NEOFA Meeting on May 17th

Our May 17th meeting will feature Alliance native Steve Ohman as our guest speaker. The topic for this meeting will be the Art and Collecting of Bonsai Trees. Ohman has been growing and collecting Bonsai for 44 years and has roughly 50 trees in his collection. The discussion will be on the origins of Bonsai, what they are, how they are grown, collected, and what it takes to maintain them. Ohman will have some specimens on hand and will be giving a demonstration on Bonsai using a multi-flora rose specimen.

Steve is an Alliance High graduate, who after 4 years in the Air Force attended the Art Center College in Los Angeles. After college, Steve moved to New York state where he worked in NY City for 32 years before retiring from a career in advertising. After retiring in 2006, Steve and his wife moved back to Alliance.

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be held as usual at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm on SR 46, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds. There will be a short business meeting, and refreshments will follow the presentation.

The 45th NEOFA Banquet was held on April 27, 2018

One hundred twelve members and guests were on hand for this year’s annual banquet and auction. This year we are celebrating our 45th year. It was another wonderful evening of fellowship, entertainment, good food and earning money for Camp Canopy sponsorships. The banquet was once again held at Al a Carte in Canfield and as always, the food was terrific. As an extra bonus this year, each attendee received a special 45 year anniversary tee shirt.
We would like to thank everyone who helped make this night special.

Thanks to Mitch Cattrell for making the hall and food arrangements along with picking up the chainsaw for the raffle. We also want to thank Hilltop Lawn and Garden for supplying the chainsaw to us at cost.

Thanks to Glenn Christen for giving the Invocation for the evening and the moment of silence for the members we lost over the past year.

Thanks to Jim Elze for printing NEOFA rosters. Thanks also to Jim for making sure the awards plaques were ready for the evening.

Thanks to Charlie and Annette Woodrum for updating the banquet program and for making the 45 year anniversary tee shirts happen.

A special thanks to Barb Withers for all her work taking the reservations, registering folks at the door, providing the flower arrangements for the tables and the crazy job of tallying the auction results. It’s been said before but we’ll say it again – there would not be a banquet if not for all the work Barb puts into this.

Thanks to Barb’s auction support team of Aunt Marge, Sarah Matkoskey, Jeannie Lanave, Kathy Cattrell and Pearle Burlingame. Also thanks to our raffle ticket sellers, Mitch and Kathy Cattrell and Bob and Genia Friend.

And what would the evening be without George Houk as emcee and Darryl McGuire as auctioneer? These guys continue to make the night so much fun – Thanks!!

Once again, the chainsaw raffle was a big hit bringing in $585. This year’s winner was Brad Henderson. The 50/50 was won by Frank and Christine Castle for half of the $400 total.

$3,965 was the total for the auction items including three work crew winners. Glenn and Judy Christen won the bid and Bob and Genia Friend and Susanna Pugh were the backup bidders also taking one. Each crew brought in $600 each!! **The grand total for the evening was a whopping $4,750!!**

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and for buying items at the auction. None of this would be possible without your continued support and generosity. Thanks to everyone who donated items and to the merchants who show their support by donating items. Once again, George Houk came through with many merchant donations. George is a real master at this. The merchants who George received support from were: Hilltop Lawn & Garden, Columbiana Oh., Witmers Feed & Grain Columbiana Oh, Greier Ag Center, Canfield Oh., Crouse Mill Hardware, North Lima Oh., Cal-Ohio Lube, North Lima Oh., Millstone Feed Farm & Garden, Columbiana Oh., and Tabor Lawn and Garden, North Lima Oh. Again this year Bob and Genia Friend were able to get donations from the following; Adrian’s Restaurant, Calcutta Oh., Vernon Dell Tractor, Calcutta Oh., and Pondi’s Restaurant, Lisbon Oh. Susanna Pugh’s company, Emerson Park Tree Farm also donated items.

Please remember to show your appreciation to those merchants who continue to support us by patronizing their establishments. George tells us some of the merchants gave extra items this year because NEOFA folks mentioned their appreciation and showed support by doing business with them. This year we will be publishing the names and addresses of these businesses as a regular feature in our monthly newsletter.

The awards portion of the evening was a real treat as well. This year’s Outstanding Woodlot Management Award was given to Wil Fuhrman and Janice Cowell. Wil and Janice were on hand to receive the award. Their tree farm is located on Route 517 near Columbiana. The Fuhrman Tree Farm will be featured during a twilight tour on Wednesday, June 27. The 82 acre tree farm is located in eastern Columbiana County. Join us that evening for a picnic meal and a pretty impressive show and tell tour of all the work Wil & Janice have done to deserve NEOFA’s Outstanding Woodlot Management Award.
A special award was presented. Barb Withers received the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. This award is our Hall of Fame. With it comes lifetime paid membership in appreciation for a lifetime of dedication. Barb has been a part of the NEOFA Board for the better part of two decades and at one time held two positions on the Board, Treasurer and Secretary. For the past six years, she has held the Treasurer’s position.

As our Treasurer, Barb has consistently raised the bar for compliance and accuracy. Her contributions include pioneering the ideals for the development and management of an annual budget, the expense reimbursement form, and she assures that an annual audit is conducted. All of these are now a part of our Constitution and Bylaws.

She collects the membership dues and keeps track of the members’ roster, pays all bills and invoices that come in, including the camp sponsorship payments.

She has also stepped up over the years and volunteered to take part in other functions and tours along with taking time to work the booth at the Canfield Fair. She is always promoting the NEOFA whenever she has an opportunity.

And then there is the banquet. This is no small task, taking in the reservations, responding to special requests, making the name tags and coordinating with the folks at A La Carte. During and after the auction, Barb and her team keep track of the items auctioned off and collect the money afterwards.

All of this, and we hope we haven’t missed anything, is accomplished with our books never being off by even a penny. Barb’s dedication and due diligence are greatly appreciated. Thanks Barb for all you do!

The next time you see one of our award winners, please take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for their service and dedication.

We can’t forget our other winners. These are the students who will be the beneficiaries of all of your generosity. As of this writing, we now have seven students who have applied to attend camp.
The banquet and auction is a great place to showcase just how special our membership is. Hopefully you saw some old friends, or maybe made a few new ones. So mark your calendar for next year’s banquet, April 26, 2019!!

**Camp Canopy Information**

Time is running short but there is still time to apply for the NEOFA sponsorship to attend Camp Canopy. Camp this year will be held June 10 – 15. At this time, we have seven students who have applied but we still have more money available. Please pass the word to anyone you may know who would benefit from this great opportunity. For more information, please contact Mike Lanave at 330-532-1957 or 330-831-8201. You can also see details about the camp at campcanopy.com.

**Timber Sales 101 Educational Field Day**

The cold and snow did not stop the 45 attendees from taking part in the Timber Sales 101 educational field day. This event was co-sponsored by the NEOFA, the Columbiana and Stark County SWCD, Ohio Division of Forestry and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The session was held on April 7th near Hanoverton Ohio. Speakers for the day included Service Forester Ryan Clester, Consulting Foresters Jed Coldwell and Jim Elze, Columbiana County SWCD Wildlife and Forestry Technician Jason Reynolds, ODNR Private Lands Biologist Ryan Jackson, and Stark County SWCD District Conservationist, Sandy Chenal. Also on hand was Service Forester, Luke Walter.

Ryan Clester, after making opening remarks and introductions, spoke about what work should be done before considering a timber harvest. He noted that pre-harvest is a good time to take on invasive plant control.

Jed Coldwell talked about timber marking and tree selection, along with what it takes to administer a timber sale. This tied into Jim Elze’s discussion on marketing your timber and the importance of a good contract. Both Jim and Jed made the point that having a professional timber consultant is one of the most cost-effective measures a landowner can take to ensure maximum income potential and long term forest health.

Jason Reynolds talked about the laws and landowner liabilities that need to be considered before and during a timber harvest. He said the SWCD can help monitor a harvest to make sure all of the rules are complied with. Ryan Jackson spoke about what considerations a landowner might want to think about if they are interested in wildlife management. The goals for wildlife are different from other forest management goals and can be easily worked into a harvest plan.

Sandy Chenal talked about what financial help is available to a landowner. EQIP is tops among help available and provides a method of cost sharing to improve forest health. Guests broke up into smaller groups for a guided tour of the woodlot where an active timber harvest was taking place.

The theme for the day was to make folks aware there are plenty of ways, either through State and Federal programs along with private consultants, to get help making sure a timber harvest is done in a sustainable manner.

The NEOFA is proud to have been a part of this series for the second year. Proper timber harvesting is a major part of our continuing educational effort for forest health and landowner goals management.
BUY-SELL OR TRADE --- May

April 18001: Two sets of 42 in. mulching mower blades, brand new, still in the wrappers. Set 1 is Husqvarna Premium; part #532-134149. Set 2 is Extreme Mulching Blades. These fit Husky and other brands. Each package has 2 blades included. Both sets can be yours for $10.

April 18002: Black Locust Air Dried Cants and Boards. The following pieces are for sale. Take them all or take some: 16 cants, 4x6 by 6.5 ft.; 4 cants, 4x6 by 8 ft.; 3 cants, 4x6 by 9.5 ft.; 1 board 2x6 by 8 ft.; 1 board 2x8 by 8 ft. Prices are negotiable.

April 18003: Stihl 16 in. Rollomatic E bar. Has the Ematic system. 0.050 by 55 links. Slightly used. Make offer.

Reply to neofa2@aol.com with the reference code if interested in any listing. Include your name and phone number if you would like a call-back.

To post an item, send info and price to Mitch Cattrell or send it to the above email address.

NEOFA Business Partners for 2018-2019

Please help support the following businesses that support the NEOFA annual auction, and thank them for their support.

Restaurants
Adrian's Restaurant 15655 State Route 170 Calcutta Square Calcutta, Ohio 43920 Phone# 330-305-5340
Pondi's Restaurant 8954 State Route 45 Lisbon, Ohio 44432 Phone# 330-424-0334

Farm, Lawn, and Garden
Hilltop Lawn & Garden 39721 Salem Unity Road Salem, Ohio 44460 Phone# 330-427-1220
Witmer Feed & Grain Inc. 3770 Renkenberger Road Columbiana, Ohio 44408 Phone# 330-482-4321
Crouse Mill True Value Hardware 11788 Market Street North Lima, Ohio 44452 Phone# 330-549-2143

Middleton Ace Hardware 44998 Crestview Road Columbiana, Ohio 44408 Phone# 330-482-4803
Greier Ag Center 9585 Columbiana-Canfield Road Canfield, Ohio 44406 Phone# 330-533-6937
Agland Co-op Inc. 364 Lisbon Street Canfield, Ohio 44406 Phone# 844-229-2252

Millstone Farm & Garden Center 13788 Columbiana-Canfield Road Columbiana, Ohio 44408 Phone# 330-482-9840
Tabor Landscaping & Garden Center 800 East Middletown Road North Lima, Ohio 44452 Phone# 330-549-2657

Vernon Dell Tractor 48346 Calcutta Smith Ferry Road East Liverpool, Ohio 43920 Phone# 330-386-5757
Insect Shield, LLC 814 West Market Street Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401 Phone# 866-712-7110

Misc:
Cal-Ohio Lube Company 50 Strawberry Alley North Lima, Ohio 44452 Phone# 330-549-2179
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 17th @ 7:00 pm – NEOFA Regular Monthly Meeting
- Presenter – Steve Ohman – Bonsai Practitioner
  - Topic – Bonsai - The Art & Method of Limiting the Growth of Trees & Shrubs
- Location - Mill Creek MetroParks Farm – McMahon Hall, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds

Wednesday, June 27 Twilight Tour at the Tree Farm of Wil Fuhman and Janice Cowell. Rain date will be Thursday, June 28.

Wednesday, July 18 Tour and Picnic at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center.