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

BOARD MEETING:  
February 5, 2020 ECOFA BOARD MEETING was opened at 6:00 pm by President Kathy Myers. Other officers present were Vice President Jamie Regula, Secretary Linda Sims, treasurer Alan Walter, and trustees Art McCartney, Billie Wilson, and Jay Palmer. Also present were service foresters Jeremy Scherf and Levi Arnold.

OLD BUSINESS:  
Annual Meeting and Banquet:  update:  The banquet and auction are scheduled for Wednesday April 1, 2020 at Union Hill Methodist Church in Sugarcreek. Menu was discussed and will be baked chicken, Swiss steak, green beans, potatoes, salad, and a variety of desserts. Members are encouraged to bring auction items; however, the live auction will be limited to the first 35 home/handmade items.

ECOFA Field Trip  Jeremy updated the board on the upcoming bus field trip March 18, 2020 to the Amish furniture makers--HG Chair which provides the chairs for all the Cracker Barrel Restaurants and Homestead Furniture. Lunch will be at Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen in Mount Hope. A maximum of 55 can be accommodated with first options being offered to ECOFA members. Attendees will meet in the New Philadelphia Walmart parking lot at the Menard’s end at 9:00 to board the bus. As of this newsletter there are 8 seats left on the bus. Contact Alan if you still want to join us at 330-323-3763 by March 11th.

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.

Announcements from Service Foresters  
Levi Arnold form Guernsey County announced their tree seedling sale. There will be a livestock depredation seminar presented by Eric Householder at Deerassic Park February 20. Losses from coyotes and Black Vultures as well as other predators will be discussed. No cost, but you need to call to register.  
http://guernseysoil.blogspot.com/

Billie Wilson Harrison County announced fingerling and tree sales. A workshop discussing conservation in your backyard and pruning your trees is March 3. 
https://www.harrisoncountyohio.org/swcd/

Jason Reynolds of Carroll County announced their fish and tree sales with deadlines to order March 27 and April 3. Order forms are on their website.  www.carrollswcd.org

Jamie Regula introduced her husband, Adam Regula, a service forester for Jefferson County. She also announced upcoming programs:  Feb. 12 “Love Your Trees and Lower Your Taxes, call before you cut, Fe 27 EQUIP deadline, Feb 27 Group in Athens Ohio (Women in Forestry), ODNR Facebook page, March 18 Outreach & education for Forestry 101 workshop, and Trumbull County “Woodland Wednesdays”

Tonight’s speaker was John Oliver from Buckeye Career Center who brought students of the Natural Resources program with him to share the program with us. This program is within the Agricultural & Environmental Systems career field. This career pathway can lead to jobs as
loggers, foresters, game wardens, park maintenance, arborist, water management, and other similar employment. They brought with them a slide show that demonstrated typical activities that students are involved in daily. They showed the open-face felling technique of trees, pond construction, including operating the heavy equipment needed for the construction. Photos showed how the students manage raising the fish that are then sold to fisheries wholesale, then sold the public for stocking and bait purposes. 100,000 goldfish go to bait. One goldfish raised 5 years ago weighed 5 lbs. They go through 5 tons of fish food per year. They had a picture of an 8-year-old tilapia that is currently larger than the world record of 7 lb. 13 oz. After expenses, the program returns $10,000 per year to the program. On the last day of school, it’s tradition for the students to pull all the cattails out of the ponds to prepare the ponds for the upcoming year.

Students learn heavy equipment operation and have their own firewood business. They do a lot of climbing and learn the “limb-walks system” to work on branches of storm-damaged trees. The school owns their own equipment including dozers, skid steers, chippers, and forklifts. The students, however, purchase their personal equipment such as ropes, climbing spikes, gear bags, and personal protection equipment. The typical school day in the natural resources program starts at 7:50 am and finishes around 2:30. So they pack a lot of outdoor education in a few short hours. The ratio of female to male students in the natural resources program is about 1 to 4.

Students of the natural resources program participate in state competitions, as well as having senior projects. They compete with about 3400 students at the state level and have won 2/3 of the contests. 60% of the students go on to 2-year college programs. The school overall has about a 100% placement rate of their graduates. One problem is having enough graduates to fill the demand. These students are having no problems finding jobs!

John Oliver’s students shared their career goals which include going on to a 2- or 4-year college program, teaching, working in landscaping, wastewater treatment, and tree service jobs.

Guernsey and Harrison
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Summit, Medina, Ashland, Richland, Wayne, and Holmes Counties
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Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties
Ryan Clester
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Belmont, Muskingum, Noble and Monroe Counties
Adam Komar
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Jefferson County
Adam Regula
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Crawford, Morrow, Knox, and Coshocton Counties
Andy Sabula
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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@harrisoncountyohipo.org

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

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.
Syrup and Salamanders
An Ohio woodland stewards program on Sat. Feb. 29th from 9 am to noon at the OSU Mansfield campus. Presented by Marne Titchnell. Cost is $10 and kids are free. A tour of the new sugarbush system and vernal pool with a pancake and syrup breakfast.

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

Winter Tree and Shrub Identification
Saturday February 29, 10:00am–noon at Blacklick Woods Metro park in Reynoldsburg OH. Free but register with Jason Van Houten @614-265-6703

Northeast Ohio Women Owning Woodlands Gathering on Thur. Feb. 27th 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Holden Arboratum Corning Visitor Center. Kirtland OH. Rsvp 440-946-4400

Forestry 101 for Landowners
Wed March 18th from 6pm to 7:30pm. At the Garden meeting room Portage Co. SWCD, 697 St. Rt. 88. Ravenna Oh. Free but register at 440-426-2195.

Objectives and Priorities 101 on Feb 26th at 5:00 PM at the ODNR District headquarters 360 east State St. Athens Ohio..register at 740-729-0656

Just a quick reminder to landowners who have electric company transmission lines crossing their farms. Your rights are limited by state regulations and the power companies are gearing up to remove vegetation again soon. So, if you have some frustration due to disregard of your property by contractors, then save any correspondence sent to you by mail and you can call the phone numbers listed on the mailing. Spending hours on trying to contact someone through an automated phone system will only add to your aggravation. You might also Google “right of way rights” as there is a very good explanation on AEP ‘s page.

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.

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.