ECOFA was founded to provide information to the members and the general public about multiple use management of forestland

BOARD MEETING:
November 6, 2019 ECOFA BOARD MEETING was opened at 6:00 pm by President Kathy Myers. Other officers present were Vice President John Quimby, secretary Linda Sims, treasurer Alan Walter, and trustees Art McCartney and Jay Palmer. Also present was service forester, Jeremy Scherf.

OLD BUSINESS:
Annual Meeting and Banquet: Alan Walter has sent in the contract to reserve Union Hill Methodist church for the annual meeting and banquet. The banquet and auction are scheduled for Wednesday April 1, 2020 at Union Hill Methodist Church in Sugarcreek.

ECOFA Field Trip Jeremy updated the board on a future bus field trip in March on a weekday to furniture makers in Amish country. He will check with Brad Perkins for dates and reserving a tour bus for approximately 42 people. We will plan on lunch possibly at Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen in Mount Hope. ECOFA will pay for the bus, and attendees will pay for their own lunch. A deposit from each attendee for their lunch prior to the date will be required. It is anticipated that the cost of a tour bus will be around $800-$1000.

TREASURERS REPORT Alan brought copies of the treasurer’s report. There is about $9000 in the account. Alan has been receiving dues for 2020, and will continue to collect dues at each meeting. Currently there are 138 paid members for 2019.

ELECTIONS Elections for officers will be in December. Quimby’s term as vice president will be up. All four officers’ jobs and one trustee job are up for either re-election or election every year. We usually are re-electing unless someone shows interest in serving.

NEW BUSINESS Alan stated that ECOFA renewed our American Chestnut Foundation membership.

GENERAL MEETING: The meeting of the general membership came to order at 7:00 pm. President Kathy Myers opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The date and location of the 2020 Annual banquet on April 1, 2020 at Union Hill Methodist Church was announced. Members were encouraged to renew their dues. Currently ECOFA is the most active forestry group in the state.

Patsy Schmucki stated that the 2020 Calendar will be available at the December meeting.

An announcement was made about a planned bus tour in March to Amish furniture companies. More information will be provided as the details are firmed up.

Announcements from Service Foresters Jeremy Scherf announced that the Paul Bunyan Festival was a success.

He introduced Colton Frink as a new consulting forester, having recently graduated from WVU. Colton also was a former attendee at forestry camp.

The Forest of Honor had three new inductees, one of which was the FFA Camp where Camp Canopy was held.
ODNR has purchased 30,000 acres from AEP for public use, including hunting.

**Tonight’s speakers** were ECOFA members Dan Ogonek of Ogonek Custom Hardwoods, and Tom Cushing, “The House that Tom (and Dan) Built.” Dan is a well known local timber frame builder with his business in Barberton, Ohio [https://ogonekhardwoods.com](https://ogonekhardwoods.com) He has a timber frame wedding barn currently under construction in Dalton, Ohio.

Tom Cushing wanted to build a timber frame house on the footprint of his old farmhouse when he came into some gas and oil well leasing money. He had planned to use the original foundation, but it was too damaged, and so he used a specialty precast (for a cost of under $13,000) from Pennsylvania for the basement. He contracted with Dan for the 32’x26’ timber frame house. The frame was up in a week. 11 different species of hardwood (black gum, aspen, ash, sassafras for the kitchen cabinets and ash flooring) are used in the frame, most coming from Tom’s own woods. The frame in a timber frame is green, not dried wood. As the green wood gradually dries, the joints tighten. Using dried wood would create problems. Both men said that the particular species of wood in the timber frame didn’t matter, using whatever wood was the size they needed (but you probably don’t want to use cottonwood!) Some extra pieces of wood came from Dan’s lumber yard. There is even a large pine log in Tom’s timber frame. The roof and siding are steel.

They had photos of the entire building process as well as photos of other timber frame projects Dan has done. Especially interesting were the photos of the “before” farmhouse, and the timber frame when completed.

Thank you, Dan and Tom, for sharing your experience in building Tom’s

**Upcoming Events**

ECOFA annual banquet and auction on April 1st. This year we move to a new venue at Union Hill Church in Sugarcreek.

Plan ahead for March when we rent a bus for a tour of the wood products being produced in Amish country…details to follow.
begin on federal lands. The Forest Service (FS) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture carries out wildfire management and response across the 193 million acres of the National Forest System. This paper says that while wildfire occurrences are variable, the amount of wildfires have decreased in the last 30 years but the acreage involved has increased.

“Every year since 2000, an average of 72,400 wildfires burned an average of 7.0 million acres. This figure is nearly double the average annual acreage burned in the 1990s”.

More wildfires occur in the East (including the central states), but the wildfires in the West are larger and burn more acreage (including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming). In 2018, nearly 36,200 fires burned 1.7 million acres in the East, compared with nearly 22,000 wildfires that burned more than 7 million acres.

It states that as of Oct. 3 2019 there have been over 40,000 fires that have burned a total of 4.4 million acres this year and that most of that acreage was in Alaska (2.6 million acres).

It further states that over the last 10 years there was a yearly average of 67,000 fires that burned an average of 7.0 million acres. However, in 2018 there were 58,083 wildfires that burned 8.8 million acres. The 2015 season was the largest in ten years with over 10.1 million acres burned and again most of that was in Alaska (5.1 million acres).

The amount of damage and environmental impact also varies on location and severity of the fire. That statement accounts for the news following California fires vs. the fires in Alaska.

You might find it interesting that 88% of all the wildfires between 2014 and 2018 were caused by humans, but 51% of the total acreage burned between 2014 and 2015 were from fires caused by lightening.

So, I am guessing that wildfires like grass and brush fires in rural areas that are caused by a person doing open burning usually get extinguished before they get too far out of hand. A fire caused by lightening in a large forest can get out of control before humans are aware of it.

Membership dues for 2020 are being accepted now. It is time to renew your membership. Dues are $20 per family. Your dues might be up to date already but some of your info might be out of date so please use this form so that we can assure our database is correct. So please fill out the form and send it in.

Name:_________________________
Address:______________________
City______________State___Zip____
Email____________________________
Phone________________________
Tree farm location__________________
Newsletter via email _____ or USPS___
Check one of the above.

Make Check to ECOFA and mail to PO Box 486, Carrollton, OH 44615
Our meeting location is the Dover Public Library in the meeting room. The address for the Dover Library is 525 North Walnut St. Dover, Ohio

If inclement weather threatens travel to a meeting we will post cancellation notices on our Facebook page as well as on WTUZ radio (99.9 FM) and their website and we will call the Library to let them know.

Dec 4th. Dan Warther will talk about making wood toys for children
Jan 8th. Jeremy Scherf “Money does grow on trees.”
Feb 5th. John Oliver who teaches forestry at the Buckeye Career Center will talk about his classes
Mar 4th. Denise Ellsworth Bugs and trees
Apr 1st. ECOFA annual banquet and auction at Union Hill United Methodist Church in Sugarcreek.

The Dover Public Library can be easily found by getting off I-77 at the Dover exit No. 83 (Rts 39 and 211). Take rt. 211 east (at the cemetery Rt. 211 turns to the right) to West 5th ST. and Turn left on West 5th. To Walnut St and turn left again to the Library on your right. There should be street parking there and a gravel lot around the corner on west 6th st.