February 2016,

The Hillgers hosted a hoard of hearty, hungry SOFA members and friends at their farm on Saturday February, 13th. The fires were toasty, the company warm, and the food wonderful. Sue talked about her history with the farm and her thankfulness that they have moved beyond the pioneer days in which she had to put chains on her car’s tires to deliver groceries to the house. John had a nifty display of how he collects sap from the trees in his maple bush, and gave a tour of his maple syrup production facility. Upon arrival, we had seen the great number of already-tapped trees wearing their festive blue sap collection bags.

Chair Rick Wright welcomed everyone and introduced guests. He thanked Wayne Lashbrook's daughter and Barbara Keyes' granddaughter and her friend for attending with a gift of a terrific little cookbook.

Wayne Lashbrook spoke about how lucky we are to have the local forests and the partnerships that optimize their usefulness to people and other living things.

(I reflected on how lucky we were to have Wayne Lashbrook, who, through vision, relationship building, patience and perseverance made the Vinton Experimental Forest a reality. Wayne is a very humble man and does not speak about this, but everyone familiar with the history or unique indispensability of the Vinton Forest is in awe and deep appreciation of Wayne's vision and skill in making that vision a reality.)

We watched the video: The Forest Returns: The Success Story of Ohio's Only National Forest as Told by Ora L. Anderson. All very interesting and thought provoking.

Everyone left warm and well fed and thankful for another fun and fulfilling member farm visit.

Respectfully submitted: Betsy Pierson
Horse Logging

SOFA members Anne and Sam Byars live in Austin Texas, but it's clear that portions of their hearts are always at Maple Lane Farm, their 400 acre farm in Ross County, just south of Greenfield. The current farm – and more, lost to them when acquired under eminent domain for the Paint Creek Lake project – have been in Anne's family going on two hundred years. Anne, Sam, and their two children have been busy the last several years getting to know the farm, planting trees, and transitioning the pasture and crop land to organic methods. Theirs is a truly beautiful and vibrant farm.

On the farm is a stand of aging ash trees in which a previous farm manager corralled pregnant sows to give them shade during the heat of the summer. They use this stand for nothing now, so, wanting to harvest the trees before they all succumbed to Emerald Ash Borers, and desiring to minimize the ecological impact of the project, the Byars opted to go with a small horse-logging operation. With Sam and Anne's good friends, Connie and Dane Clyburn, Ramie, Rick Wright and I traveled to Greenfield on a cold, snow-covered day to see how this kind of operation worked.

We met the arborist and the Mennonite farmer who run the process. They have worked together for years, and have designed and built simple but elegant custom equipment for hitching together man, horse team and logs. The farmer likes to keep his draft horses fit year-round, so this type of logging, which is best done when the ground is frozen and even snow-covered, suits his schedule and his horses' well-being just fine. The trees had been marked by a forester, and drag paths laid out by the logging team. The arborist came early to fell some trees so he could get ahead of the farmer and his horses. Man and horse team worked smoothly as a unit, and lengths of ash tree were quickly secured with timber lifting tongs, and dragged - with only the very butt of the log touching the ground - to the collection area near the road to await pickup by the log truck. The farmer brings two teams of horses, and they job-share, switching off at lunch time. We got to talk with both the arborist and the farmer, and found them both smart, energetic and ethical in their approach to man, animal and the environment.

Anne maintains a Facebook page for the farm, and on that page you can see and hear what a horse-logging operation is like: Look for Maple Lane Farm Greenfield, https://www.facebook.com/maplelanefarmofgreenfield/

Betsy

Pipe Dream

Any idea that is really unique or bizarre is called a "pipe dream" by those who think it is pretty silly. The term originates from the use of opium by smoking it through a pipe. It is said that opium produces a dream-like state of mind, where things aren't realistic. (Whether these are hallucinations or not is debatable.) So, smoking opium in a pipe creates a "pipe dream" sensation.

A REMINDER...

We are asking everyone to please send in their dues for 2016 as soon as possible. Knowing the amount of money in the SOFA treasury early in the year helps us budget for activities and expenses throughout the year. Membership dues are used for the newsletter, educational ventures, programs, speakers gifts, and other occasional expenses. Please include an “Application For Membership” form (located on another page in this newsletter) with your check. We appreciate your membership!

Jim Meacham, Treasurer
ZELABEE

Mix flour, salt, yeast, sugar and oil with water, kneading and leaving mixture soft. Cover and set aside until dough rises, (about 1 hour.) Cut off pieces of dough and stretch into strips or squares. Fry in skillet of hot oil until golden brown. Remove from oil and sprinkle w/sugar while still hot.

4 cups all-purpose flour 1 tsp. salt
1 package dry yeast 1 tsp. sugar
1 tbsp. cooking oil Water
About 1 ½ - 2 cups warm
Cooking oil (canola or veggie oil for frying)
Sugar for coating

THE ADVENTURES OF WAYNE & TIM

Tim “Good idea to come inside Wayne, it’s cold out there!”
Wayne “Yeah, the old woodstove can warm our bones AND cook lunch!”
Tim “Sitting inside where it’s warm, and cooking on the wood stove just adds another page to our adventures in make good food with a wood fire.”
Wayne “You heard from the TV people yet?”
Tim “I think one of these newsletters will fall into the right hands, and we’ll be on our way, meanwhile I’m having a blast!”

2015 SOFA HONOR ROLL OF FORESTRY CAMP CONTRIBUTORS

SOFA had a very unusual year in that we did not send a student to OFA Summer Camp. The money not spent in 2015 will be carried over to the current year. Thanks to all listed below for their contributions to the 2015 SOFA Scholarship Fund.

Ann & Jim Savage
Betsy & Ramie Pierson
Becky Kitchen
Fern & John Beathard
Connie & Dane Clyburn
P.J. & Joe Gordy
Jim Lupinske
Christie & Leonard Culver
Joann Sporleder
Barbara Keyes & Andrea Littler
Kip Tedeschi
Ginny & John Kaldmo
Marie & Elizabeth Hendricks
Benita & Wayne Lashbrook
Pam & Jim Meacham

Sponsoring Summer Forestry Camp Student(s) has long been a priority of SOFA. We are continuing the scholarship program into this year. The OFA Summer Camp is located at Leesville Lake, Carroll County, Ohio. Our program will continue as money allows. We will also consider contributions to other scholastic needs. Your continued support of this program is greatly appreciated—THANK YOU!
Jim Meacham, Treasurer
S.O.F.A.

THE TENATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2016 (Subject to Change, Please Watch Monthly)

March 03/10/16 Thursday Piketon 6:15 pm “The Health & Status of Deer and Gamebirds in Ohio”
Presented by Lee Crocker (also a discussion on revising our “SOFA” brochures)

April– Saturday 04/16/16 - 11 am Pike Lake “Local Wildflowers” Fern Betheard and Flip Schmidt

May 05/12/16 Thursday– 6:15 pm Piketon “The Status of Bobcats and Other Ohio Furbearers”
Presented by Suzie Prange

June Saturday 06/18/16 – 11 am South Salem “Farm Tour”: Gina and Gary Hochenberger Farm

July Date TBA- Waverly “OCI Mill Tour”

August Thursday 08/11/16 11:30 am “Program Planning Meeting for 2017” Chillicothe, Golden Corral Everybody Invited

September Thursday 09/08/16 Piketon “Tips on Trail Cameras and Food Plots”
Presented by Rick Wright

October Saturday 10/15/16 11 am – “Apple Orchard tour and Serpent Mound”
Presented by Orchardists Karnes

November Thursday 11/10/16 – 6:15 pm Piketon Everybody “Open Mic Night”

December Thursday 12/8/16 – 6 pm –“Annual Meeting”, Officer Election & Year End Celebration

Every few months. it is a good practice to take a walk on your land. It is an easy step that you can take to help
maintain the health of your woods. So while curling up by the fire might be a more pleasant cold weather activity, winter
is actually a great time to get out on your land. Most of the hardwoods and other plants have lost their leaves, making it
easier to see further. Are there downed trees that are blocking your trails? Damage from trespassers? Check your gates.
Look up and check for hazards from above too, like dangling branches or a widowmaker.

Rick’s Contest of the Year !!!

For our September program on “Trail Cams” we plan to have a trail cam photo contest. Please
submit up to a dozen or so best shots from trail (or digital) cameras taken on your property by you,
or someone else, to Rick Wright or Betsy Pierson by September 3rd. At the September 8th meeting all
shots submitted will be displayed in a short presentation and a vote by those in attendance will
determine the winner – (who just may….. receive a nice prize.)

Members – we have a page on our website that features Members Pictures. If you have a
related farm, business or Facebook page that you would like us to include on that page, we would
be happy to link to your information. Just let any of the officers or John King know.
CALENDER OF EVENTS

DATE: Thursday, March 10th
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Bluebirds and Your Landscape” workshop
SPEAKER: Mary Sibley, Pike SWCD

DATE: Tuesday, March 29th
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Dealing with Backyard Nuisance Wildlife” workshop
SPEAKER: Marne A. Titchnell, Wildlife Program Specialist, OSU Extension

DATE: Tuesday, April 12th
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Food Plot for Wildlife” workshop
SPEAKER: Lee Crocker, Regional Wildlife Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation

DATE: MAY (Under Construction)
LOCATION: To be determined
EVENT: “Composting for the Homeowner”

DATE: MAY (Under Construction)
LOCATION: An Undetermined Pike County Livestock Farm
EVENT: “Pasture Walk for the Livestock Producer”
SPEAKER: Troyce Barnett, Grasslands Management Systems Specialist, USDA-NRCS

DATE: JUNE (Under Construction)
LOCATION: Pike SWCD office
EVENT: “Customer Appreciation Day”

DATE: JUNE (Under Construction)
LOCATION: To be determined
EVENT: “Managing your Forest Resources”

DATE: JUNE (Under Construction)
LOCATION: To be determined
EVENT: “Bees and the Importance of Pollinators”

DATE: July 31st – August 6th
LOCATION: Pike County Fairgrounds - Piketon
EVENT: “Come see us at the Pike County Fair!”
SPEAKER: Pike SWCD Board/Staff

DATE: Thursday, August 18th
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Black Bears in Ohio” workshop
SPEAKER: Al LeCount - Consultant, Researcher, and National Expert on Black Bears

DATE: SEPTEMBER (Under Construction)
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Pike SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet”

DATE: Thursday, October 6th
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Bobcats in Ohio” workshop
SPEAKER: Cheryl Mollohan - Consultant, Researcher, and National Expert on Bobcats

DATE: OCTOBER (Under Construction)
LOCATION: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center - Piketon
EVENT: “Birds of Prey in Ohio (hawks and owls)” workshop
SPEAKER: Ohio Wildlife Center

ALSO:
- The Pike SWCD Photo Contest (2016 theme is Eastern Bluebirds of Ohio) deadline for entry is Friday, July 1st – email photos to mary.sibley@oh.nasdn.net
- The Big Tree Contest begins in April and runs until Friday, August 26th – WHITE PINE is the species for 2016

2016
PIKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

The District is planning for the BEST OFFERING EVER to showcase the importance of our natural resources

Contact us for more information about events currently “under construction”

We look forward to serving you in 2016!

PIKE SWCD
11752 State Route 104
Waverly, Ohio 45690
(740) 947-5353
www.pikeswcd.org
NEXT SOFA MEETING

MARCH 10\textsuperscript{TH} at OSU SOUTH CENTER, PIKETON OH

“The Health & Status of Deer and Gamebirds in Ohio”

Presented by Lee Crocker

Our “carry-in dinner” will be @ 6:15 pm

Brief meeting and presentation beginning at 7:00 pm

(Building on right side of park lot as you enter)

As usual, bring a dish you wish to share, OR just come and help us eat what is there.

(We realize that not everyone has time to fix something, please don’t let that stop you from coming to a meeting!)

S. O. F. A.

1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661

Visit us on the web -
www.OhioSOFA.org

Unless otherwise noted, monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the OSU South Center, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, OH. Meetings are held in the Endeavor.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME________________________________________________________ PHONE____________________

ADDRESS_________________________________________CITY____________________________STATE______

EMAIL_________________________________________________________________________________

If you own woodland, in which county?____________________________Acres Owned___________________

New Member_____Renewal_____Scholarship Fund Donation $__________Thank You.

Mail application / renewal & check to Jim Meacham, 4332 St Rt 776, Jackson, Oh 45640 Make check payable to Southern Ohio Forestland Association (SOFA). Individual $15. Family $25. Partnership, Association, or Corporation $25.