



Serving Adams, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence,
Pike, Ross, and Scioto Counties

Founded 1995

Our Mission . . .

To encourage through education and demonstration the sound management and appreciation of woodlands, wildlife, soil and water resources. To provide information and technical assistance to members interested in the planning, management, and the use of forestry resources for economic and recreational purposes.

FEBRUARY MEETING at DANA SCHMIDT'S

We had perfect weather for our monthly get to gather! There were 22 folks attending to see Dana's Maple Syrup operation. There was corn bread and beans, hot dogs, bread pudding, cookies, brownies, and of course a sample of Maple Syrup! No one went home hungry!

Dana explained the process beginning with the taps in the sugar maple trees, the tubing system, and bagging system for collection, the transfer to the holding tank, then metered into the wood fired "cooker". The "cooker" controlled the flow from the raw sap to "almost sap". The "almost sap" was then boiled down and filtered into the final product. There is a lot more than this brief description, and it has to be a labor of love, because it is a LOT of work!

We had a special guest, Uncle Bob (Bob Williams) from Uncle Bob's Southern Ohio Maple Syrup. He explained the beginnings of his operation and how it differed from Dana's. He invited everyone to his upcoming open house March 2 nd 10-5, March 3 rd 1-5, March 9 th 10-5, and March 10 th 1-5. There will be a tour and free pancakes! He is located at 1069 Polk Hollow Rd, Chillicothe. Phone 740-804-7344 for more information.

A friend we hadn't seen in a while, Andrea Littler and her son Craig was with us for the day! Our newest members Cody and Denise Hacker came to fellowship and learn about Maple Syrup!

There were several of our regulars that were under the weather, and some had previous commitments, we hope to see them this month at the LIONS Building on March 14 th for the presentation on wild turkeys.

Rick Wright surprised us by coming to join us! Rick is in a battle with Cancer, and really appreciates the thoughts and prayers, he says that because of the prayers of all his friends, he is making progress on beating the cancer! Please keep it up.....prayer works!

If you have a family member or close friend that is interested in attending Camp Canopy this summer, we have scholarships available. Please contact Jim Meacham as soon as possible, the deadline is fast approaching.

Notices were sent out to everyone that was behind on dues. We will be taking you off the membership list if you get more than a year behind. We don't want to loose anyone, so please get your dues caught up!

There will be a wild game dinner at Maple Grove Church on March 23 rd 5 PM. 1054 Maple Grove Rd. Chillicothe. Chinese auction, raffles, and food. Endorsed by several SOFA members, who like to eat!

By Tim for Kelly

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

BOBCATS



Bobcats have returned to many places in Ohio where they were previously nonexistent, and more Ohioans are viewing them. Recorded data shows that bobcat populations are thriving and expanding in Ohio. Habitat suitability is highest in southeast and southern counties, and they are found across Ohio.

Researchers at Ohio University recently concluded a multi-year project to learn more about bobcats in Ohio. Their research indicates that limited harvest regulations could be implemented in Ohio without negatively affecting the long-term viability of the bobcat population. If a season is implemented, it is recommended that conservative harvest limits are used, biological information is collected from the bobcats, and additional monitoring continues.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How defensive are bobcats toward each other?

A: Mostly, bobcats will avoid each other by marking their territories with scrapes, urine, and feces. However, aggressive physical encounters may occur, most commonly between 2 males around the breeding season.

Q: How likely are you to see a bobcat in the wild?

A: It is very unlikely to see a bobcat in the wild. They are very elusive and they are also nocturnal.

Q: Do bobcats eat other cats?

A: They can, but it is unusual. They prefer easier prey.

Q: How is the wild turkey population in Ohio impacted by bobcats?

A: At present we have no evidence which suggests bobcats have much of an impact on turkey populations in Ohio.

Q: How big is a bobcat footprint?

A: Between 1.5 and 3 inches wide and long.

Q: What controls the bobcat population?

A: The density of a bobcat population will vary based on the number of resources (prey and habitat) available in a given area.

Q: When do bobcats have their kittens?

A: Breeding mainly occurs in February and March. The gestation period lasts about 63 days and the majority of kittens are born in April or May.

Q: Do bobcats like water?

A: Bobcats are good swimmers and will enter the water to cross rivers and streams.

Q: How many litters do bobcats have per year?

A: Bobcats usually have just one litter.

Q: Do bobcats migrate?

A: Bobcats do not migrate, but as young adults, they may disperse a long distance from the area where they were born in order to establish their own home range.

Q: Can bobcats be hunted or trapped in Ohio?

A: No. Bobcats cannot be hunted or trapped in Ohio.

Q: Are bobcats likely to attack humans?

A: No, they are not.

Q: How do you determine the sex of a bobcat?

A: It is difficult to determine the sex of a bobcat from afar, but generally male bobcats are larger and heavier than females.

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How a Forester Begins a Career

Entering and completing a forestry career can be the most rewarding thing a person can do in one's lifetime.

Every forester's goals should be working toward becoming a proficient and complete natural resource scientist with a willingness to change.

Foresters spend considerable time outdoors the first years of their careers. Typical entry-level responsibilities might include measuring and grading trees, evaluating insect outbreaks, conducting land [surveys](#), working in an urban park, evaluating water quality, fighting wildfires, managing prescribed fires, laying out a road system, planting seedlings, and planning recreational use of forestlands.

A forester may have to deal with loggers, aid in road layout, and make sure the work meets landowner requirements.

After several years of on-the-ground experience Many foresters become top executives in public agencies, conservation organizations, and corporations.

Most land-grant colleges and universities offer bachelor or higher degrees in forestry. SAF approved curriculum stress science, mathematics, communications skills, and computer science, as well as technical forestry subjects. Just loving working in the woods is not a very good reason for becoming a forester.

Foresters are now expected to address the public and write in the print media. While it has been a problem to find good speakers that present the professional forestry in the past, it is now more important than ever to present to a group the standards and philosophy of forest management.

BLS Handbook for Forestry for much of the information provided

A Note to all Members/ active and inactive

There are a lot of reasons that many members are not able to attend our monthly meetings. That being said, we miss you, and hope you are well. We would like to hear from you, to know that you still have an interest in our group, and what is going on in your world. There will be a place in the newsletter to publish your message (only if you give permission) to let everyone know about you. The weather is changing in southern Ohio, so sit down and drop a few lines to me. Email tshoe140@horizonview.net

FACEBOOK

Check often, there is timely information, that cannot make it into the newsletter!

It is a private group, so you may want to register. After registering you will be able to post entries. This will enable us to put out immediate information, such as cancellations, or other plan changes. In order to register, open Facebook search for "S.O.F.A." There you will be able to join the group.

Tentative SOFA Meetings 2024

March 14 th	NWTF / About Turkeys / Morgan Goodling
April	All About Bats
May	Camp Perry Trip
June	Chain Saw Demonstration
July	Farm Tour To be announced
August	Yearly Planning Meeting / No regular Meeting
September	Pike SWC Youth Day at Pike Lake
October	Farm Tour To be announced
November	Auction / fund raiser
December	Annual Meeting / Christmas Party

The value of traditional planting practices paired with innovative nursery operations

Traditional reforestation practices have been used for over a century, and the thoughtful selection of seed and seedlings for planting remains the most effective means of forest restoration. However, given the current lack of seed supply and nursery capacity on the American landscape, we must combine these traditional planting practices with innovative, improved nursery operations to ensure the long-term success of a reforestation project. If approached with the latest science in mind, and great care, reforestation activities can move us toward more renewed forested acres while promoting biodiversity and ecosystem services beyond timber and fiber products.

Traditional hand planting is strenuous work. It is estimated that tree planters burn the caloric equivalent of running two full marathons each day. Due to this strenuous work, the largest challenge to post-wildfire reforestation is a shortage of labor and education.

By implementing efficient and improved nursery operations, careful seedling selection, and improved planting techniques, forestry and nursery professionals strive to ensure the long-term success of reforestation projects. Despite challenges in seedling availability and planting practices, we are committed to addressing these issues through innovative solutions and ongoing collaboration with landowners, consulting foresters, and forestry partners. With a focus on education, proper training, and continuous improvement, we aim to enhance the quality and performance of seedlings, ultimately contributing to the restoration and preservation of our forests for generations to come.



These signs can be attached to snags, downed logs, wildlife trees for future generations. They are constructed of polydura plastic and measure 4 x 6 inches.

The signs are available for a suggested donation of \$2.00 per sign to the Family Forest Foundation.



NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard
Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)
Create, recruit, and maintain sufficient snags, wolf trees, nest trees, cavity/den trees

Growing Old Life looks a little different from here.

I was just in a forum conversation with some turkey hunting friends from across the country and the discussion turned to reminiscing the way things were in our early years of the sport. Maturity seems to simplify our priorities and our views. One thing for sure is that we slow up and perhaps the old saying, "Stop and smell the roses" was first coined by someone in their senior years. I think we learn to savor everything a little bit more later in life. Since more of us fit in this category I thought I would write a little bit about some of the things that I have enjoyed since I have entered the Golden years.

I still love to hunt and fish, but I do them slower now and I sit a lot more as I go about it. It's amazing how much more you notice about the great outdoors when you are sedentary. Songbirds will land and sing right close to you and wildlife will show themselves. You'll notice more of your surroundings. In spring you'll notice a wildflower that you might have passed by in your younger haste. I enjoy fishing more all the time as it is less taxing on my body. One day I was fishing along Paint Creek and I noticed movement coming up stream in the water. I paused and remained still and around a log jam came a River Otter. I had never seen one in the wild and I was totally amazed. When he got right in front of me, he raised up in the water, looked at me and barked a shrill call at me, I didn't move. He decided I was harmless and swam off up stream. I left him a fish on a rock that day, but I suppose some other critter found it first. Simple things like that seem to make fonder memories now, in my senior years. I wish I could of learned this simpler appreciation for life sooner.

A memorable hunt was one where I sat on a log and was listening for turkeys when I see movement and I can't figure out what it is. As it gets closer, I see it's a Bobcat, the first I have ever seen in Ohio.

I have always liked watching and identifying birds. I volunteered to be part of the volunteer group for a publication called, The Breeding Birds of Ohio Atlas back in the 80s and I worked several quadrants in southern Ohio verifying species that bred and nested in our area. One exciting find was a colony of Prothonotary Warblers along Paint Creek. These were considered rare breeders in Ohio then, but since have been found to be more common. Still at the time it was a big find for me. I still enjoy it today and I am amazed every time a Bald Eagle flies by me while I am fishing.

As a youth, we gathered Maple Syrup on Our farm and one day I became nostalgic and thought it would be fun to tap a tree and make a dab of Syrup. You all know where that led as I have run a sugar shack for 15 years now and most of you will visit me this spring.

Mary Lou and I have gardened most of our lives and enjoy growing things. After we retired, she wanted to expand our efforts and start some raised beds for veggies and flowers. I relented and built the first set. They were not the best you will ever see, but they grew veggies and flowers. Their success only created a hunger for more. A little back information on me is that in the 70s I worked in a nursery propagating fruit trees and many other nursery plants and then in retirement worked our local Lowes Garden center. So, it wasn't like this was outside my interest, but the boss woman helped inspire it to new levels. Things just kept growing, in the beds and infrastructure wise also. Today we sport 16 raised beds and plans for more, have doubled our in-ground garden and added a flower garden of approx. 2500 sq feet. Not to mention fruit trees and more. Someone gave us some Dahlias a few years ago and little did we know they can become an addiction, and we now have many varieties and will probably plant 150 plus this year. Sunflowers and Zinnias are also some of Mary Lou's favorites and you'll find probably a thousand or more of them in our gardens. Her mother Bessie was crazy about Daffodils and if you visit our place in spring, you will see daffodils everywhere. I imagine there are at least 5,000. She is no longer with us in person but lives on through her daffodils. I used to tease her and say, "quit planting those weeds everywhere, and she'd just laugh at me and keep right on planting.

Life does look a little different when it comes to our senior years. Our dreams and aspirations conjure up a simpler view of life. I think that aside from the extra aches and pains we have a chance to enjoy so many things the younger us didn't have time for.

Please feel free to drop by this spring to see our flower beds, with all the colors and beauty that nature has to display! (We go all out on the flowers!)

NWTF



MARCH 14 th
Talk by Morgan Goodling
from The National Wild Turkey Federation
Meet at 6:30 for Covered dish
Presentation and short meeting at 7 PM

We will meet at the LIONS building
off Piatt Ave, Chillicothe.
Rt 35 bypass to High Street Exit, Go south, Take the 1 st
right by Subway, one block, Right on Piatt, 1/2 block,
Sign on corner of alley for LIONS turn right.

S.O.F.A.

3681 US Highway 23
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Visit us on the web at www.ohiosofa.org

Meeting locations will vary from month to month, watch for
announcements!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ 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