese cherry trees and Ohio.

The story begins with Helen “Nellie” Herron Taft, First Lady and wife to President William Howard Taft, both from Cincinnati, Ohio. During his presidency, and before serving as the civilian governor of the Philippines and Secretary of War, the Tafts made several trips to Japan.

Mrs. Taft wanted to work on a beautification plan for the Nation’s Capital at Potomac Park and the Speedway (present day corridor of Independence Avenue). The First Lady was inspired by an Arbor Day planting of Japanese cherry trees at a Washington D.C. area school. Word of the interest in Japanese cherry trees for the area spread, and a “Trade Mission” began between Japan and the United States. Three thousand cherry trees were shipped to the U.S. in 1912, and arrived in Seattle for inspection before being transported across the country. This planting marked the beginning of a living symbol of friendship between the Japanese and American people. In exchange, dogwood trees were sent to Japan from the United States in 1915. Today the Japanese cherry trees located on the Tidal Basin in Washington D.C. are of international importance and visited by people from across the world during the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Moving forward to the year 2000, Ohio Governor Bob Taft, the late president’s great-grandson, and First Lady Hope Taft made a trip to Japan with a gift of 50 dogwood trees. During this trip, the governor was given seeds of Sargent cherry (Prunus sargentii). This seed in turn was planted at the Zanesville State Nursery, which was operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Living Memories: Friendship Missions Through Cherry Tree Plantings

Japanese cherry trees in Ault Park, Cincinnati
Photos by ODNR
Forestry at that time. Nearly 2500 seedlings were produced from this seed. These special seedlings were distributed at Tree City USA Award programs in 2003. Some of these seedlings also found homes at Dawes Arboretum near their Japanese Garden.

Starting the tour of present day cherry tree groves, let’s begin in southwest Ohio. In 1988, Cincinnati became a sister city with Gifu City in Japan. Gifu donated 100 cherry trees to the Eden Park neighborhood in 1990 and another 110 cherry trees to Eden Park, Ault Park, and Northern Kentucky University in 1998.

Strolling up to central Ohio, in 2012 Columbus became one of 30 U.S. cities that received 20 cherry trees originating from the trees planted 100 years ago at the Washington Tidal basin. This was called the Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Trees. These trees were planted at the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus. Several dignitaries attended, including former Governor Taft, Mayor Michael Coleman, and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, Kuninori Matsuda.

The next visit will take us to southeast Ohio, to Ohio University in Athens. OU has enjoyed a relationship with its sister university Chubu University in Japan since the early 1970s. In 1979, OU celebrated their 175th anniversary and Chubu University donated 175 Yoshino Cherry trees, signifying their strong partnership. Some of the trees perished because of severe winters. Then in 2004, for OU’s 200th anniversary, Chubu University brought the tree
A DAY in the WOODS was launched in 2012 by the Education and Demonstration Subcommittee of the Vinton Furnace State Forest. The primary focus is to provide woodland owners and enthusiasts with opportunities to learn about their woodlands by experiencing the Vinton Furnace State Forest and its treasure trove of current and historic research projects and demonstration sites.

Most programs begin in the morning with a series of introductory presentations, followed by afternoon sessions including tours and practical hands-on exercises. Each program is taught by several natural resources professionals from partnering organizations. Sessions are informal, and participants have opportunities to interact with and learn from each other, the instructors, and other attending foresters, biologists, and natural resources professionals. The $10 registration fee also includes a wonderful catered lunch.

This year’s calendar affords woodland owners and enthusiasts with ten opportunities to spend A DAY in the WOODS… not exactly true: it is actually nine days and one night. Notice that we’ve mixed it up a bit this year by offering some of the programs at other woodland locations in Vinton, Athens, Hocking, and Jackson counties.

❖ Spring Edibles, May 13 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ Woodland Roads & Trails, June 10 - Hocking State Forest, 19275 SR 374, Rockbridge
❖ Periodical Cicadas: Effects on Woods & Wildlife, July 8 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ Tree Identification, July 22 - Hocking College, 3301 Hocking Pkwy, Nelsonville
❖ Preparing Your Woods for an Uncertain Future, August 12 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ Streams and Streamside Forests, August 26 - Zaleski State Forest, 28000 Wheelabout Rd (Hope School House), McArthur
❖ Wildlife and Human Interactions, September 9 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ Propagating Native Trees, Shrubs and Herbs, October 14 - Wayne National Forest HQ, 13700 US 33, Nelsonville
❖ Wildlife and Human Interactions, September 9 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ A Night in the Forest, November 4 - 6:30 PM - Vinton Furnace State Forest
❖ Winter Tree Identification, November 18 - Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp, 1362 Caves Rd., Jackson

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Dave Apsyly, The Ohio State University Extension
A DAY in the WOODS is synonymous with collaboration. The partners include but are not limited to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife), U.S. Forest Service (Northern Research Station and Wayne National Forest), Ohio State University Extension, Glatfelter, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), Vinton Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Tree Farm Committee, Hocking College, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ohio’s SFI Implementation Committee. We would especially like to thank Glatfelter, the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, and the Ohio Chapter of the NWTF for providing financial support for our 2016 programs.

To get a brochure and to learn more about A DAY in the WOODS and the 2nd Friday Series visit http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods or email apsley.1@osu.edu.
count up to 200. Chubu also has been helping with the maintenance needs for the trees. Many of these cherry trees can be seen along the Hockhocking Adena Trail where they parallel the Hocking River.

There are two universities in northwest Ohio who also have ties with the Japanese cherry trees. At Bowling Green State University, there are plantings of various species of Japanese cherry trees donated by Japanese alumni and two local Japanese companies. They also have three trees that are progeny from the original Tidal Basin trees in Washington D.C. This April marked the 15th annual Cherry Blossom Festival held at BGSU. Last year’s event brought in 800 visitors.

The University of Findlay and the City of Findlay in northwest Ohio also have cherry tree plantings. Fourteen Japanese companies are known as the Friends of Findlay. On April 26, 2012, the Friends of Findlay and the City of Findlay jointly planted cherry trees as part of its bicentennial celebration of the founding of the city. At the Sensory Garden on the university campus, one cherry tree has been planted each year as part of a student exchange program with Japan. Saitama, Japan became the Sister State of Ohio in October of 1990. The Governor of Saitama came to Findlay in 2010 and 2014 and planted cherry trees at the University of Findlay.

Moving through the state, the Japanese Association of Northeast Ohio (JANO) developed a grove of cherry trees to show their appreciation to the local community for helping Japanese families adjust to living in northeast Ohio, as well as contribute to environmental conservation. The location, just outside the entrance of Brookside Reservation, was owned by the City of Cleveland but

We cannot behold the beauty of the blossoms enshrouded by haze – yet steal us their scent, at least, spring breezes blowing from the hills.

Yoshimine no Munesada (816–890)

From “Thinking of Sakura” at http://theendlessfurther.com/tag/cherry-blossoms/

Japanese cherry trees grace the campus of Ohio University in Athens.
leased to the Cleveland Metroparks. They started planting in 1995, and now the grove lines John Nagy Boulevard on both sides, totaling about 160 trees. The Cherry Tree Picnic at the Brookside Valley Event Center is held each June, featuring Japanese food and performances. JANO also helped fund a large number of trees in the Akron area along with the City of Akron. These cherry trees are located along the Ohio Erie Canal Towpath Trail, beginning at Lock 3 near downtown Akron and extending about 1.5 miles.

Japanese cherry trees add beauty to the spring landscape and have special meaning to the Japanese people. The trade mission has blossomed and is continuing to grow in several of our Ohio cities and college campuses, celebrating the friendship of two great nations. Spring is a great time to get outside and enjoy our flowering trees!

From right to left Governor Kiyoshi Ueda (Governor of Saitama Prefecture, Japan), Dr. Katherine Fell (President, University of Findlay), Mayor Lydia Mihalik (Mayor, City of Findlay), and Mr. Drew Mihalik. This event was held at the University of Findlay campus on September 6, 2014.

Author Lisa Bowers with a Sargent Cherry tree. Lisa is an ODNR Regional Urban Forester for the Division of Forestry, and works with communities in a 15-county area of central Ohio.
The first time I heard about Shiitake mushroom cultivation was several years ago as an undergraduate forestry student at Michigan Technological University. Jim Pickens, a professor in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, gave demonstrations for some of his graduate students about how to cultivate mushrooms, but at the time I was more interested in other things and never attended these events. Today, it has become more apparent that woodland owners from all backgrounds have a great interest in producing secondary forest products like Shiitake mushrooms, ginseng, and maple syrup, especially in a hobby capacity.

So what is this popular mushroom and where did it come from? Shiitake is a choice edible mushroom native to East Asia, where it has been cultivated on hardwood logs for hundreds of years. In fact, much of the commercial production of Shiitakes was centered in Japan until the mid to late 1980s, with Japan and surrounding countries still exporting a tremendous amount of these tasty fungi. Many of the fresh Shiitakes seen in the United States, however, are now produced domestically, grown either on sawdust in large operations or on hardwood logs in smaller operations. Many woodland owners in Ohio have utilized smaller diameter wood left over from timber harvests or pre-commercial thinning operations like crop tree release, adding incentive to more actively manage their forests and engage in this interesting and rewarding hobby.

Like any leisure activity, some individuals go all-out, while others prefer to take a slower approach, and Shiitake cultivation is no exception. Most people who are somewhat handy or thrifty already have many of the tools and materials needed. Much of the initial cost is for the mushroom spawn (i.e., the “vegetative
body” of the fungus, versus the “fruit,” which is the mushroom).

If you have fresh hardwood logs of small diameter, a hand drill, drill bits, food-grade wax (such as beeswax), a paintbrush, and something to melt the wax in, you’re in business. However, if you prefer to purchase everything you need to grow Shiitake mushrooms, many online retailers and mail-order catalogs offer complete kits and spawn to get you started.

Once all the needed supplies are gathered, inoculating a log with Shiitake fungus is as simple as drilling holes in the log, filling those holes with spawn, sealing each hole with wax to prevent moisture loss, and properly storing logs until they are ready to produce mushrooms. One should expect to see their first yield of mushrooms approximately nine months to a year after successful inoculation. While this is an oversimplification of the process of producing Shiitakes, it is a hobby well within the reach of most people—from those only with a suburban backyard and a few logs to those with significant acreage and commercial-scale production capability.

For more detailed information on how to grow Shiitake mushrooms, I recommend referencing the University of Vermont Extension booklet *Best Management Practices for Log-Based Shiitake Cultivation in the Northeastern United States*, and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service factsheet *Growing Shiitake Mushrooms*. Web versions of this literature can be found at:

http://www.uvm.edu/~susagctr/resources/ShiitakeGuide.pdf


Adam Komar is the ODNR Service Forester for Coshocton, Monroe, Muskingum, and Noble counties. He is a member of the Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group (MRWIG) and has a keen interest in wild and domesticated edible mushrooms.
I can recall several times when my treks through the woods brought me across the path of a snake. On almost all accounts, I was surprised by the suddenness and proximity of their appearance. There I was minding my own business, when all of a sudden – coiled on the ground at my feet, hanging from a branch, or scurrying away from my hand that was outstretched to catch my balance – was a snake. During each of these encounters, I was more startled than the snake, which had likely been tracking my progress for some time before I stumbled upon it.

I found that the best approach when encountering a snake is to give it space and observe it from a distance. On all occasions, the snake either remained where it was, or slithered away from me. For those curious, the snake coiled on the ground was a North American racer, the one scurrying from my outstretched hand was a queen snake, and the one hanging from a branch…was a gray ratsnake, the subject of this issue’s Wild Wonders in the Woods.

The Gray Ratsnake
Pantherophis spiloides
The life of a gray ratsnake

Snakes are reptiles, which means they have scales, dry skin, and rely on outside temperatures to regulate their body temperatures (ectothermic). This is why we often stumble across them sunning themselves in the middle of a road, on a rock or log, or even on your sunlit front porch. Ectothermic animals are also dormant during the winter until warmer temperatures preside. Gray ratsnakes emerge from their underground winter dens starting in March.

The gray ratsnake is Ohio's largest snake, reaching lengths of 4-6 feet. Gray ratsnakes are typically black as adults with a white chin, and a slight but sometimes obvious dorsal pattern produced by lighter colored skin between the scales. Newly hatched gray ratsnakes, born in late summer, are light grey in color with black blotches. When young snakes mature, their coloring darkens.

As their name implies, gray ratsnakes are predators of rats and other rodents. They will also eat small lizards, amphibians, and bird eggs and nestlings. Like other snakes, gray ratsnakes have the ability to unhinge their jaw during eating, which allows them to consume prey larger than their head. They also have highly developed sensory organs located in the back of their mouth called Jacobson's organs. When you see a snake flicking its forked tongue in and out, it is actually passing air particles over the Jacobson's organs and essentially 'tasting' its environment.

Signs to look for

Finding snakes in your woodlot can be startling, but also exciting. Most reptiles are best observed during the day. As the summer progresses, gray ratsnakes avoid the heat of the day, so go out searching for them in the late morning and late afternoon. Downed logs or rocks in sunny areas are good places to look.

When you encounter a snake, give it space and do not handle it unless you are completely confident in your identification skills. Besides the fact that snakes are wild creatures and will act defensively when handled, there are three species of snakes in Ohio that are venomous. Both the timber rattlesnake and the Massasauga rattlesnake are endangered and protected. The copperhead is more common and found in the forested southern and eastern parts of Ohio. It prefers rocky, wooded hillsides where its striking color provides excellent camouflage. As I’ve experienced multiple times, a snake will leave you alone if you leave it alone. Attempting to kill a snake will only bring you closer to the snake, and increase your risk of being bitten.

Wrapping it up

Snakes don’t often conjure warm and fluffy thoughts in people, especially a snake as large as the gray ratsnake. Despite your feelings towards snakes, I hope you can appreciate their impressive abilities and that many, especially gray ratsnakes, provide a beneficial service as predators of rodents. This summer, be sure to keep an eye out for yet another wild wonder slithering - and sometimes climbing - through your woodland.

Gray ratsnakes are accomplished climbers and can commonly be seen hanging from branches of trees, or within tree cavities. They can be found in a variety of habitats such as fields, hardwood forests, swamps, and riparian areas. Gray ratsnakes can be also present in urban areas with large trees. They will enter buildings, especially barns or sheds where rodents are also living.

Gray ratsnakes have a mild temperament, and when encountered they will often remain motionless. If threatened, a gray ratsnake will coil its body and vibrate its tail, mimicking a rattlesnake. If the snake is in dead leaves, the tail vibrating against the leaves can sound similar to a rattle. However, gray ratsnakes are not venomous, and will rarely strike unless repeatedly threatened. Their docile nature has led many parks and nature centers to keep and care for rehabilitated gray ratsnakes for interpretive and educational programs.

For more information on Ohio’s snakes – such as other species, how to identify a venomous snake, and life history notes on all species – check out ODNR Division of Wildlife’s website www.wildohio.com and click on ‘Species and Habitats’.

Photos courtesy of Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension
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OFA Welcomes New Executive Director
by John Dorka, Ohio Forestry Association

The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. (OFA) is proud to announce and welcome Brad Perkins as its new Executive Director. Brad started working for OFA officially on February 1, 2016, when John Dorka announced his retirement as Executive Director.

Brad may be familiar to many in OFA and the forestry community in general as he has worked in the Ohio forest products industry for nearly four decades and served the Ohio Forestry Association in numerous volunteer capacities.

Brad graduated from Hocking College in 1977 with an Associate Degree in Forestry, and soon after started working for Stone Container in Coshocton, his hometown. Brad worked for the company for the next 38 years, involved in a host of fiber procurement and management responsibilities. During those years, the mill changed hands several times as ownership went from Stone Container to Smurfit-Stone to RockTenn and finally to WestRock, which closed the facility in late 2015 (see accompanying article).

That unexpected closure nonetheless created the timely opportunity for Brad to become the 10th Executive Director for the Ohio Forestry Association, which has been organized since 1903 and was formally incorporated in 1951.

Well-recognized within OFA circles, Brad has performed many volunteer duties over the years. He is a past President of the Board (2008), which followed two terms on the Board and four years on the Executive Committee. He served on the OFA Logging Standards Council and was the East Central Ohio Loggers Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, assisting with the management of the Forest Heritage Festival.

He served as the Committee Chair of the OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp for over 10 years and has the fortunate distinction of being a camp member when he was in high school in the early 1970s.

In addition, Brad has been involved with the OFA Paul Bunyan Show for more than 30 years, most notably administering the Log and Skidder competitions, and he has long been involved with Ohio’s Tree Farm Program as a Certified Tree Farm Inspector.

With this vast experience and involvement, Brad hit the ground running in his new duties and is already working hard to grow the Association and enhance its presence in Ohio’s forestry and forest products community.

As a final note, John Dorka will continue assisting the Association and Brad in particular on a part-time basis, overseeing the Master Logging Company Program and offering help as appropriate on OFA policy concerns.

A hearty congratulations and welcome to Brad Perkins!

The History of...

The address of 500 N. 4th Street in Coshocton, Ohio has been the site of a papermill for over 150 years, until the current mill owned by WestRock Company was permanently closed in November of 2015.

It started in 1863, when a gentleman by the name of Thompson Hanna from Steubenville, Ohio, built the first mill on the site. This mill used straw to make 30 tons of paper per day. A combination of a need for working capital and a boiler explosion caused the mill to fail in 1866 and sit idle for two years before being put back into operation by a Mr. Hough.

The mill was eventually purchased by John W. Cassingham and A. D. Harvey of Coshocton, along with Hugh McElroy of Pittsburgh, PA. These men operated the mill for several years before their partnership dissolved and the mill was sold. The mill then became known as the Columbia Straw Paper Company. It operated under this name for a time, but eventually ended up in receivership.

In 1891, W. H. Bachert leased the mill from the receivers and operated it as the Coshocton Paper Company. He later purchased the mill along with another papermill in Newark, Ohio. After the Newark mill was severely damaged by fire in 1902, all the equipment that could be salvaged was brought to Coshocton. In 1905, Mr. Bachert incorporated the firm as the Coshocton Straw Paper Company. The Bachert family controlled and managed the mill until 1946, when it was purchased by the Stone Container Corporation.

Stone Container Corporation continued to operate the mill using straw as its raw fiber source, or furnish, until 1956. Due to concerns for the future supply of straw during a time of needed production increase, along with quality issues of the finished product, they converted to wood as the raw fiber source. The first year after the conversion from straw, 23,000 tons of hardwood fiber were consumed to make their paper, known as corrugating medium. Corrugating medium is the wavy paper sandwiched between two sheets of linerboard in cardboard. This fluted paper gives cardboard its strength. No softwood fibers were used to produce paper in Coshocton, as their pulping system was not designed to handle the oils and resins in pine, spruce, and fir trees.

The 1960s saw several expansions and additions, resulting in the production of paper increasing by ten-fold to 300 tons per day. By 1965, the mill was consuming 180,000 tons of pulpwood per year, and had begun using recycled wastepaper as part of its fiber furnish. The 1960s also saw the introduction...
of the Stone Family Tree Farm program, which allowed landowners to sign up for free forest management advice from Stone’s professional foresters in exchange for giving the papermill the first option to harvest pulpwood from their properties. The program lasted for approximately 20 years.

The 1970s saw another major change in the wood supply furnish at the Coshocton papermill. The mill discontinued the purchasing of pulpwood, and began buying wood chips produced through whole-tree chipping machines and from slabs chipped at local sawmills. Chippers could take a 100 foot tall by 20-inch diameter tree and make it into ¾ inch chips in a matter of seconds. For the next 40 years, 55 to 85 percent of the mill’s wood furnish came from these chippers clearing land ahead of strip mining, urban and industrial development, oil and gas drilling pads, pipeline rights-of-way, and agricultural expansion.

The 1980s saw another big change at the Coshocton mill in the way its process steam was produced. In the early days, coal was used in boilers to produce steam. Coal eventually gave way to fuel oil, and then natural gas. In 1982, Stone Container built a wood-fired boiler to produce its steam requirements, overfired with a minimal amount of natural gas. This powerhouse also contained a process steam turbine generator that produced almost half of the paper mill’s electrical requirements. The new boiler was fired with a variety of wood feedstocks, including sawdust, chips, bark, shredded pallets, ground municipal wood wastes, and particleboard manufacturing waste.

This boiler remained as the powerhouse for the mill until its closure in 2015, consuming anywhere from 175,000 to 400,000 tons of wood fiber per year, depending upon paper production and natural gas usage. The natural gas use could fluctuate from 5 to 70 percent of total Btu output, depending upon the cost of natural gas at the time compared to the cost of wood fiber. The mill was also EPA approved to burn its waste water treatment sludge and plastic rejects from the wastepaper cleaning system. The waste products were mixed with the wood feedstocks before being burned in the boiler, saving many hundreds of thousands of tons of waste materials from being landfilled. The mill built inventory reserves of wood fiber for both the boiler and the paper making processes to get through tough chipping conditions during parts of winter and early spring.

By the 1990s, due to several upgrades and expansions, the Coshocton mill was producing over 900 tons of corrugating medium per day. During its biggest paper production years, nearly 450,000 tons of chips were consumed annually.
Depending on cost and availability, some years showed sawmill chip purchases approaching 200,000 tons, while other years showed whole tree chip purchases close to the 350,000 ton mark. Eighty percent of the fiber needed for the mill was generally available within a 100 mile radius of Coshocton. During this same time period, the mill also consumed nearly 150,000 tons of waste paper annually.

In 1998, Stone Container Corporation merged with the Jefferson Smurfit Corporation to become Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation. Stone and Smurfit were both family names involved in the paper industry. The Stone family heralded from the Chicago area, and the Smurfit family was from Ireland.

Two important changes took place during the Smurfit-Stone era. One was that the company’s dedication towards employee and contractor safety resulted in it becoming a safety leader in the paper industry. The second was that Smurfit-Stone’s wood fiber procurement system achieved and maintained Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification accreditation.

Smurfit-Stone Container continued to run the Coshocton mill as it entered into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009. Upon exiting bankruptcy nearly 18 months later, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation was purchased by RockTenn Company. The Coshocton mill continued under RockTenn as an important corrugating medium producer. Wood consumption during the late 2000s into the 2010s decreased some as the paper industry moved towards lighter weight paper grades that used less overall wood fiber.

The forest resource professionals at the mill were often the face of public outreach for the company. They led Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations, supported Project Learning Tree, were active in the Ohio Tree Farm System, hosted logger trainings, and were involved with Ohio Forestry Association (OFA) programs like the Paul Bunyan Show, Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, and local loggers chapters. Several employees have served on the OFA Board and Tree Farm Committees, as well as OFA President and State Tree Farm Committee Chair. One of Stone Container’s early woodlands managers, Fred Brokaw, was instrumental in the development of the Ohio Woodlands magazine, a former publication of OFA.

In July of 2015, RockTenn Company and Mead Westvaco merged to form the WestRock Company, one of North America’s largest paper companies. WestRock continued to run the Coshocton paper mill until October 15, 2015, when it announced that it was permanently closing the mill. The mill remained in operation until the last week of November of 2015 as it used up the raw fiber materials on site. WestRock company representatives told its 225 employees that the mill would not be restarted or sold to another paper company. So, after 152 years of papermaking at 500 N. 4th Street, the story of paper manufacturing in Coshocton came to a close.

This article was compiled and written by Brad Perkins, new Executive Director of the Ohio Forestry Association. Brad relied on historic Stone Container Corporation media articles and his 38 years of experience (1977-2015) as a forest resource professional at the Coshocton paper mill (see previous article).
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