



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.*

**OCTOBER SOFA OUTING**

Eighteen people spent the day at Wayne Oney’s beautiful farm near Londonderry on 5 October. The weather was beautiful and it was good to see some faces we haven’t seen in a while. During the business portion of the day, we talked about upcoming events, including the 12 October meeting of the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWD) and the Pike County Solid Waste District at the Barn at the Jordan Family Farm in Waverly. (Don’t forget to RSVP to Darlene Brewster if you plan to attend!)

We will be having our auction in November at the Lion’s Club, please bring whatever items you’d like to donate for the auction.

Our friend Dave Appsley has retired. He will be missed, but we wish him well and hope to see him at future meetings. We will be updating the website with the name of his replacement soon. In the meantime, the contact information is current and there is someone available to answer questions.

Thursday was a gorgeous day and we learned a lot, ate some good food, and talked for hours. Wayne provided a lot of good information about forest management, selective harvesting theories and practices, and how he has been able to use government programs to improve his property. He likes to manage for diversity of trees and wildlife and, over the years, estimates he’s harvested around 300,000 board feet of timber. He talked about placement of logging roads, how to use timber downed by Mother Nature, and showed us the cabin built from timber harvested on the property. Sue Hillger said it best in a Facebook post later in the day, “I realized this evening that a group of us met at a beautiful tree farm and no one whipped their cell phones.” We learned about forestry management by controlled cutting of timber in designated sections of our farms.

We had a great selection of food and cider. Talked about and remembered members who are no longer with us and how they affected our lives through their knowledge and unique personalities. We shared funny stories and jokes and learned more about each other. We didn’t talk about politics at least at our table maybe somebody might have at Fern’s table. As the old Granny of the group, it made me remember family conversations as they used to be at picnics. What a joy to belong to a group of nice and interesting people.” What a great day!

Cheers, Kelly

**SOFA T Shirts**

We have T shirts with trees and the SOFA emblem on them. They are great to get the word out about our forestry group. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt. Contact any officer and we will make arrangements to get them to you, or better yet, attend a meeting and purchase there!

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**Southern Ohio Forestland Association**



Congratulations Brent and Kelly on being recognized at the annual Pike Soil & Water dinner.



Oney farm tour at the Cabin in the woods.

## Mast Reforestation (The Family Forest) <jessica.aff@members.mobilize.io>

Amidst the wildfires from a changing climate, the forests in the U.S. face a less evident challenge with recovery: there is not enough seed to recuperate the trees lost. Decades of poor funding combined with increasing wildfires have led to a rapidly growing need for active forest recovery. The reforestation potential in the Western US is roughly 24 million acres, which is an estimated need of 2.2 million pounds of seed to restore forests lost (Fargione et. al. 2021, Kildisheva et. al 2022). Current seed inventories could only supply a fraction of this number.

When we look at increasing seed supplies, we must look beyond strict quantities and emphasize diversity in terms of species and geography. For seed to have the best chance of survival on reforestation projects, site appropriate species should be sourced from as close to the geographical area as possible, for both location and elevation. On the west coast this is tracked via “seed zones”, or roughly county-sized areas that designate similar ecosystems. These zones are a mechanism developed in the 60’s and 70’s out of need for tracking seed source, and are still widely adopted across the industry.

First, mast events (the synchronous production of abundant seed-bearing cones by multiple trees) are necessary for large-scale collections, but are infrequent, sporadic, and have little documentation to support when they will occur. This means even if the industry had the resources to collect the required amount of seed (which it doesn’t), collections in a given year may be prevented or reduced due to the biological nature of how trees produce cones.

Adding to the challenges, the process of procuring wild collected seed is time consuming, challenging, and requires immense planning and preparation amongst a myriad of stakeholders with a range of expertise. The first step of this complex process involves driving out to forested stands and scouting for species that are producing large crops and testing ripeness. Obtaining permits and land access is required, but also difficult due to the patchwork of ownerships in the Western US. Once permits are secured and cones are ready for collections, a crew is deployed to the remote forests, sometimes with limited notice, to collect cones in large sacks (bushels). This is typically done by way of climbing. Other techniques for wild collections outside the scope of this article include ground foraging and coordinating with felled trees during timber productions. These bushels must be properly handled in temporary storage facilities, then hauled out of the forest to an extractory where the seed is processed via machinery and kilns, tested, and finally banked or grown into seedlings.

A diminishing workforce across the seed supply chain is consistently identified as a barrier to increasing seed supplies. Legacy collectors are approaching retirement, and the outlook for newcomers is substandard. This is, in part, due to a lack of awareness about the opportunity to pursue cone and seed procurement as a profession.

However, all of these challenges do not make the task of increasing seed supplies impossible. At Mast Reforestation, we developed a scouting guide to educate and encourage participation for observing cone ripeness. We also host an event called the Tree Seed Summit to increase awareness and unite stakeholders, and partnered with the nonprofit Adventure Scientists to empower citizen science scouting across large swaths of land. In parts of the Western US, rural communities have collaborated with private companies to collect hundreds of bushels through ground foraging, which has brought significant seed inventory, as well as an economic boon to a largely underserved part of America. There are other opportunities for involvement – forest owners can agree to open their land for collections, social campaigns can increase awareness, and updated curricula in schools covering the basics of cone and seed production can reduce the education gap. Ultimately, existing and emerging partners need to come together to share, educate, engage, and advocate for strengthening the entire seed supply chain.

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Several SOFA members were present for the award given to Brent & Kelly  
(There were even a couple more who didn't get in the picture!)

### Tentative SOFA 2024 Scheduled

Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> Dana Schmidt / Maple Syrup	March 14 <sup>th</sup> NWTF / Turkeys
April Bats	May Camp Perry
June Chain Saw	July Farm Tour
Aug planning	Sept Pike swc Youth day Pike Lake
Oct Farm Tour	Nov Auction
Dec. Annual Meeting / Christmas Party	

### 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](mailto: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.

## Behind the Great Green Veil

Is there anything more wonderfully made than trees and forest.

There was a documentary last night about Doug and Kris Tompkins and their quest to protect vast acres of Patagonia and eventually establish a national Park system in Patagonia. During the documentary a graphic was shown of deforestation around the world. It was astounding to see satellite imagery on time lapse and realize how much forest is disappearing worldwide. These great forests are so vital to all creation on earth. They are the lungs and providers of a global ecology. In a time when, we hear so much about carbon sequestration and fossil fuels, I wonder if the mass removal of one of earth's greatest remediators isn't a greater concern?

So, instead, to just ponder the woods and water that are alive with all forms of life and splendor. It is beyond astounding what is happening behind that great green veil that we see as we look upon these hills.

During the year there are wildflowers everywhere, birds are building nest and feeding young, seeds are sprouting, animals are giving birth, trees and shrubs are blooming and setting fruit and the cycle continues again and again.

Our forests are providers of so much in our world ecology and economy. They are the most amazing living communities worldwide. Trees provide lumber for homes and furniture. They provide pulp for paper and even compost for mulch and soil additives. Trees are home for denning animals, birds' nest and even insects. They are the bedroom for wildlife and the meal provider all in one. They provide the seed for future forest. They provide shade, rich humus, and moisture for wildflowers to grow in. All kinds of fruit and nuts grow on them and provide great eating.

Everyday something great and new is happening behind that great green veil. To see what wonders are there, we need to stop our hectic pursuits and slip in through that veil. Take time to observe and study. Sit quietly and watch the diverse life of a forest come to life around you. Take a pair of binoculars and see how many birds you can find. Watch for color in the woods, there is a lot of it. Listen intently to all the sounds. We have never created a symphony as great as what is played every day year round in the woods.

A walk in the woods is a healing balm for a troubled soul. Leave the worldly problems behind as you slip behind this veil, it has no place there.

### 'Trees' by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest

Against the earth's sweet flowing

breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,

And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear

A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;

Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,

But only God can make a tree.

## SOFA Meetings 2023

November 9th Auction / fund raiser at the Lions Building 7 PM

December 14th Annual Meeting / Christmas Party Pike Co Fish & Game 6 PM-?

### It's that time of year! "FIREWOOD POEM"

Beechwood fires are bright and clear.....If the logs are kept a year,  
 Chestnut's only good they say,.....If for logs 'tis laid away.  
 Make a fire of Elder tree,.....Death within your house will be;  
 But ash new or ash old,.....Is fit for a queen with crown of gold  
 Birch and fir logs burn too fast.....Blaze up bright and do not last,  
 it is by the Irish said.....Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.  
 Elm wood burns like churchyard mold,.....E'en the very flames are cold  
 But ash green or ash brown.....Is fit for a queen with golden crown  
 Poplar gives a bitter smoke,.....Fills your eyes and makes you choke,  
 Apple wood will scent your room.....Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom  
 Oaken logs, if dry and old.....keep away the winter's cold  
 But ash wet or ash dry.....a king shall warm his slippers by.

## Fall compendium!

This morning (September 28, 2023) I woke up and went about my normal routines. Make a couple cups of coffee and get a snack cake to go along with it and turn on the news. Part of this twilight ritual is to go out and let our old lab ( Jelly ) out of his kennel and get a short run around the house, then come to the front door where Mom meets him with a treat. It's one of his delights of the day and he anxiously awaits at the gate every morning. He is in his 15<sup>th</sup> year of life and so we know these days are fleeting.

I realized, this morning, there's something else that is fleeting and that is Summer. This realization came as a flock of geese created an overhead ruckus. It was the first flock of fall sensing the changes and preparing for colder days. It was the announcement of the coming season. As the sound of their honking faded into the sky my senses began to pick up on other signs of change. My mind and senses were suddenly more tuned in.

**The sounds of Fall** – Geese honking wasn't the only sound. Some were more subtle. As I stood still, I could hear acorns falling from a white oak by the house. Occasionally a louder crack of hickory nuts falling would loft through the woods and air. These are good sounds, as the nut and fruit crop are known as Mast and provide food for our wildlife through the cold and dormant months of winter. I hear a blue jay scolding something and a squirrel barking. A doe snorts somewhere on the ridge and the soft rustle of leaves starting to fall and blanket the forest floor add to nature's symphony. Many mornings I hope to hear our local turkey flock waking up and calling to one another. Soon I'll hope to put one in the freezer.

**Sights and colors** – Probably the most common and most observed part of fall is the coloration of the leaves. The hills will soon be painted like a kaleidoscope. People flock to the hills to see the raised canvas provided by our southern hills. To an astute eye this is a time to take inventory of the plant species within our woods. Not all trees change color at the same time nor drop their leaves in unison. Maple trees turn bright red and yellow and are early to show color. Poplars will be yellow and oaks a variance of reds, green and brown. The oaks will be the last to shed summer's dress and can be identified when the hills have mostly become bare and gray, by their retained leaves. It's a good time to make note of different habitats. Speaking of habitats, fall begins to reveal the true structure of wildlife habitats as our vast fields turn brown and plants succumb to frost. Now is the time to make note of barren areas. As far as colors go, conifers retain their needles and stay green, Now is when we can see their value as winter shelter and travel lanes. I am not a fan of mass conifer plantings, but conifers have a valuable place in wildlife habitats.

**Harvest time** – A drive around southern Ohio will reveal another part of fall. It is harvesting season. Now is when the fruits, nuts and grains have matured and are ready to collect. In the fields you see clouds of dust as combines churn out the grain crops farmers have worked diligently rearing for many months. These crops will feed millions. A walk in the woods will reveal animals doing the same. Squirrels harvest and bury nuts for later use. They never eat them all and those left become our future forest. Other animals are chowing down on fall crops to build winter coats and stored up fat reserves. In our area you'll see fields of pumpkins lighting up the landscape with bright orange globes. The local orchards are full of trees decorated with red, yellow and green globes as if Christmas was early. Sweet juicy apples and cider fill our homes with a lot of good deserts and foods. Our gardens are now going to bed for a season as we harvest the last of its bounty. Another harvest is at hand as hunters begin to take to the fields and woods for various hunting seasons. Wild game is a staple of rural America.

To borrow from Louie Armstrong and song writers Bob Thiele and George David Weiss, What a Wonderful World.

Dana Schmidt



What Roger be like when he wins a bid!!!

# Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Auction

We will meet at the Lions Building in Chillicothe

Our regular carry in dinner will be observed.

Eat at 6 PM followed by a short meeting, then our auction

Bring any items you wish to donate, and be ready to get some great buys!



### S.O.F.A.

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Visit us on the web at [www.ohiosofa.org](http://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 Center

### 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 Forestry Association (SOFA)

Individual \$15, Family \$25, Partnership, Association, or Corporation \$25