NEOFA Meeting
October 17, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Presented by Jamie Regula
By Mike Lanave

Our October 17th meeting will feature the EQIP Forester with the ODNR Division of Forestry Services, Jamie Regula. The topic for the evening will be the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This is a program that provides financial assistance to forest owners to improve their woodlands.

Jamie will be discussing some of the new practices covered by EQIP and will be asking what practices forest owners would like to see in the future. There is more funding available than ever before so now is a great time to take advantage if you have ever considered EQIP. **It is important to remember the deadline for signing up for EQIP will be in mid-November this year.**

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, 7574 Columbiana-Canfield Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406. This is on SR 46, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds. There will be a short business meeting, and refreshments will follow the presentation.
Pawpaw Trees Growing and Harvesting the Fruit
By Jeannie Lanave

For most of us at our September meeting, we knew little or nothing at all about Pawpaw trees and its fruit. In fact, one of the first questions our speaker Ron White asked was “How many of you have ever tasted a pawpaw?” There was only a handful who responded with an affirmative answer. And with that, we not only received an interesting background behind the Pawpaw but thanks to Ron and his wife Vicki, we were also able to sample a few varieties of the fruit.

Ron White is the President and Organizer of the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association and the North America Pawpaw Growers Association. He and his wife Vicki live in Northeast Ohio just east of Akron and together between them they have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. He served four years in the Marines specializing in Avionics and also served six years in the Ohio Army National Guard. He worked at Bridgestone/Firestone for 6 ½ years and 24 years at Goodyear. Ron has an Associate Degree in Electronic Technology. On their property near Akron, they have a few Pawpaw trees, but on their property in West Virginia, they have thousands of them.

The Pawpaw tree is native to North America and the trees are grown in a large portion of the eastern United States. They grow to be 6 inches in diameter and can grow to be more than 30 feet tall. However, if grown in full sun, the tree will only reach a height of 20 to 25 feet. The pawpaw is Ohio’s State Fruit and resembles a small mango. The outer fruit is green, oval and IS NOT edible. The interior of the fruit may vary in color from nearly white, light yellow or a deep gold. They have several flat black seeds which are about a half inch in size. The Pawpaw fruit ripens for eating in early September but has a very short life span of about a week. If they are refrigerated they can last a little longer. Because of its short life span, this makes the fruit and seeds both highly desirable and expensive. Ron explained that the previous week at the Pawpaw Festival, the going price for the fruit at some stands was about $10.00 per pound. They can be found at farmers market in early September.

When starting a tree from seed, once it is removed from the fruit and cleaned off, it is then placed in a damp paper towel, secured in a sealable sandwich bag and kept refrigerated. It is a good idea to make sure the paper towel stays damp. With this process it will develop into a seedling. When proper growing time in spring arrives and there is no danger of frost, it can then be placed in the ground using peat moss. It is best placed in lowlands in the understory and kept both watered and shaded. After its first two years, it can then be moved to full sun. The seedlings should be spaced 10 feet apart to allow for proper growing room. It takes about 10 years for development when growing by seed but if it was grafted, that growing time would be from five to seven years. To purchase an already established tree for growing may run you around $35.00 to $40.00 per tree.

The pulp from the fruit can be eaten raw or used for baking and cooking. Some examples are making zucchini and banana bread once the pulp is pureed. It is also used as an ice cream topping and in making beer.
Because of its tropical-looking foliage, it can be used as a landscape tree and is a great addition to butterfly gardens. It is the only known host to the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly. The worst enemy of a Pawpaw tree is the raccoon. It is recommended to spray the trunk with a mixture of white paint and water.

Every year in mid-September, the annual Pawpaw Festival is held near Athens, Ohio. It runs from Friday through Sunday and some of the items you will find made from the Pawpaw include beer, wine, fudge and ice cream.

You can go on-line and google cultivations to learn more about that process and to learn more about the Ohio Pawpaw Growers. Their websites include: NAPGA.com, www.Ohiopawpaw.com or NAPGA Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanPawpawGrowers

Many thanks to Ron and Vicki for educating and familiarizing us with their information on the Pawpaw.

Leetonia Sportsman Club Kids Day - 2019
By Mike Lanave

For the fifth year, the NEOFA educational and information display was at the Leetonia Sportsman Club Kids Day on September 28th. Once again, Mike and Jeannie Lanave were on hand to answer questions and promote the NEOFA and our sponsorship to Camp Canopy.

This is a wonderful event that brings in kids from the ages of 6 to 15. There were several events where the participants competed for trophies. Activities included .22 rifle target shoot, archery, shotgun turkey shoot and fishing. There were also multiple activities for entertainment such as air rifle target shooting, paintball gun shooting, wildlife identification, canoeing, and much more! All registered participants received a t-shirt and a free lunch was provided. 650 kids registered for the day’s events.

Wildlife groups such as the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center were there as well. The ODNR Division of Wildlife and the Columbiana County SWCD were among the government groups represented. The amount of support and the various groups represented that day were really amazing.

We would like to thank the Leetonia Sportsman Club and NEOFA member Tom Butch for inviting us to be a part of this event. Tom is the Program Director for this event and it is really one to be proud of for sure. Great work once again!!

Ohio Woodland Stewards Programs
Ohio State University Extension: no classes and workshops being offered at this time: Go to the following web site to learn more https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/
Thank You Team NEOFA For Work Day!
By Dave Hively

Nancy and I would like to thank all of the NEOFA work crew that was at our place on Monday, September 30. Without all of your help, we never would have gotten all this clean-up done and probably would not have been able to tap our maple trees next year. We greatly appreciate your doing this for us and hope to reciprocate sometime for each and every one of you. The Team NEOFA work crew consisted of Mike Lanave, Bill Hively, Annette Woodrum, Ralph Hurley, Wil Fuhrman, Jim Elze, Karl Evans, Dan Sprutte, Jim Dillon, and Dave Simpson.

CHAINSAW TRAINING UPDATE
By Jim Elze

Six participants completed Chainsaw Safety Training on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The Chainsaw Safety and Introduction to Basic Directional Tree Felling Clinic was held at Ron & Sue Hutcheson’s farm on Seacrist Road, SW of Canfield, in Mahoning County. Participants included: From Columbiana County – Tim, Peter & Hugh Miller; From Mahoning County – Lindsay Clester and Kevin Cartwright; and From Summit County - Randy Dunn.

We plan to follow up this Introductory Tree Felling Clinic with a Chainsaw Maintenance Workshop and an Advanced Directional Tree Felling Training Clinic yet this fall and winter. And, we have already accumulated a list of folks interested in the introductory training who couldn’t make it to the recent clinic. Keep an eye out for updates in future newsletters, or call Jim Elze to be placed on a contact list.

Following is a description of the different levels of training. The program consists of a series of three separate hands-on, day-long clinics. The Basic Directional Tree Felling Clinic consists of in-the-woods training to safely control the felling of smaller trees. Chainsaw Maintenance consists of getting to know your chainsaw and its maintenance requirements. Intermediate Directional Tree Felling consists of applying the directional felling techniques you learned in the basic clinic to felling larger and a bit more difficult trees.

Note: The cost per training level is $75.00 for NEOFA members and $95.00 for non-members. Once a non-member has completed one level of training, they are then registered as an NEOFA member and all other levels of training are charged at the $75.00 NEOFA member rate.

Buy-Sell or Trade – October, 2019

Help Wanted: Need experienced sawyer to work 1-2 days per week and help organize a small lumber business. Also need chainsaw worker and general forest/farm worker. Hartville/North Canton area.
Call Susanna at 941-223-8800.
To post an item, please send information to Mitch Cattrell’s email address neo2@aol.com.
Forest Musings
By Mitch Cattrell

It is that time of year again when we will return to the woodlot to do some TSI or firewood cutting. It is also a good time to re-evaluate our safety in the woods.

A good friend of mine is a professional tree trimmer. He was recently injured in a somewhat freak accident. He was cutting the last tree on a job. It was a large ash tree, dead as most of them are. The tree was falling just as planned, but a large branch folded back, hit the ground and broke. Half the branch flew back and hit a cherry tree, broke again and swung around like a whip and hit him in the back of the head, driving his face into a piece of machinery. He suffered a concussion and facial injuries. Fortunately, he had his helmet on, as he always does. He also had a worker with him. He followed all the safety precautions and was well clear of the fall zone.

Felling trees is dangerous.

Some things are unavoidable. That’s why they are called accidents. Let’s all be careful this year as we move back into the woods. Check your helmet, chaps and chainsaws. Use common sense and use the training most of us have had. And let’s all get through this season safely.

Looking For A Few Volunteers for Officers and Directors for 2020

It is election time again! The NEOFA will once again conduct its annual election of officers and directors at the November 21st meeting. We are looking for a few people who can give a little of their time to volunteer for an Officer or Trustee position. It's always good to hear some new ideas from different people. This is a great opportunity for you to get more involved with our organization and bring some new views and ideas to the table. If you would be interested in serving, let any current Officer or Trustee know either before or at the meeting.

Program Ideas Needed for 2020

Each and every year, your NEOFA Board of Officers and Directors dedicate a meeting to formulating a slate of programs for the upcoming new year. We always hope that the programs we choose fill the needs of our membership and are both informative and motivational. It is once again that time of year.

We would REALLY like to hear from you. We have a large and diverse membership who no doubt have some ideas that we as a Board may not think of. There is no idea too insignificant for us to incorporate one way or another into either part of a program or as the theme for an entire program. If you can help us out, please contact any one of our Officers or Directors – phone numbers are listed at the top of the first page of this newsletter.

UPDATE: NEOFA Trip to “The Cradle of Forestry” in October 2019
By Bob Friend

The NEOFA is finalizing the planned trip to The Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah National Forest. The Cradle of Forestry is located near Asheville, North Carolina. October 28th will be a travel day, October 29th will be a tour day at the Cradle of Forestry, and October 30th will be a day for you or a group to explore the area.

We have two local forestry people to speak at the afternoon session. Chelcy Miniat, USDA Coweeta Hydrologic Lab, will be talking about Hemlock research and infestation. Ashley Hawk, of the Appalachian Woodlands Alliance will speak on changes in North Carolina forestry ownership and how it affects forestry practices.

For more information, go to the Cradle of Forestry website: https://cradleofforestry.com/
AOPA PILOT Magazine Cover Story
By Bob Friend

As a member of the AOPA, I get the AOPA PILOT magazine and when I saw the September, 2019 issue, I thought “That’s a big chainsaw!!” Flying Ridiculously Fast by Dave Hirschman is an interesting article in making a 300 mph airplane go 400 mph. I attached the web site if you are into the technology of reducing weight, improving aerodynamic efficiency, and boosting engine power. All provide thoroughly understood and scientifically quantifiable benefits. Stihl is a major sponsor of the National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nevada.

Please help support the following businesses that support the NEOFA annual auction, and thank them for their support. Visit in person, call, or see their website for further information.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 17, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. – NEOFA Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Presented by Jamie Regula, EQIP Forester with the ODNR Division of Forestry Service
- Location - Mill Creek MetroParks Farm –7574 Columbiana-Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406
  McMahon Hall, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds

Thursday, November 21, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. – NEOFA Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: Woodland Taxes
Presented by Greg Cecconi
- Location - Mill Creek MetroParks Farm –7574 Columbiana-Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406
  McMahon Hall, across from the Canfield Fairgrounds