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<td>Transplants</td>
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On the Cover

Randy and Koral Clum’s Hepatica Falls Tree Farm is the 2017 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year. The cover shows one of three waterfalls on the 149-acre property. Koral shares their woodland stewardship story with us on page 16 of this issue. Come and see the best that Harrison County has to offer at the Tree Farm of the Year Tour hosted by the Clums on October 21. Photo by Koral Clum
Here are some highlights from the activities of your Ohio Tree Farm Committee (OTFC):

On March 2, we recognized Randy and Koral Clum, owners of Hepatica Falls Tree Farm in Harrison County, as the 2017 Ohio Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (see article page 16). The Clums have been well known in the forestry community for decades. I look forward to the opportunity to visit their tree farm and see how over 20 years of very active management has made the most of their land. Plan to visit the Tree Farm of the Year Tour on October 21. More details will be forthcoming.

Also from eastern Ohio comes the 2017 Ohio Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Year: Dan Castellucci (see article page 9). Dan has been on the Ohio Tree Farm Committee helping with the education sessions at OFA’s Paul Bunyan Show for the last couple of years. He recently chose to become self-employed as a consulting forester based out of Alliance.

Jeremy Scherf, the Tree Farm Inspector Chair, had a large group of new inspectors complete the training last year and is looking to add several more this coming summer. If you haven’t had a tree farm inspection in the last 5-6 years, I recommend calling your last inspector and asking for a visit to make sure your plan still fits your woodlands. Find a contact list of all the inspecting foresters through the website: www.ohiotreefarm.org.

Finally, at the March OTFC meeting, we were briefed on changes that may be happening within the FSC and SFI certification systems. The bigger picture is too drawn out to attempt to explain in one article, but the bottom line is that there is a good chance the changes will place a higher demand on logs harvested from Certified Tree Farm properties. In Ohio, we have yet to see a notable price increase due to Tree Farm Certification. Hopefully these changes will take us one step closer to a market that recognizes a premium on Certified Tree Farm harvested logs.

Joe was recently recognized by the Ohio Forestry Association as their 2016 Outstanding Individual in Government Service.

Ohio Tree Farm Committee Chair Joe Puperi can be contacted by phone at (419) 889-1123, or by email at joe@advancedtreehealth.com.

For only $15, you or your organization can sponsor an annual subscription of The Ohio Woodland Journal for a local high school or community library. See page 30 for details.

Ohio Tree Farm Committee Forms Policy Group

At our last committee meeting, we discussed some of the impacts that state and local policies have on our forests. There are policies and budgets that have various influences on forestry and conservation. Recently, property taxation has been a hot topic. Some woodland owners have also been impacted by local ordinances prohibiting harvesting. Unless lawmakers hear from us, as woodland owners, they often have no way of understanding how we feel about these impacts.

Toward that end, a couple of committee members offered to bring relevant legislative issues to the Ohio Tree Farm Committee so members who choose to can have an opportunity to reach out to their local representatives in a positive fashion (i.e. letter writing, sending emails, or even visiting our representatives). We have started with a letter writing campaign telling our representatives how we feel about the forestry proposals in the state budget bill. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact me and we will get you on an email list.

OTFC Vice Chair Cassie Ridenour - email cassixr@aol.com
It is my pleasure to introduce two new foresters who have been hired by the division. **Ben Robinson** has been hired as the service forester for Clermont, Brown, Adams, and Scioto counties. **Adam Regula** has been hired as a state lands management forester.

Ben’s service forestry office is headquartered at Shawnee State Forest. Ben is a familiar face at ODNR since, while earning a bachelor’s degree in forestry from Ohio State, he worked for the Division of Forestry as a college intern at Mohican-Memorial State Forest and at the division’s central office in Columbus. After graduation, Ben was hired as an intermittent forester based out of Hocking State Forest where he conducted the 2016 Ohio Best Management Practices evaluation on recent private land timber harvests. He has also worked on two western fire crews. Ben’s field work experience includes cruising (volume, inventory, and post-harvest), timber marking, GPS and ArcGIS work, mowing, painting, trail maintenance, and other state forest operation activities. Congratulations Ben!

Adam’s state lands management forestry office is headquartered at the division’s southern district office in Chillicothe. Adam has earned a master’s degree in forestry from West Virginia University. Most recently he worked as a forester with F&W Forestry Services, Inc. in Glens Falls, New York. He has also been a forestry technician at the University of Georgia/USDA Forest Service and an agroforestry extension agent as part of the United States Peace Corps in Senegal. Welcome Adam!

In addition, congratulations to Private Lands Administrator **Cotton Randall and the team** who worked so hard to complete a Forest Legacy project, known as the Little Smokies project in southern Ohio, which resulted in the purchase of 929 acres of inholdings at Shawnee State Forest. Acquiring this land filled many of the remaining holes in the Shawnee forest landscape, which is the largest contiguous protected forest in Ohio at over 63,000 acres. Cotton was recognized for the project at the League of Ohio Sportsmen’s 2017 annual conservation awards banquet as the Forest Conservationist of the Year. The division was recognized for the project with the Conservation Partner Award – Hunter Access at the Ohio Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation’s 2017 annual awards dinner. ♦
Each year, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) brings together state tree farm committee leaders, tree farmers, tree farm inspectors, national office staff, partners, and volunteers at the National Leadership Conference (NLC). Participants get a chance to network and learn about other states’ programs, hear critical program updates from the ATFS national office, and improve their leadership skills. We three members of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee travelled to Greenville, South Carolina in February to attend this year’s NLC.

To begin the conference, participants had a field tour of Walt McPhail’s Tree Farm, the 2012 National Tree Farm of the Year. The McPhail Family members are avid forest managers, and Walt gave us a handout about how money grows on trees. He contrasted two plots of loblolly pine, one that was...
Highlights from Tree Farm’s National Leadership Conference

Cotton Randall, Cassie Ridenour, and Jim Savage
Attending members from your Ohio Tree Farm Committee

intensively managed (thinned twice and with hardwood control) and one that was unmanaged. The unmanaged stand yielded $29/acre/year, and the managed stand $193/acre/year.

No wonder they are believers in active management! Loblolly pine forests in South Carolina are obviously different from our forests in Ohio, but the message holds true for both – forest management pays dividends in timber quality and production, wildlife habitat, water quality, and income. We get an opportunity to see that each year in Ohio at our Tree Farm of the Year tour.

The main meeting started with a mixture of panel discussions, breakout sessions, and talks by national Tree Farm staff and key partners. Some highlights from the formal talks included a discussion on how to engage volunteers from Baby Boomers to Millennials by considering their perspectives and preferences. The discussion was very interesting, and we recommend searching “generational comparison chart” online to see some broad characterizations of each generation. While we are all unique and stereotypes are made to be broken, all of us can find some eerily familiar traits in those comparison charts.

As members of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, we also found it very useful hearing how other states address program needs and issues that we share – from correcting mailing addresses in our state databases to effective communication tools. On the topic of communication in Ohio, The Ohio Woodland Journal (OWJ) is our primary printed publication, and the Ohio Tree Farm website www.ohiotreefarm.org has archives of previous OWJ magazines as well as a calendar of events, state committee contacts, and other Ohio Tree Farm information.
A recurring theme throughout the conference was expanding our communication to new groups about what we do as woodland owners, foresters, and other forest advocates, and sharing with them the many benefits that forests provide. A new national outreach effort is the North American Forest Partnership, which will use social media among other platforms to share these messages. Stay tuned for that program’s rollout and other new local efforts that were spawned from ideas at meetings like the Tree Farm National Leadership Conference. ◆

Participants at the American Tree Farm System National Leadership Conference were treated to a tour of the McPhail Family, 2012 National Tree Farm of the Year near Greenville, South Carolina. Walt and Barbara’s 1,600-acre McPhail Tree Farm includes woodlands that have been in his family since 1850. McPhail’s Tree Farm has been described as a laboratory, where various test plots demonstrate the benefits of different methods to control undergrowth, the value of various thinning and planting techniques, and the growth and production characteristics of different tree varieties. Conservation initiatives on the McPhail Tree Farm include establishing ponds, wetlands, and wetland flora to attract waterfowl and other wildlife.

Source: the AFTS website. Photo courtesy of Cassie Ridenour
Dan Castellucci of Frontier Woodland Services, LLC has been awarded the Ohio Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for 2017. Dan grew up in Alliance, Ohio where he developed a passion for natural resources and forestry at a young age. After high school, he attended Hocking College, where he graduated in 2007 with a degree in forestry. Dan continued his studies at West Virginia University, where he graduated in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in forest resource management.

After earning his degree, Dan took a job with ACRT, Inc. as a utility right of way inspector. His duties were to identify hazard trees on American Electric Power transmission lines and facilitate the removal of those trees. After two years, he moved on to timber procurement with Superior Hardwoods of Ohio, Inc. in southeast Ohio. His duties there included buying standing timber, assessing and purchasing log sales, and general mill operations. A year and a half later he moved on to the Muskingum Watershed Conservation District where he took on the role of natural resource manager. There Dan managed over 30,000 acres under the auspices of their forestry program. He held that position for the past four years, recently departing to begin his own venture as a forestry consultant.

Dan lives in Alliance with his wife and three young girls. His full-service forestry consulting firm, Frontier Woodland Services, offers forestry assistance to private landowners in northeast Ohio. His offerings include timber harvest administration, long-term management planning, timber appraisal, timber theft analysis, and due diligence work.

Dan is very active professionally within the industry, as well. He is an active member of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, Ohio Forestry Association, and Society of American Foresters. Congratulations, Dan.

Consulting forester and Tree Farm Inspector Dan Castellucci can be contacted at his Frontier Woodland Services, LLC at www.facebook.com/FrontierWoodland/ or by cell phone at 330-428-0801 or office at 330-596-1213.

Outstanding Alumnus of West Virginia University

Congratulations to ODNR Deputy Director and State Forester Robert Boyles, recognized in March as an Outstanding Alumnus of West Virginia University (WVU), and pictured here receiving the award from George Tabb Jr., Vice-President of the WVU Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association.

Bob earned his Bachelor of Science degree from WVU in Forest Resource Management, and his Master of Science degree from WVU in Forest Management, focusing on forest soils and forest hydrology. Bob is a life member of the WVU Alumni Association. Photo courtesy of WVU
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This sincere interest in forestry has resulted in decades of continued enrollment in the Ohio Forest Tax Law program and the American Tree Farm System.
Timber Done Right:

An Example of the Proper Way for Landowners to Market, Sell, and Harvest Timber

In Portage County, Ohio, near the small town of Hiram, one would find many private landowners owning varying amounts of forested acreage. Such landowners are not rare in Ohio, as the majority of Ohio’s forestland is held privately with 86 percent (7 million acres) owned by industry and or non-industrial private landowners. However, not all private landowners actively manage their forests or develop natural resource goals. Those who do take an active approach towards management will typically utilize assistance offered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the Ohio Forest Tax Law program.

One such landowner is the Tafel family located along the historic Abbot Road, with ownership ties dating back to land grants offered after the War of 1812. Currently, Evelyne Tafel, with assistance from her daughter Jane and son-in-law Mike, manages two separate woodlots along Abbot Road totaling 10 acres and 28 acres respectively. Management of these tracts of land began shortly after Evelyne and her late husband Robert were married in 1949.

Early on, Robert Tafel developed a passion for forest management, citing a desire to manage for wildlife habitat, forest health, and forest conservation. Robert’s fervent interest in his natural resources was instilled in daughter Jane growing up, and his legacy of forest management continues today. This sincere interest in forestry has resulted in decades of continued enrollment in the Ohio Forest Tax Law program and the American Tree Farm System. The Tafel’s Tree Farm sign is proudly displayed on the front of their barn.

The forests are comprised of well-formed red oak, white oak, sugar maple, red maple, hickory, cherry, and tuliptree with an ideal stand structure of three distinct age classes. Tree sizes range from saplings to sawlogs, ensuring a sustainable supply of high-quality timber resources void of problematic grapevines or invasive species. This condition does not happen by accident, as it requires careful and thorough management.

To maintain the forests in this condition, a commercial harvest was deemed necessary by an ODNR service forester and conducted in 2013. The Tafel family made all of the right moves by then hiring a consulting forester, collecting multiple
bids from qualified lumber companies, and mandating best management practices. The Tafels also credit an article titled “Know the Basis of Your Timber” by Linda Wang from the fall 2002 issue of Tree Farm Magazine for helping guide them through the process of selling timber.

Private consulting foresters work throughout Ohio and offer a multitude of services such as timber stand improvement projects, boundary marking, invasive species control, timber inventory and evaluations, management plans, and timber sale administration. A professional forestry consultant will select which trees to harvest based on landowner goals and forest conditions, develop a timber sale agreement designed to protect the landowner and their property, advertise the timber sale and collect bids from interested buyers, administer the sale to verify compliance with terms of the contract, confirm that proper close-out procedures are completed before the logging crew leaves the site, and will commonly develop a timber basis for landowner tax purposes.

The Tafels checked references before determining which forester they would ultimately hire. Their forester charged a rate of 10 percent of the accepted bid for these services.

The consultant forester met with the Tafels to discuss their management objectives to determine what type of harvest would be best. The forester also became familiar with their management plan they needed to follow as per the rules of the Ohio Forest Tax Law program. An improvement harvest was determined to be most appropriate based on the management goals and forest conditions. This type of harvest focuses on removing trees that have something wrong with them, such as low forks, damaged tops or stems, crooks, diseases, over-maturity and declining health, or are a species of low wildlife or financial value. The result is a residual forest stocked with healthier, better-formed trees of a desirable species mix.

For the Tafel woodlots, the timber marking resulted in 282 trees being individually selected totaling 122,339 board feet (International ¼” rule), with an additional 187 cull trees to be felled to thin an immature tuliptree stand. Of the 282 trees, 53 were American beech and 11 were bigtooth aspen, historically low-valued trees. Removing these two species accounted for 23 percent of the trees to be harvested, exemplifying proper silviculture to reduce the overabundance of financially low-valued species. This type of marking emphasis will promote a more desirable species mix once the harvest is complete. Trees were identified with orange paint sprayed around the circumference of the trunk as well as a single dot on the stump. The dot on the stump assures that trees being harvested had been marked.

Upon finishing marking the timber and compiling the data, the forester sent a notice of the timber sale to prospective buyers in the area. Interested buyers were encouraged to review the marked timber and submit a sealed bid to be opened on a predetermined date. The bidding process insures that the sellers are getting as much money as possible for only the marked trees selected by their forester.

The Tafels received five bids for their harvest, with offers ranging from $27,115 to $40,288; an increase of 48.5 percent from the lowest bid. The Tafels elected to select the second highest bid as it was only a few hundred dollars less than the highest bid and the logging contractor had an excellent reputation. The forester’s fee totaled roughly $4,000 after applying the 10 percent fee to the accepted bid amount.

The harvest began in July of 2013 and took two weeks to complete. Trees were cut using directional felling to protect the residual stand and were removed using a tracked forwarder. Three landings were created to store logs and load log trucks. The consultant forester verified that harvesting was taking place under the right environmental conditions and correct procedures were being followed while harvesting was ongoing.

Best management practices (BMPs) to prevent soil erosion were followed as specified by the seller’s contract. These were developed with assistance from their forester and in cooperation with the buyer. Some examples of BMPs included harvesting only when soil conditions were dry, using temporary bridges for stream crossings, building water bars along skid trails on steep terrain, and seeding skid trails with clover and fescue after harvesting was completed. The Tafel family was very pleased with the quality of harvesting and husband-like manner of the crew during the entire harvesting process.

Once the harvest was completed, the consultant forester certified that the correct close-out procedures were followed by the logging crew. Skid trails and landings were cleared of debris, seeded, and had water bars in place. The residual stocking level was 90 square feet of basal area/acre, which is ideal for this timber type to encourage good tree form and health and allow for another harvest in 15 to 20 years.

Evelyne Tafel, along with her family, can confidently state that they sold timber the right way, are sustainably managing their timber resource, and have continued a history of forest management excellence that was initiated, fostered, and passed-down by Robert Tafel.

ODNR Service Forester Aaron Kash provides forestry stewardship assistance to woodland owners in his service forestry project area of Lake, Ashtabula, Trumbull, and Portage counties.
To find a professional forester, visit online directories of consulting foresters maintained by the Ohio Society of American Foresters or the Association of Consulting Foresters, or contact your local ODNR service forester:

- Ohio Society of American Foresters
  osafdirectory.com

- Association of Consulting Foresters
  www.acf-foresters.org

- ODNR Division of Forestry
  http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/landownerassistance

The bidding process insures that the sellers are getting as much money as possible for only the marked trees selected by their forester.
Randy and I feel very honored to receive this award for Ohio’s Tree Farm of the Year and join the ranks of those who have been selected before us, many of whom we know or knew well and hold dear. I would like to tell you about who we are and what has been going on at our tree farm for the past 24 years.

At the beginning of our life together, Randy and I spent four years as foresters on the 63,700 acre Shawnee State Forest in southern Ohio. We entertained ourselves during field work with a friendly competition in wildflower identification. One of our favorite plants was hepatica. Although the leaves last a long time and stay green throughout the winter, the flower’s time is brief and you have to put forth effort to find it and enjoy it. Hepatica flowers are a delight when you get to experience them. This ephemeral nature captures how we feel about woodland ownership, which is the reason we eventually chose the name Hepatica Falls Tree Farm.

In 1985, we became ODNR service foresters in east central Ohio. Randy covered Harrison, Carroll, and Stark counties and I was assigned to Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Wayne counties. Every day, we marked timber, or advised folks about tree planting, erosion control, thinning, wildlife, or forest health. Every day, we wondered if the cooperators we walked with would have the time, energy, or interest to follow through on our suggestions. Thus began our search for a property to call our own, where we could do our best to practice what we preached. Randy started coming home from work saying, “I saw this wonderful property today,” followed by lots of details. I quickly learned that my first question should be, “Is it for sale?”

Fast forward to September, 1993: Because of circumstances too lengthy to explain, in the middle of the pre-tour work day for Carl and Alice Wooding’s Tree Farm of the Year Tour, Randy and I snuck away and signed the contract to buy our 149 acres in Harrison County. What a time! As Wooding’s Nominating Forester, I enjoyed helping them share their property with others during their tour, but Randy and I also ached to go set our feet on our new land. I wish for every forest owner that they could find as much joy in tree farming as we have!

Owning this land has definitely made us better foresters...more empathetic, more realistic, more

Hepatica flowers are a delight when you get to experience them. This ephemeral nature captures how we feel about woodland ownership, which is the reason we eventually chose the name Hepatica Falls Tree Farm.

Hepatica (Hepatica nobilis) is an early spring woodland flower in the buttercup family.
educated, and more passionate. We would be remiss in talking about tree farming if we did not mention ECOFA (East Central Ohio Forestry Association), the local landowner group where we have met and worked with so many great folks over the years.

In 1997, Randy knew that working for the government was no longer his calling, so he walked away from the security of public employment and hung out a shingle as Clum Forestry Consultants. I had no intention of joining him, but I did notice that he was enjoying the new challenges. Three years later, I jumped in as well. As our job duties changed, our Hepatica Falls Tree Farm became a place where we could show clients how their land might look, if they had a harvest.

The timber production part of our ownership has been surprising to me. As a forester, I suppose I should not admit to this surprise, but it’s true. And it is certainly correct that, “If you cut it, it will grow!”

We have divided our land into nine management units, from 3 acres up to 52 acres in size. Recent inventory work revealed that our growing stock is between 650,000 and 700,000 board feet (BF) for the entire property. Historically, 96 acres were always in forest cover, although disturbed in places by sandstone quarries. Fifty six acres were in agricultural fields or pasture. Fifty acres of this open ground were planted to Austrian pine, Scotch pine, and holly in the 1950s, while six acres naturally reverted to hardwood forest.

A wide variety of slopes, soils, aspects, and previous stand conditions have provided a diversity that has been fun to manage. One of our goals has been to keep an undisturbed area to provide a comparison between managed and unmanaged forests. Four acres are isolated by geography along Rush’s Run, so that section was a natural place to display an unharvested stand.

We call them family forests because Certified Tree Farms are such a wonderful place to build memories as a family. Our journey has included stick-forts, a tree swing, mushroom hunting, meals around the campfire,
sledding, and exploring the three falls. Our daughter Casey was six years old when we bought the land. For those readers who remember her being carried on my hip or Randy’s shoulders at field trips near and far, Casey is 30 years old now. We welcomed her husband, Alex Halmagy, into our family in 2015. They live near Harbor Springs, Michigan, where Casey is a teacher. She would probably list some of her most memorable times as watching river otters, discovering bobcat tracks, and requesting “tree cookies” made by Dad, from the farm, to be used as table decorations for her wedding reception. We are happy that we were able to share our enthusiasm for the outdoors with her.

We hope to share it with you on October 21, 2017. Our goal as consulting foresters is to promote science-based forest management in Ohio’s forests. This objective carries over to our land, along with having fun. It will be a good day to recover from nature deficit disorder. Please join us!

Learn more about Clum Forestry Consultants at http://clumforestry.com/index.html, or contact them by phone at (330) 364-2386. Directions and further details about the Tree Farm Tour will be forthcoming in the summer issue of The Ohio Woodland Journal.

Look What’s Blooming in the Woods!

A red trillium (Trillium erectum), wait, with how many parts? The prefix tri (for having 3 petals, 3 sepals, and 3 leaves) still applies to the scientific and common names of this plant, even though this specimen happens to have quad petals, sepals, and leaves. Native plants occasionally exhibit these and other visible abnormalities, such as variegated leaves and odd-colored petals. Keep an eye out this spring, and maybe you will find one of nature’s special jewels, like this “quadllium” flower found last spring by ODNR Service Forester Mark Rickey at Great Seal State Park in Ross County.

Randy and our largest tree, a 44-inch diameter white oak. Photos courtesy of the author
2017 marks the start of our sixth season of A DAY in the WOODS – Second Friday Series centered at the Vinton Furnace State Forest near McArthur. Since 2012, we have offered 40 programs with more than 1,600 participants attending. These programs have been presented by more than 75 natural resources professionals to woodland owners and enthusiasts just like you. This year’s calendar offers 10 opportunities to spend A DAY (or NIGHT) in the WOODS.

✓ Spring Night Creatures, May 12 (6:30-10:30 PM) - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ Breeding Birds, June 9 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ Crawley Creatures in Your Woods, July 14 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ Summer Tree Identification, July 28 - Hocking College
✓ Improving Habitat for Game Wildlife, August 11 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ Tips, Tools, and Techniques to Improve Your Woods, September 8 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ White Oak – Importance, Ecology, and Management, October 13 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ From Trees to Lumber, October 27 - Hocking College
✓ Winter Tree & Shrub Identification, November 17 - Vinton Furnace State Forest
✓ Stargazing, November 17 (6:30-10:30 PM) - Vinton Furnace State Forest

Most programs begin in the morning with a series of introductory presentations, followed by afternoon sessions often including tours and practical hands-on exercises. Each program is taught by natural resources professionals from partnering organizations. Sessions are informal and participants have multiple 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.

A DAY in the WOODS could not happen without the support of our many partners, including Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife), USDA Forest Service (Northern Research Station and Wayne National Forest), Ohio State University Extension, Glafelter, National Wild Turkey Federation, Vinton Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Tree Farm Committee, Hocking College, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio’s SFI Implementation Committee, and the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative.

To learn more, to subscribe to receive updates, or to download a brochure, visit https://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods.
The 2017 OFA Annual Meeting was held March 1-2, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio. Day one began with OFA Executive Committee and Board of Trustee meetings, before folks headed off in the afternoon for two very interesting tours.

The first stop was at Franklin International, a family owned company that produces a wide assortment of glues and polymers, specializing in wood glues. These glues are used by everyone from hobbyists to large commercial furniture manufacturers. We began with an overview of the company, its products, and its people-based culture. Tour guides then took groups to several locations throughout the industrial facility. These included manufacturing areas where wood flour supplied by an OFA member company is added to some glues, to the bottling lines where the finished products are bottled, labeled, and packed for shipping. In between, we saw labs where their products are researched and produced, as well as labs used for testing the various wood products that the glues are used in. Everyone was sent home with a bottle of Titebond Wood Glue.

The second tour stop was the Ohio State University Thompson Library, where locally harvested and manufactured white oak lumber was used in an extensive renovation completed in 2009. OSU, OFA, ODNR Division of Forestry, and others collaborated to produce a remarkable exhibit detailing not only the story of the wood used in the renovation, but also its ties to the history of the beginning of the Division of Forestry and Ohio’s state forest system where this wood originated.

We saw three different parts of the library. The fascinating exhibit was staffed by Mark Ervin. A tour of three specific rooms with beautiful woodwork on the 2nd floor was conducted by John Dorka and Florian Diekman. On the 11th floor, Adam Conway passionately spoke about the entire, remarkable process that led to this library renovation and exhibit.
Day two kicked off with a continental breakfast and a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen. Our morning speaker sessions included an update on the political changes on Capitol Hill and how this could affect our industry, by Forest Resource Association President Deb Hawkinson. Robert Boyles, ODNR Deputy Director and State Forester reported on “The State of the Division of Forestry.” Matt Bumgardner, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, closed out the morning sessions discussing “Market Directions for Hardwood Lumber.”

The following were recognized at the Awards Luncheon:

- OFA Logger of the Year – M & H Logging, Todd Lendon and Paul Hershberger
- OFA Outstanding Individual in Industry – Jeff Hoselton, Glatfelter
- OFA Outstanding Individual in Government Service – Joe Puperi, ODNR Division of Forestry
- OFA Outstanding Individual in Conservation Education – Kathy Smith, OSU Extension
- OFA Outstanding Individual in Private Service – Koral Clum, Clum Forestry Consultants
- OFA Outstanding Logger Activist – David Coil, Hummel Group
- Ohio Forestry Hall of Fame – Stone Container Corp and its successor companies
- Special Tree Farm Education Award – Mel Yoder, Yoder Lumber
- Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year – Dan Castellucci, Frontier Woodland Services
- Tree Farmers of the Year – Randy and Koral Clum, Hepatica Falls Tree Farm

The afternoon sessions included “The Big Picture in Trucking” by Jimmie Locklear of TEAM Safe Trucking; John Molinaro, Steve Hillard, and Jesse Roush from the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) discussing what the organization has to offer the forest products industry; and finally, Josh Koch and James Rubble from EcoChem and GreenBus introducing an innovative product called High Performance Clean Diesel (HPCD).

The 2017 OFA Annual Meeting closed off with the President’s Reception, including the announcement of the Tree Farm Silent Auction winners, before people headed out into a March snow squall and the Columbus traffic.

OFA would like to thank the sponsors who helped make the meeting a success: Berlin Lumber, Glatfelter, Hillcrest Lumber, The Hummel Group, Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Northwest Hardwoods, Ohio Valley Veneer, Southern Loggers Cooperative, Superior Hardwoods of Ohio, Tiverton Timber, and Yoder Lumber Company. ◆

Trent (left) and Nathan Yoder accept a special award crafted from American chestnut for their father Mel. Walt Lange recognized Mel on behalf of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee for his support in establishing the education venue at the OFA Paul Bunyan Show. Mel graciously allotted space in Yoder Lumber’s tent when the show was held at Hocking College, and continued his support when the show moved to its current location at the Guernsey County Fairgrounds, where special programs are now featured in a dedicated education building.
November 2016 Tree Farm Inspector Training
Welcome our 18 new Tree Farm Inspectors!

Front Row, L-R: Chad Hammond, Old Appalachia Forestry; Dave Apsley, OSU Extension; James Chattin, Chattin Forestry Services; Ryan Clester, ODNR Division of Forestry Intern and OSU student; Eric Hayes, Athens SWCD; Luke Walters, ODNR Forestry. Back Row, L-R: Brian Young, Glatfelter; Bryan Feicht, Superior Hardwoods; Dean Berry, Instructor; Tony Machamer, Superior Hardwoods; Jared Nicholson, Superior Hardwoods; Jonathan Evers, Muskingum Valley Woodland Services; Doug Fabrey, retired; Alex Ruth, ODNR Forestry Intern and OSU student; Roy Klingaman, FirstEnergy; Ben Robinson, ODNR Forestry; Benjamin Malone, ODNR Forestry Intern and OSU student; Robert Meyer, Hocking SWCD; Jeremy Scherf, ODNR Forestry and Instructor. Not Pictured: Cotton Randall, ODNR Division of Forestry

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Pass the Plants, Please

Every day, people and other animals eat many different kinds of plants and plant parts. Take a moment to think of all the different plant parts we eat. Examples include:

- Roots (carrots, parsnips)
- Leaves (lettuce, spinach)
- Stems, both above ground and underground (asparagus, onions, potatoes)
- Leaf stalks (celery)
- Flowers (broccoli, cauliflower)
- Fruits (apples, peaches, tomatoes, cucumbers)
- Seeds (wheat, rice, corn, pecans, walnuts, beans)

Tell children that you are going to analyze their lunch! Use the chart below to keep track of meals for three consecutive days. You might challenge children to complete their lunch charts after school, which can be a fun exercise in memory and reflection. Alternatively, you might choose to analyze a family meal time, such as dinner, so you can track the plant parts consumed together.

**ANALYZE YOUR LUNCH**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEAL LUNCH</th>
<th>EXAMPLE MONDAY</th>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>DAY 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENTRÉE</td>
<td>PIZZA (tomatoes, mushrooms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SIDE</td>
<td>FRENCH FRIES (potatoes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDE</td>
<td>SALAD (lettuce, carrots, cucumber)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESSERT</td>
<td>STRAWBERRY PIE (strawberries)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRINK</td>
<td>MILK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>7 plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the final day of collecting data, discuss the results. Did some plant parts show up in meals more often? If so, which ones? How might this change from season to season? Did any come from trees? Which ones?

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

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Spring is a time of newness, when cool rains wash away the dreariness of winter and coax bright green growth from the ground. The sky becomes a little brighter, the air a little warmer, and woods become a little louder as birds return to their breeding grounds. Males begin calling to attract mates and morning walks in the woods resonate with the occasional *churr* and *chortle* of woodpeckers and nuthatches to a symphony of melodies sung by flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and many more. One of my favorite bird songs is that of the wood thrush, which to me has always sounded like bells ringing out through the trees.

Fortunately for Ohioans, wood thrushes have been common and widespread in our woodlands for over 100 years. Despite some variability in abundance across Ohio, the wood thrush population is holding steady in the state. Unfortunately, this is not the case elsewhere as overall wood thrush populations have decline by 2 percent every year since the mid-1960s, with higher declines reported in the northeastern parts of their range (Quebec and Maine). Declines can be attributed to habitat loss on both the breeding and overwinter grounds. On a brighter note, Ohio woodland owners can play an important role in providing wood thrush breeding habitat as 5.4 percent of the global population nests in Ohio.

**The life of a wood thrush**

The wood thrush can be found in a variety of mature forest habitats, preferring mesic forests with well-developed understories and closed canopies. Adults are cinnamon-brown with a white chest and belly that is speckled with dark brown spots. Juveniles look similar to the adults, though slightly muted in color and

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An excellent resource on Ohio’s bird species is *The Second Breeding Bird Atlas of Ohio*. The Atlas documents the current distribution and changes in status for more than two hundred bird species. The book can be ordered online through the Penn State University Press website (www.psupress.org).
often with additional spots on their back and neck. Both adults and juveniles have a noticeable white eyering. Robins are also a member of the thrush family, therefore the wood thrush, though smaller, has the same pot-bellied body and upright posture.

The female wood thrush typically nests in the forest understory, creating a cup nest using her body to mold the inner cup. The nest is often lined with mud and rootlets. In Ohio, nest building usually occurs between May and June. The male helps the female feed the young protein rich foods such as soft invertebrates, especially caterpillars. Adults feed mostly on leaf-litter invertebrates, their long legs allowing them easy mobility along the forest floor.

Wood thrushes also feed on a variety of soft mast such as spicebush, grape, elderberry, Virginia creeper, black cherry, dogwood, and black gum. If attracting wood thrushes and other songbirds is a management goal for your woodland, encouraging soft mast producing trees and shrubs is a must.

Remember that a diversity of plant species is critical, especially with the ever-growing pressures of non-native, invasive plants. For fact sheets on providing mast for wildlife and managing invasive plant species, see www.woodlandstewards.osu.edu and click on ‘Publications.’

In addition to habitat loss, wood thrushes are also threatened by acid rain, which limits the availability of calcium-rich foods like snail shells, found in forest soils. Why do wood thrushes need calcium? Calcium is needed to lay a clutch of eggs, just like mammals need it to nourish their young. Wood thrushes, however, need 10 times the calcium that a mammal of its same size needs.

Signs to listen for

Wood thrushes are often noted for their harmonious, flute-like song that seems to float through the woods (listen at www.allaboutbirds.org). In fact as I write this article, I’m listening to Olivier Messiaen’s Des Canyons aux Étoiles (From the Canyons to the Stars, 1974). Olivier Messiaen (1908 - 1992) was a twentieth century composer with the extraordinary ability to transcribe nature’s melodies into musical staff, namely bird song. In his album Des Canyons aux Étoiles (available for online streaming if you want to give it a listen), he dedicates an entire movement to the wood thrush. The wood thrush is well deserving of this honor. Its beautiful, almost ethereal songs are incredibly complex, with rising and falling notes occurring simultaneously. How do wood thrush, and other birds, manage such a feat?

Birds have a two-sided voice box, called a syrinx. Each side of the syrinx is working independently, allowing a bird to make two sounds at once, harmonize with itself, and span more pitches that a piano in a single, dramatic note! In contrast, humans have a single voice box, called the larynx, which only allows us to produce one sound at a time. The next time you are out in the woods, take a few extra moments to appreciate the bird songs you hear, and realize it is not something that we can reproduce, as Messiaen discovered. He found that it was necessary to slow down, adjust, and transpose bird notes to make them playable on musical instruments.

In addition to habitat loss, wood thrushes are also threatened...
Wrapping it up

I hope you are awarded the chance this season to hear a wood thrush. Keep in mind, however, that the wood thrush is not the only wild wonder in your woods with a beautiful song. Many Ohio birds have beautiful songs as equally impressive as that of the wood thrush. The northern cardinal, for example, is “brilliant and pearly” according to Messiaen, and the northern mockingbird has such an extensive playlist in its repertoire that many songs will be sung just once per season!

Also remember that it is the migratory season - a great time to see species that aren’t here the rest of the year. There are many terrific places to bird in Ohio, from your own backyard woodlot to the shores of Lake Erie. For more information on where to bird in Ohio, check out the Ohio Ornithological Society (www.ohiobirds.org) which allows you to search for birding areas by county. Are you new to the birding scene and need pointers on ID skills, binoculars, and field guides? Check out Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s All About Birds website (www.allaboutbirds.com) and use the search browser to find articles on these, and Oliver Messiaen and his works related to birds in the article “Concerto for Wood Thrush and Oriole: Bird Songs in Classical Music,” by Sharinne Sukhnanand.

Good luck and happy birding!

“Birds are our desire for light, for the stars, and for all things sublime.” - Oliver Messiaen

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