The November meeting will feature CPA Greg Cecconi, Cecconi Tax & Accounting Services, North Canton, Ohio. The topic will be timber taxation and will cover the importance of establishing timber cost basis, how timber sales are taxed, deductible expenses, equipment depreciation, etc.

Greg is an NEOFA member. The Cecconi’s were awarded NEOFA’s Outstanding Woodland Management Award at last spring’s banquet and auction. They have sold both hardwoods and pine timber, planted hundreds of trees, and eradicated many acres of grapevines, multiflora rose, and other woody invasive shrubs. Greg intimately knows the income tax alternatives available to woodland owners. Come loaded with your questions. Knowing how to properly manage and track your expenses will help offset costs associated with managing your woodlot at tax time. This meeting is for folks both new to woodlot management and those owners who have managed their woods for years.

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.

Buy-Sell or Trade – November 2019

Basswood and aspen lumber. Sizes are 2x4 to 4x6 boards. Contact Wil at 305-310-6927. In lieu of payment a donation can be made to the association.

To post an item, please send information to Mitch Cattrell’s email address neofa2@aol.com.
NEOFA Meeting Recap
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Ohio Forestry Practices,
Presented by Jamie Regula
By Bob Friend

Our October 17th meeting featured the EQIP Forester with the ODNR Division of Forestry Services, Jamie Regula. The topic for the evening was the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Ohio Forestry Practices.

What is EQIP? EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps protect the environment while promoting forest products, production, and agriculture. It is a cost-share program developed to assist farmers, agricultural producers, and non-industrial private landowners.

Jamie explained the conservation planning and benefits. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) experts provide both technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices. Practices are designed to reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff, improve soil health, protect or improve water quality, increase profits, improve wildlife habitat, improve energy efficiency, and improve air quality.

EQIP provides financial assistance and technical assistance. Financial assistance covers costs of materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, and may provide up to 75 percent of the cost. The technical assistance provides working directly with your NRCS Conservationist to identify resource concerns. It also provides field visits from State Foresters to discuss landowners’ objectives and current forest conditions.

Eligible EQIP applicants include agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland, and tribes. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland. There are no minimum acreage requirements.

Jamie covered how to apply for EQIP, the planning process, forest management plan, and the ranking of local, state, and federal levels of the EQIP application.

2019 EQIP Forestry Practices includes brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, critical area planting, mulching, tree/shrub site preparation, tree/shrub establishment, upland wildlife habitat management, structures for wildlife, forest stand improvement, forest trails and landings and prescribed burns. These practices are explained in the attached pdf file.

If you have any questions on the EQIP program, contact Jamie Regula at 614-381-2584 or email Jamie.Regula@dnr.state.oh.us. Attached is an updated pdf file of Jamie’s EQIP presentation for future reference. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the Editor of the newsletter.
Timber Market Report
By Daniel Castellucci ACF, CF

I am often asked, “Is now a good time to sell timber?” Sometimes the answer is an easy yes or a no, like in 2008. But right now, the answer is not so easy. It depends upon what is ready or needs to be removed from your woods.

This report is a compilation of discussions with buyers and other foresters, as well as a review of Green Lumber Prices. Keep in mind that the individual buyers may have special and/or local markets that allow them to pay more or less. As always, consult with a forester to evaluate your specific situation.

The Good- I am currently advising landowners that it is a good time to sell Red Maple, White Oak, as well as blocking (low quality timber and/or poorer species), such as American Beech, Pin Oak, and Sycamore.

The Average- Hickory, Sugar Maple, and Yellow Poplar are middle of the road. Yellow Poplar was in the good category until recently, but supply met demand, and prices are back to average. Black Walnut markets are split here. Some buyers are paying very high, whereas others are buying low.

The Bad- Black Cherry is not doing well. It showed signs of recovering about a year ago but dropped down near the bottom. Unfortunately, unless you live well to the north, Black Cherry may need to be cut before it rots and/or falls on its own.

The Ugly- Red Oak prices are very poor, if buyers are interested at all. A fall from fashion in kitchen remodeling and home décor, as well as highly reduced exports to China, have Red Oak stalled. Wait to sell it if you can.

Daniel Castellucci ACF, CF
Frontier Woodland Services, LLC

PROPERTY LINE FENCE LAW

In 2008, the Ohio Line Fence Law was updated to make it more easily understood, but from time to time issues and questions arise. Some county Farm Bureau offices have recently received calls with questions, and in an attempt to answer some of those questions and concerns, here is a list of five important reminders.

➢ For a fence that already exists, property on both sides of the fence share the cost of upkeep in an equitable, not equal, manner. If there is a dispute as to what is equitable, township trustees and courts assign what is equitable using guidelines set by law.

➢ If a landowner needs and builds a completely new fence, they are 100% responsible for the cost and should file an affidavit with the county recorder to note what was spent to build the fence. If a neighbor who didn’t pay for the construction of the fence takes advantage of the fence line by placing livestock against it within the next 30 years, they must pay a portion of the cost.

➢ Landowners are always free to make an alternative written agreement between themselves regarding the sharing of care, maintenance, and upkeep. Alternative agreements should be filed with the county recorder.

➢ Line fence law allows a property owner a 10 foot leeway onto neighboring property to build or maintain a new fence when the adjoining property owner does not share in the cost.

➢ Owners of a line fence who plan to remove it must give a 28 day notice to the adjoining property owner. If a fence is removed without notice, the person removing the fence forfeits any reimbursement for construction and maintenance of any new fence.

For More Information: Contact your county’s Farm Bureau office if you would like an informational brochure on line fence law.
Glenn and Judy Christen Work Day
By Mitch Cattrell

Fifteen NEOFA members arrived at Judy Christen’s home on a sunny and warm October 7th fall day. We came with ATV’s, chainsaws, and a log splitter for another Team NEOFA workday.

Sometime in the last two years, a small tornado tore through the Christen’s woodlot and left a tangled mess of trees. Jim Elze helped Glenn and Judy with a salvage harvest from a local Amish crew. Even after the harvest, there were still piles of logs and tops left near the house.

Glenn successfully bid on the NEOFA work crew at our spring banquet with a goal of turning that mess into a pile of firewood, as well as reclaiming some of his woods. Unfortunately, Glenn passed away before we could schedule this workday. But, this did not deter Team NEOFA; it filled us with determination to get as much of this job done as we could.

The crew turned those piles into three or more cords of split and stacked firewood. We also left two other large piles of unsplit firewood nearby. Judy said this is way more firewood than she can use, so she will share some with friends from the neighborhood and church.

Team NEOFA doesn’t work on an empty stomach and Judy didn’t disappoint. She welcomed us with donuts and coffee upon arrival, a delicious lunch, and plenty of cold water and soft drinks and treats throughout the day.

We know Glenn was there in spirit. He was a great guy and an asset to our association. We hope we served him and Judy well.

L to R: Dan Sprutte, Annette Woodrum, Karl Evans, Mitch Cattrell, Jim Elze, Wil Fuhrman, Joe Malmisur, Mike Lanave, Bob Friend, Jim Dillon, Dave Hively, Jamie Regula, Adam Regula, Dave Simpson, Charlie Woodrum, and in the front row “Bentley”
Team NEOFA at the Emerson Park Tree Farm Workday
By Susanna Pugh

A perfect fall day, camaraderie with fellow NEOFA members, and a day in the woods – what’s not to like? That was the scenario Monday, October 21st at Susanna Pugh’s Emerson Park Tree Farm near Hartville. NEOFA members: Brad Henderson, David Simpson, Ralph Hurley, Bob Friend, Jim Dillon, Joe DeFuria, Mitch Cattrell, Jim Elze, Wil Fuhrman and Janice Cowell, plus Susanna Pugh and John Rohr gathered to fulfill Susanna’s 2018 bid at the annual banquet and auction. Coffee, cider, and cinnamon rolls were served to the group before they headed out.

While Jim Dillon and Brad Henderson tackled a blown down cherry tree, Mitch Cattrell, Will, and Janice dealt with invasive multi-stem basswood and autumn olive, cutting and spraying a sizeable area. Joe DeFuria and Dave Simpson free-ranged through the woods, downing trees marked for removal last year by Ryan Clester.

Jim Elze thinned gnarly cherry in the NE section of the woods which Susanna plans to use for a four poster bed project. Nearby, Bob Friend and John Rohr figured a way to fell a particularly crooked ironwood, which again Susanna plans to use for one of her wood projects. Jim Dillon and Brad Henderson worked on the edge of the 2017 workday area doing TSI around red and white oaks, removing basswood and beech.

After a lunch of roast beef sandwiches, mac & cheese, and veggies, members devoured a plate of cookies and headed back to the woods.

The group wound down around 3:00, and on the way out of the woods, Jim, Bob, and Ralph cut some small crooked trees, again for Susanna’s wood projects. They also evaluated a small beech grove for a future Level 1 chainsaw class.

The final job was slicing cherry crotch pieces across the grain for the wood turners. Bob commented he’d never cut a piece of wood that way. John ever the engineer, and John measured and calculated how to level and cut a large hollow trunk into two sections for a proposed coffee table. Quite a project!

The afternoon was topped off with homemade black raspberry cobbler with ice cream. Thanks to all who made the day most enjoyable and productive. Besides seeing a marked improvement in portions of the woods, the best part was working with and getting to know fellow NEOFA members. Some even commented that they now know that even diseased and gnarly trees can be utilized in creative ways.

But, can you all come back for another 3-4 days????

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/
CHAINSAW SAFETY & INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TREE FELLING TRAINING
By Jim Elze

A Chainsaw Safety & Intermediate Level Directional Tree Felling Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, December 14, 2019. Participants must have completed our Introductory Level Training in order to qualify for Intermediate Level Training participation.

A hands-on, with your own saw(s), a chainsaw maintenance workshop is being planned for mid to late January at Hilltop Lawn & Garden, near Washingtonville, Ohio – date to be determined. Watch future newsletters for more information.

If interested in participating, call Jim Elze at (330) 831-8975 (cell) or email him at jim.elze@gmail.com for details. Note: The current cost per training level is $75.00 for NEOFA members and $95.00 for nonmembers.

Forming the NEOFA Workday Cooperative
By Bob Friend

Having trouble getting things done in your woods? You can get help. The NEOFA is forming the NEOFA Workday Cooperative to pool resources and work together on your property. This will consist of anything that the property owner needs help with-- from working on invasive plants, cutting, and splitting firewood, etc. If you are interested in joining the Cooperative or have any questions, email Bob Friend at Ohiobob.Friend@gmail.com.

A group of NEOFA members enjoyed a beautiful day at the Paul Bunyan Show. Not everyone made it back for the picture. Pictured: Dave Simpson, Ralph Hurley, Paul Bunyan, Jim Dillon, Dan Sprutte, Jim Elze, and in front, Mitch Cattrell.
NEOFA Business Partners for 2019 - 2020

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.

Pondi’s Restaurant           Adrian’s Restaurant        Heritage Co-op Inc.0
Lisbon, Ohio 44432           Calcutta, Ohio 43920        364 Lisbon Street, Canfield, Ohio 44406
Phone; 330-424-0334          Phone: 330-305-5340        Phone: 844-229-2252
Facebook.com/Pondi’s         adrians-family-restaurant-bakery.business.site/

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

Middleton Ace Hardware       Greier Ag Center            Crouse Mill True Value Hardware
44998 Crestview Road         9585 Columbiana-Canfield Road
Columbiana, Ohio 44408      Canfield, Ohio 44406
Phone: 330-482-4803         Phone: 330-533-6937
acehardware.com/store-details/08319
greieragcenter.com

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

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

Cal-Ohio Lube Company          Kelly Oil Products          Evolution Ag
Oil Lubricants & Filters       5040 Salem Unity Road       Farm, Lawn and Garden
50 Strawberry Alley            Salem, Ohio 44460           33170 State Route 172
North Lima, Ohio 44452        Phone: 330-482-9552       Lisbon, Ohio 44432
Phone: 330-549-2179           facebook.com/KellyOilProducts    Phone:330-222-1521
calohiolube.com/               Ethanol Free Gas available    evolutionagllc.com/locations/31108

Tractor Depot                          Moore Farms Meats
Farm Equipment & Service       Local Farm Raised Beef & Pork
4675 Depot Road                7373 West Western Reserve Road
Salem, Ohio 44460              Canfield, Ohio 44406
Phone: 330-222-0344           Phone: 230-533-5821
thetractordepot.com            facebook.com/pages/Moore-Farms
                                     
Tree Pro                             Miracle Tube tree shelters
                                      3180 West 250th North
                                      West Lafayette, IN 47906
                                      800-875-8071
treepro.com
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, December 14, 2019 Chainsaw Safety & Intermediate Directional Tree Felling Training
- Participants must have completed our Introductory/Basic training.
- Contact Jim Elze if interested. Email: jim.elze@gmail.com Phone: (330) 831-8975
- Time – 8:30 am until approximately 3:30 - 4:00 pm
- Site – Austintown area

No Meeting Scheduled For December. Enjoy The Holidays!!!!