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

Note due to the first Wed of Jan being New Years Day our next meeting is on Jan 8th.

The ECOFA board meeting for 12-4-2013 began with Derra and Dick Scharver, Alan Walter, Brian Werner, Tom Cushing, Mike Schmuki and Jeremy Scherf present. New business included how to get new people to serve as officers or board members. Speakers are lined up through October, at the February meeting members can share tips and techniques they use on their tree farms. Brian reported that our group liability insurance had increased significantly over last year. The board agreed to investigate a better rate

The regular meeting was called to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:35. Brian gave the Treasurer's report. ECOFA ended Nov with a balance of $6077.36. Due to January 1, 2014 falling on a Wednesday, the Jan meeting will be on Jan 8. Members can find out about meeting cancellations for weather or any other reason, on WTUZ radio 99.9 FM or at wtuz.com. Annual elections are at the December meeting. The board decided to offer an incentive to anyone willing to serve as an officer or trustee. The year following election, if the person attends 9 of 12 meetings they will receive a free membership. The elections on 12-4 resulted in the current officers and two trustees being re-elected. Kathy Myers volunteered for the remaining trustee position which needed filled. Jeremy reminded us Ohio Woodlands, Water and Wildlife is a quarterly publication of the Ohio woodland stewards program. Information is available at http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/. Some good news, there is a parasitic wasp that lays its eggs in Emerald Ash Borer eggs and EAB doesn't seem to infest any other species than Ash.

Our speaker was Dr. Diane Miller from the department of Horticulture and Crop Science, Ohio State University at Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center. Her subject was developing apple varieties. The goal of the Midwest Apple Improvement Association is to create environmentally adapted high quality apples for local markets. The objectives of breeding are disease resistance, later blooming, better taste and improved keeping quality. Apples native to N. America were crab apples. Europeans brought apple seeds with them. Settlers were required to plant apple trees on their farms and homesteads. The resultant N. American or Johnny Appleseed gene pool was, until recently, what apple breeders had to work with when trying to improve or create new apple varieties. In 2007, in the Midwest, apple scab resistance began to breakdown from a lack of continued genetic improvement. This was, in part, because of a narrow germ plasma base. Kazakhstan, a country in central Asia, was found to be the center of origin of apples. New genetic material from there is being studied for use in improving the apples we get here. The Dawes Arboretum, near Newark, has seedlings from seed and wood brought from Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan, a country near Kazakhstan is also a source of genetic material. Evaluating trees can be difficult and expensive, taking 10 years to get a good evaluation. To make apple trees pay quickly they are becoming smaller and being planted more densely, as little as 3 feet between trees within the rows. These trees need little or no pruning and require staking. The B-9 rootstock is popular for the small trees.
If you need a forester, use the following info

### Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, and Monroe 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

### Richland, Wayne, Holmes, Ashland, Medina, Lorain, Huron, Erie
John Jolliff
950 ODNR Mohican Rd. 60
Perrysville, OH 44864
419-938-6222

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

### Coshocton, Muskingum, and Perry Counties
Adam Komar
6665 Cutler Lake Rd.
Blue Rock, OH 43720-9740
740-674-4035
office day Wednesday

### Knox, Franklin, Licking, Fairfield Counties
Andy Sabula
8995 E. Main St
- Plant Industry Building
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
614-425-7767

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**Our February meeting will require your input**

Our February meeting will revisit a favorite meeting from a few years ago – sharing your favorite tree farm tips and tools. Please come prepared to show-and-tell about some of your favorite hardware (or even software!) that helps you manage your woods. Bring examples if feasible; otherwise, bring pictures to share or e-mail them ahead of time to Alan at waltera4471@gmail.com and he’ll project them onto the video screen during the program. Be thinking about anything that you’ve learned through the school of hard knocks that will make a fellow member’s life easier.

### Bobcats are being seen and reported by ECOFA members

At one of our meetings recently Rob Davis showed some of the members a trail cam pic of a bobcat carting off a ground hog that had feed on bait that he set for deer. That was in the the Harrison County area.

Then earlier this week Chuck White said that he came in from deer hunting and there was a message from his next door neighbor asking him to come over and fetch a live trap from under a pet’s cage for him. Seems there was something unfamiliar in the trap. Chuck looked and it was a bobcat…They had the game warden come and take it somewhere to release it, however Chuck presumes that it will return to the area soon.

I have not seen one on my property as yet, but just can’t wait ..(wanna bet?)

**Jeremy reported to us** at the segment of the meeting before the evening speaker. One of the things he mentioned was that he had included a fact sheet on the table about the Thousand Cankers Disease from the Ohio State University. This disease will affect one of our most valuable trees that grow easily in the east central Ohio area, namely the Black Walnut.

> “The first symptoms are yellowing of the foliage and upper crown thinning, followed by dieback of twigs and branches. A tree must experience many separate attacks over time for tree dieback and overall decline to become apparent. But once external symptoms are detected tree death may occur in as little as three years.”

The fungus is carried by a beetle called the Walnut Tree Beetle. This beetle is very small and not easy to detect, so you would probably notice symptoms before you find the beetle. If you find both on your walnut trees take the time to call a forester or local nurseryman. According to the article you might save your other walnut trees with insecticides. There is no
known fungicide to treat the disease. The state does want to monitor infestations so be sure to call.

**Genetically Modified Organisms**

“GMO”s

Dr. Diane Miller sent Alan the link to this article written by Richard Oswald of Langdon Mo. Richard is a fifth generation farmer and president of the Missouri Farmers Union.

In her talk with us at the meeting she spoke about the apple seeds that they were developing might not be available to the consumers or home growers for at least 15 years because of patent rights of the developers. (I think the Midwest Apple Initiative in this case).

Richard Oswald’s article talks about how several large seed developers of genetically altered seeds are in control of much of the crops around the globe.

“Everyone should have an apple tree to pull ripe red fruit from, just to eat it on the spot. Here on the farm outside of Langdon, when I was growing up, we had more than apples. There were pears, peaches, cherries, strawberries, rhubarb... gooseberries, too.”

“We ate fresh picked food for free. Under today's laws if someone had placed a foreign gene, different DNA, into the apple tree and patented it (as a Genetically Modified Organism--GMO), the fruit would no longer have been free.”

“That's because patent holders could demand payment before the apple was ours to eat. Selling seeds or seedlings could have cost everything we owned in infringement penalties rewarded to the patent holder by a court of law”

He goes on to say that most of the time farmers have paid the patent use fees when they buy the seed. However some farmers in South America refused to pay the extra cost for the seed and then reacted in mass when the governments added the cost to export fees when the crops went to market.

“Prior to seed patents plant breeders were able only to copyright plants. Companies that did the best job of selective breeding were rewarded with business from farmers who liked their seeds. At one time there were hundreds of seed companies, big and small. Even tax funded land grant universities performed research and bred new plants called public varieties. Both farmers and seed companies could use those to grow crops--or seed--without permission.”

“In most cases penalties for violating copyright aren't stringent enough to prevent unauthorized use on a small scale. Some farmers stole varieties for personal use, as did a few seed companies by selling seed without paying for the right. Litigation to enforce seed copyrights was expensive, and a win in court was not as rewarding as patent infringement because judgments were much smaller”

“A majority of profits by some of the largest food corporations in the world continue to be directed toward consolidation and control of food from its origins until leaving store shelves in the hands of consumers. Even some notable authorities support consolidation of food production as the most efficient method to feed billions--though they may not be in in full possession of the facts.”

“But little is being done to address growing monopolies in food, from seeds to who owns farm animals, and markets used to determine worth. Patented plants are old hat these days, but patented animals remain on the fringe in US meat and poultry industries already under various stages of corporate control.”

Membership dues for 2014 are being accepted now. It is time to renew your membership. Dues are $20 per family.

| Name:_________________________ |
| Address:_______________________ |
| City_______________State___Zip____ |
| Email____________________________ |

Make Check to ECOFA and mail to PO Box 486, Carrollton, OH 44615
The ECOFA meets the first Wednesday of the month. Our new location is the Lewis Center in New Philadelphia. Be there at 7:00 PM for the half-hour social and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM

January 8 Sara Brink - Foxfire Preserve, The Wilderness Center
February 5 Idea sharing (attendees discuss favorite tree farm tools and tricks)
March 5 Laura Graber - Black Bears in Ohio
April 2 Kathy Smith - ABCs of Managing Woods
May 7 Banquet
June 4 Marne Titchnell - Woodland Butterflies
July 2 Denise Ellsworth - The Pollinator Paradox (native & non-native bees)
August 6 Tentative. Ron Carlton - Utica Shale Leasing Royalty issues
September 3 Lee Crocker NWTF
October 1 Dave Apsley - The Importance of Oaks

Our current meeting location is the Lewis Center, 143 McDonald Drive in New Philadelphia.

From Points north and west take I-77 south to the Rt. 39 New Philadelphia exit and go east ½ mile just past the McDonalds to McDonald drive on the right. If you are coming from the east on Rt.39 turn left on McDonald Drive, which is just past the Advance Auto Parts store. The meeting center is across the street from the Shoenbrunn Inn.