



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.

SOFA rang out the old year with the Annual Meeting and Celebration at Lake White Club. We were pleased to have Ohio Foresters Mark Rickey, Dave Apsley, & Ben Robinson, as well as Forestry Camp attendee Mike Bell and his parents in attendance!

After a tasty meal, Chair Dana Harsh welcomed everyone and held a brief business meeting for election of officers for 2018. The following slate was presented and unanimously voted in: Dana Harsh - Chair; Betsy Pierson - Co-Chair; Jim Meacham - Treasurer; Fern Bethard - Secretary; Tim Shoemaker - Newsletter Editor; and John King - Web Guru.

Mike Bell, who attended Forestry and Wildlife Camp twice, thanked SOFA for their sponsorship and talked a bit about his plans to pursue a career in forestry. He made us proud of him and our investment!

Business meeting over, we proceeded to open, steal, and exchange some pretty cool Christmas presents. Everyone left with warm wishes to all for a happy and healthy New Year.

See you all at the February meeting at OSU South Center in Piketon, when the topic of discussion will center around the subject of BEE KEEPING!

Respectfully submitted: Betsy Pierson

A chemist, a biologist and an electrical engineer were on death row waiting to go in the electric chair.

The chemist was brought forward first. 'Do you have anything you want to say?' asked the executioner, strapping him in. 'No,' replied the chemist. The executioner flicked the switch and nothing happened.

Under this particular State's law, if an execution attempt fails, the prisoner is to be released, so the chemist was released.

Then the biologist was brought forward. 'Do you have anything you want to say?' 'No, just get on with it.' The executioner flicked the switch, and again nothing happened, so the biologist was released.

Then the electrical engineer was brought forward. 'Do you have anything you want to say?' asked the executioner. 'Yes,' replied the engineer. 'If you swap the red and the blue wires over, you might make this thing work.'

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I Believe.....

That it isn't always enough,
to be forgiven by others.
Sometimes, you have to learn to
forgive yourself.

I Believe....

That our background and
circumstances may have
influenced who we are, But, we
are responsible for who we
become.

I Believe....

Two people can look at the exact
same Thing and see something
totally different.

The 2018 Outlook for the American Tree Farm System

Paul DeLong and Chris Erwin

As we look to a new year, we find ourselves at the cusp of an exciting and important time for the [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS), the largest landowner program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF).

As an organization, AFF's core work to engage family landowners in stewardship that protects clean water, improves wildlife habitat and provides sustainable wood supplies is helping to tackle some of the greatest conservation challenges in the U.S. today.

And, there are results to prove it. Through our [conservation placed-based work](#), we have found break-through ways to introduce sustainable forestry to landowners and engage them in management. What's more, in these projects, we have found that once landowners begin managing, they want to dive deeper into the world of stewardship, including for some, getting certified through ATFS.

Our conservation work is, for the most part, being done independent from ATFS. But this past year, we tested integrating this work with our State Tree Farm programs in [Alabama](#) and in Vermont. These tests have proven there is great synergy between ATFS and our targeted place-based work designed to help protect and enhance clean water, wildlife habitat and wood supplies.

In addition, strategies to improve the ATFS program are in full swing. State Voice, State Choice, a strategy which allowed states to choose to keep certification where there was market demand for it, has begun to relieve pressure from some programs, and allowed us to focus our energy on growing certification where it matters. In addition, we are in the middle of an ATFS network-wide database clean-up to ensure the continued integrity of the program.

With all the above happening for stewardship, today, we are well-positioned to take our efforts to the next level to build a stronger, larger and more impactful ATFS. The work we would like to put into action to grow the ATFS program in 2018 focuses on three important areas that can improve the value of the program. Specifically:

1. Grow our nationwide network of family forest owners and forestry professionals who are committed to sustainable forestry and forest advocacy through ATFS
2. Increase and streamline ATFS certification in important woodbaskets
3. Increase the impact of ATFS to address our biggest forest challenges and help deliver outcomes in our priority landscapes

To take on these goals, we hope to lead a very deliberate and inclusive process over the next year. We want to engage the ATFS network as well as our stakeholders and partners in open dialogue about the challenges to reaching these goals, and find solutions that work for all.

When certification was introduced into the program a decade ago, it added great value for both landowner and stakeholder, but along with it, it brought rigorous requirements and detailed paperwork to ensure credibility. This led to struggles by our State Committees and volunteers to meet these requirements and severely limited their time and ability to expand the reach and impact of ATFS. We need to continue to find ways to streamline forest certification to overcome the challenges of its technical and paperwork demands, but we intend to do this without affecting the integrity of the program.

We also plan to conduct a full program assessment, with a heavy concentration on landowners and professionals *not* in the program. What are their perceptions of ATFS? Are they familiar with the program? What has stopped them from participating? What value can the program bring to them? We hope this analysis will help us adapt the program structure and its entry points – which ultimately will help broaden the range of landowners who participate and strengthen its value across the country.

Lastly, we want to continue to work with our ATFS State Committees around our conservation outcomes – such as protecting water and creating specific habitat for at-risk species – and in our priority landscapes, look for more opportunities to collaborate. Tree Farmers are already poised to increase their impact around these outcomes, In addition they serve as an army of on-the-ground mentors that can help bring new landowners into the fold.

We are committed to addressing these ATFS program challenges in a manner that keeps our stakeholders updated and involved.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.

SOFA members are great
Cooks!
Try this featured recipe

Spanish Rice

1 Envelope Knorr's Spanish Rice
¾ -1 lb Ground Chuck
2 cups water



BROWN AND SEASON IN A LARGER SAUCEPAN ¾ TO 1 LB. GROUND CHUCK. ADD 2 CUPS BOILING WATER AND CONTENTS OF THE ENVELOPE INTO THE SAUCEPAN. STIR AND COOK COVERED FOR 7 MORE MINUTES. LET STAND FOR 2 MINUTES, THEN SERVE W/SALAD AND A GOOD BREAD. THIS IS NOW ON OUR MENU OF FAVORITES.

THE ADVENTURES OF WAYNE & TIM

Tim: “Hey Wayne, although it's too cold to cook outside, I got you something for our next cook-out”
Wayne: “A bigger spoon????”
Tim: “No, not exactly, but this is a TOOL for cooking!”
Wayne: “Oh...I guess a spoon comes under the category for EATING??!!”
Tim: “Yeah, that's right”
Wayne: “Wow, this thing looks like the ultimate hamburger turner.”
Tim: “That'e right, can't wait to get you to try it out!”



Bees: Essential Pollinators

Bees are considered the most important pollinators because they are uniquely adapted to gather and transport pollen. Bees rely on flowers for food to feed their young, so they actively seek out and visit flowers. Bees' fuzzy bodies and branched hairs help female bees collect pollen into special structures, such as pollen baskets on the hind legs or long hairs on the thorax or abdomen.

Bees also forage for food close to their nesting sites, a practice called central place foraging. Bees visit one or only a few flowering species during each foraging trip, even when other flowers are available. This behavior, called flower fidelity or flower constancy, makes bees especially reliable couriers to move pollen to receptive flowers.

The western honey bee is the most dependable agricultural pollinator of many crops. It is not native to North America. Ohio is home to approximately 500 native bee species. These diverse bees play important roles as pollinators of agricultural crops and native plants. (See Ohio Bee Identification Guide at go.osu.edu/ohiobees to learn more about Ohio's native bees.)

Bees can be divided into three broad groups: social bees (bumble bees), solitary ground-nesting bees (such as mining bees), and solitary cavity-nesting bees (including mason bees and leafcutting bees).

Bees are often confused with wasps. Wasps may visit flowers for nectar, but they rely on insects or spiders—not pollen—to feed their young. Solitary wasps are beneficial predators; they are rarely aggressive. Social wasps, such as yellowjackets and hornets can become aggressive and may sting repeatedly.

Social bees like bumble bees will usually only sting when defending their nest. Solitary bees such as mining bees and leafcutting bees are not aggressive. Many of these bees can't penetrate human skin with their stingers.

Animal pollinators and bees in particular are currently facing many threats, such as lack of forage (flowers for food), pests, pathogens, pesticides, invasive plants, climate change and lack of suitable nesting sites. Gardeners can play an important role in pollinator conservation by providing plants and nesting sites for pollinators and by adapting gardening practices to protect pollinators.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo DaVinci invented the scissors.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

Tentative **2018** SOFA schedule

February 8 th	Beekeeping
March 8 th	Forest Health
April 14 th (Saturday).....	Farm Tour (TBA)
May 10 th	Field Trip (Evening TBA)
June 14 th	Marketing Your Timber
July 21 st (Saturday).....	King Family Farm Tour
August 9 th	Annual Planning Meeting
September 13 th	Cast Iron Cookery (Evening at Tim's)
October 11 th	Forestry to Family Room
November 8 th	Open Mic & Photo Contest

The Pike Soil & Water Conservation District

The District is in the process of taking orders for our 2018 Tree Seedling Sale. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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Ohio Summer Camp to Debut New Name and Brand in 2018

y of other activities - like night hikes and campfires – that our campers love to participate in year after year.”

CARROLLTON, Ohio (Nov. 2017) - When campers, counselors, instructors and camp directors make their way to Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum the second week of June next year, their beloved Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp will have a new name and corresponding brand that pays homage to its inception in 1950, and its growth and success since then.

Camp Canopy is set to debut June 10-15, 2018 and will feature the same learning topics, traditions and fun as the previously-named camp, just with a different look and feel, said Jeremy Scherf, camp co-director and service forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

“It’s still the same camp focusing on the many elements of forestry and wildlife that we all know and love, but with a fresh facelift on the outside,” said Scherf. “Camp Canopy is the new and improved Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp.”

In a day and age where the endless list of summer activities for high schoolers continues to grow, the camp found itself competing for the time, money and interest of its target audience - incoming freshmen through graduating seniors.

“We knew that if we wanted to stay true to our mission [of introducing campers to the world of natural resources], but at the same time attract new campers that are looking for a traditional summer camp experience, we needed to make a change,” said Marne Titchenell, camp co-director and a wildlife program specialist with Ohio State University Extension.

The camp’s rebranding process started with research conducted by an outside firm, Shift•ology Communication, consisting of a review of past camper evaluations and a blind focus group of high school students.

“Obviously we wanted a new name and brand that would appeal to our target audience, but we also wanted something that had special meaning and didn’t stray too far from the aspects of forestry and wildlife that this camp was founded on,” said Titchenell. “At the same time, we wanted to convey that this camp also offers a variety of birds nesting in the trees, the canopy and the sunlight coming through it directly affects what happens below it, so the word ‘canopy’ has a great deal of meaning in both the forestry and wildlife disciplines.”

The new name and brand of Camp Canopy does just that.

“When I’m working with campers, everything I discuss relates back to the canopy of the forest,” said Scherf. “From young seedlings growing in the understory, to at the same time, the name Camp Canopy has that old-fashioned-summer-camp nostalgic feel to it that appeals to a lot of high school kids,” he said.

Creating a brand and camp experience that teaches campers about topic areas within the two disciplines while also offering the fun activities of a traditional summer camp - like swimming in the lake, hanging out around the campfire, meals in the mess hall, etc. - was key in this endeavor.

“We’ve always incorporated the more traditional activities of a summer camp into ours, which is possible because of the beautiful grounds and awesome amenities of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum, but a lot of potential campers may not have realized that or may have been misled by our former name,” said Scherf. “At the end of the day, we want our campers to discover forestry and to discover wildlife; but most importantly, we want them to discover adventure.”

Human Rights Celebration set for Jan. 19 with Sue Hillger as guest of honor

Sue Hillger will be the guest of honor at the Human Rights Celebration to be held on Jan. 19 by Church Women United of Highland County.

Growing up in Buffalo, N.Y., Hillger wanted to be a nurse like her older sister. She achieved that goal in 1964 when she graduated from Syracuse University with a BS in nursing. That same year she moved to Ohio with her husband. In 1971 the Hillgers bought a farm in Adams County, where they raised beef cattle and forestry products – and four sons.

In 1975, Hillger returned to nursing. She was Adams County's first full-time public health nurse. Employed by the Ohio Department of Health, she started three clinics at the health department in West Union. The clinics covered hearing, vision, and ear/nose/throat health. Kathy Hottle was her supervisor and an enormous help in setting up the clinics.



Hillger retired briefly after the birth of her last son, but returned to work in 1982, supervising a nursing home in Adams County. In 1988, she started the Crestwood Nursing Center in Hillsboro. She worked there as well as two other nursing homes in Morrow and Saint Clairsville, all owned by the same corporation.

In 2008, she retired again and then began teaching nurse aides and nursing students at the UC Clermont County campus. She had an earlier teaching position in the 1980s at SSCC's Medical Assisting program.

Hillger wrote and submitted a business plan to the Tobacco Foundation for a matching grant. This grant led to the founding of Hillger Farms, LLC and the development of a solar kiln which removes moisture from wood, greatly increasing the value of lumber.

She retired again in October 2017. She enjoyed teaching very much and continues to be a life-long student. Since 1976, Hillger has been very involved with mental health, both locally and at the state level.

A cancer survivor, she enjoys her life and servicing others.

The farm has grown to 200 acres and the Hillger family has grown as well. Hillger has four sons, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with a third due in January 2018.

She serves on the council of Peace Lutheran Church and has been president of the council and the ELCA Synod Council in the past. She is also a member of the local AAUW chapter, the Hillsboro Rotary Club and the Women's Club of West Union.

The Church Women United Human Rights Celebration was started in 2006 in the hopes of bringing to light those who have and are working towards equality for all. Awards have honored amazing women and men whose work has made an impact on their community or on the world at large.

The Human Rights Celebration will be held on Friday, Jan. 19 at Peace Lutheran Church on Harry Sauner Road in Hillsboro. In case of severe weather, the alternate date will be Jan. 26. The celebration will begin with a carry-in dinner at noon followed by a program honoring Sue Hillger. Everyone is invited to participate. Please bring a cup or mug to drink from.

For more information, contact Valeta Doorneveerd at (937) 661-6087.



February 9th

BEE KEEPING!!!!

OSU South Center, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, OH.

Meetings are held in the Endeavor Center

Our "carry-in dinner" will be @ 6:15 pm
Brief meeting then the 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!
Sometimes we even have leftovers! Just ask Tim.)

S.O.F.A.

1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661



Visit us on the web at 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 _____ 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.

