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

Board Meeting: The January board meeting was attended by Kathy, Jaime, Jay, Art, Billie, Alan, Quimby and Jeremy.

They set the meeting location for the field trip and the date. Those that register and are going on the field trip should meet us at the north end of the parking lot at the Wal-Mart in New Philadelphia. The date is March 18th. We will have the bus ready to go at 9:00 am. We should return to that location at the end of the tour around 4 pm. We are limited to 55 people for the tour and at no cost other than your meal at Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen in Mt. Hope. We will be touring Homestead Furniture and HW Chair. Please call Alan at 330-323-3763 by March 11th to register. Priority to members of ECOFA first Alan will notify non-members of any available seats after March 11th.

We want to welcome to the board Jaime Regula, a service forester who oversees the EQIP program for east central counties. Also we want to extend our thanks to John Quimby for his work as vice president of ECOFA these past years.

There are some calendars remaining for members only. Pick them up after the meetings, we are not mailing them out.

General Meeting: Kathy opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Billy Wilson said that forms will available this week for the Harrison County SWCD tree sales. Levi Arnold mentioned that he had forms for Guernsey County SWCD tree sales. Ryan Clester was in attendance and mentioned he has assumed a position on the board of the NEOFA. Jaime Regula mentioned that even though the deadline has not been set for submitting your EQIP grant, you should get that in as the deadline will be soon.

Our speaker for the evening was Jeremy Scherf who presented a program called Money Does Grow on Trees. He explained that he designed the program when he was offered a grant from the Farm Bureau to conduct four programs to help forest lands owners. Many cattle, hay, soy, and corn farmers don’t realize the value of their timber. In Ohio agriculture is a 124 billion dollar industry yearly and of that number, a little over 26 billion is forestry. The forestry numbers include production, logging, milling, transportation and manufacturing of timber. He said Ohio now is the number one manufacture of furniture in the US.

Jeremy talked about the value of a tree. Things like spacing of the growth rings, damage or decayed spots, and other defects affect the price of a log. You must also consider access to the timber. Is there a solid road bed and pathway to the timber or will temporary bridges and culverts be needed to get the timber out. How far is the mill from your woodlot. You should also be aware of the volume per acre of your timber. An example would be that if you don’t have a lot of good timber on your 40 acres you probably won’t get as high of a price per tree as if you had a large volume of good timber. The reason is that the logger has less cost in working with the higher volume.

Some of the things to consider when harvesting your timber are taxes. How do you want to handle your income. You may have a basis for the cost in growing the timber. You might have a farm related project to invest the income into.

He talked briefly about the amount of timber taken during a cut. A timber can be and should be an improvement to your woods and not a
detriment. It can help establish a cover for and establish wildlife habitat.

He talked about the value of a log. If you have a 16 inch diameter (DBH) tree with two 16 foot logs in it that would be about 116 board feet, but if you wait and let that tree grow to 26 inch diameter with maybe three 16 foot logs it should increase to 619 board feet. That tree would be worth 6 times more. Some rough numbers on the value of species he gave out were: A white oak tree brings $495, a cherry about $371, a poplar $294, a red maple $245, and a black walnut $1485.

How you sell your timber should be of concern also. Sometimes a logger offers to split the profit from a cut when it is purchased at the mill. This method could leave you libel for injuries to his personnel and or an accident on the way to the mill. Jeremy suggested that you have a contract paying you for the timber on the stump and that the logger owns the timber before any cutting has begun. You might want to write into a contract that he assumes responsibility for injuries. Obviously, a consulting forester would be looking out for you and handle any contractual obligations for you. He said while many of our logging companies in Ohio are good honest people, they are also in business to make a profit. If they can purchase your trees for a lesser price they would … use a consultant.

Thank you Jeremy, it was an interesting program.

Upcoming Events

ECOFA annual banquet and auction on April 1st. This year we move to a new venue at Union Hill Church in Sugarcreek. Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter to register for the banquet.

The following list of service foresters and their assigned counties is changing. Jeremy has been promoted to a supervisory position over several foresters and he will be losing the responsibility for Belmont County. Adam Komar is expected to take on that county. However, the state’s website has not been changed and until I know the full changes to edit on this page, I will leave it as is.

**Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, and Jefferson, Counties**
Jeremy Scherf
2050 East Wheeling Ave.  
Cambridge, OH 43725-2159  
Phone 740-439-9079  
Toll free 1-866-274-0102  
Fax 740-432-7711  
Office day is Wednesday

**Summit, Medina, Ashland, Richland, Wayne, and Holmes counties**
John Jolliff  
950 ODNR Mohican Rd. 60  
Perrysville, OH 44864  
Phone 419-938-6222

**Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties**
Ryan Clester  
3601 New Garden Road  
Salem, OH 44460-9571  
330-222-1486  
Office day is Wednesday

**Coshocton, Muskingum, Noble and Monroe Counties**
Adam Komar  
6665 Cutler Lake Rd.  
Blue Rock, OH 43720-9740  
740-961-0194  
office day Wednesday

**Guernsey County Soil and Water**
Levi Arnold Monday-Friday 8:00 to 4:30  
740-489-5276 or larnold@guernseycounty.org

**Harrison County Soil and Water**
Billy Wilson 740-942-8837 or bwilson@harrisoncountyohio.org

**Carroll County Soil and Water**
Joe Mayle 330-627-9852 or Joe.Mayle@carrollswcd.org

More Upcoming events

Ohio Woodland, Water, and Wildlife Conference  
Wed. March 4th, 2020 at the Mid Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield Ohio. From 8:45 am to 3:30 pm. Early registration cost is $65 before 2/18 afterwards it goes up to $85. This is a woodlandstewards event with three sessions each hour dealing with either wildlife, water, or woodlands subjects given by a variety of speakers. To register: https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events/ohio-woodland-water-and-wildlife-conference
Are you watching the weather?

It seems we really haven’t had much winter yet. I was looking for an article about what effects of a very light winter (assuming this continues) would be. I got side tracked by the National Weather Service website which posts the December totals for several areas of Ohio. Looking at the numbers for Akron/Canton only shows that the record high temp on Dec 3rd, 1982 was 76 F. The lowest recorded temp in December on Dec.22nd, 1989 was -16 F. The normal average high for the month is 37 F. This December our average high was 44 F. The normal average low temp for December is 23.9 and this December our average low was 28.5 F.

Precipitation for December normally averages 2.84 inches, and this last December we recorded 3.80 inches. With the warmer temperatures we ended up 5.4 inches less snowfall than the normal average.

The average wind speed was 9.7 miles per hour. The highest sustained wind was 37 miles per hour on December 30th and the highest gust was that same day with a gust of 50 miles per hour. I did not see a normal column for winds.

So far the first half of January has continued with this warm trend. While it is great for the golf game, it isn’t too good for the loggers trying to get trees out of the woods.

I finally found a few small articles on the effects of warmer winter weather. The concerns seemed to be that early budding by trees might be harmed by a change to a cold period. One comment suggested to avoid pruning in late fall which stimulates growth in a plant. Pruning can be done in the early spring before buds open up. As a rule don’t prune when the leafing out process has begun.

Another possible effect of warmer weather is the lack of a killing frost on the insect populations. If you have been out working in your woods a lot this winter, please wear tick repellant treated clothing.

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 county ________________ |
| Newsletter via email _____ or USPS___ |
| Check one of the above. |
| Make Check to ECOFA and mail to PO Box 486, Carrollton, OH 44615 |

Our annual Banquet and auction is on April 1st and will be at Union Hill United Methodist Church just east of Sugar Creek on off Rt. 39. The cost is $15 per person. Please fill out a reservation form by March 18th and send it in with your check.

| Banquet Reservation form |
| Name:_________________________ |
| Number attending _______times $15=________ |
| Please send this and your check into PO Box 486, Carrollton OH. 44615 |
| Deadline March 18th. |
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 cancelation 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.

Feb 5th John Oliver who teaches forestry at the Buckeye Career Center will talk about his classes
Mar 4th Denise Ellsworth Bugs and trees
Mar 18th Bus trip field day tour of Homestead Furniture and H W Chair….call Alan to reserve a seat.
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.