



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.

Hello all!

Our first meeting of the year was brought to order by our new chairperson, Julie Duchene. She introduced our newest Foresters, Ben Robinson and Katie Gerber. They are both in sofa areas of service. Brad Wireman is out of commission temporarily due to recent knee surgery. Our chairperson, Julie, also is recovering from knee surgery and is doing great!

Ben led a brief discussion about several different Forest programs including the conservation stewardship program, equip, Forest tax law, and CAUV.

Julie introduced our speaker of the evening, Donald Althoff. He has headed up the conservation programs for 14 years at Rio Grande University. The programs include monitoring Kestrel boxes on signposts, tree frogs living in PVC pipe homes on poles, and recording audio of bat sounds.

He then switched gears to the southern flying squirrel of Ohio, our main topic for the evening. The Flying Squirrel has a body the size of a chipmunk with the extra skin flaps between front and back legs called the patagium. They have flexible flat tails used for balance and steering while gliding.

The school program students help with building and putting up nest boxes in specific areas. The squirrels use the boxes for several different purposes. These purposes include nut cutting refuge for meals, latrine, and nesting as a winter home for rearing young, usually three to four per litter. The Nest material they use looks like shredded bark.

For tracking individuals, a passive integrated transponder is injected into the rump area of the squirrel. This enables students to track specific squirrels and gather more in-depth information about living habits and travel.

The southern flying squirrels eat nuts, preferably Hickory but also acorns, Buckeyes and a few others. They eat bugs in the spring and summer. It is suspected they may also eat songbirds eggs.

Their natural habitat is cavities in live trees, high up in the canopy. The population density is directly related to tree nut production. Pole size to timber size trees produce the largest quantity of nuts.

Their activities include rocketing high up in the trees and gliding down or from tree to tree. They are nocturnal vagabonds and probably only have one litter per year. They have low disease problems, no ticks, but sometimes fleas. Their natural predators are snakes, mostly black rat snakes, Hawks and owls.

Don has plans to share for building boxes for the southern flying squirrel. They should be placed 10 to 15 feet above ground with the entry hole facing south to Southeast. They can be constructed of pine or Cedar.

Cont'd

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Don extended an invitation for anyone interested in accompanying him on a spring box check. Especially if you are willing to carry the ladder!

Julie concluded our meeting by presenting Gifts of John Hilger's maple syrup and a handmade shaker box emblazoned with a Southern flying squirrel by Tim Shoemaker.

Don presented a very informative, interesting, and sometimes humorous program.
Many thanks!

Happy trails, Fern

SOFA schedule for 2020

March - Mark Rickey and Jim Savage / Timber theft and Trespass

April - Bob Reckers / Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship-what it is about!

May - Brad Wireman / Forest Health Demystified

June - **Saturday** Farm Tour / Ben Robinson / Management plan and inventory

July - Monarch butterflies with Jane Wiggins Shaw

August - Planning meeting / vote on location and time at Sept. 2019 meeting

September - **Saturday** / Deschene Farm Tour / Forest mgm't plan, tree planting, invasives

October - Dave Apsley and Jamie Dahl / Estate Planning and Generational Transfer

November - Open mic., auction for Camp Canopy, and Photo share

December - Christmas party / catered / Pike Co. Fish and Game Club

Plant a Forest at Todd's Fork Preserve

Volunteers Needed!

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Start Time: 10:00 am-until trees are planted!

Todd's Fork Preserve just 1 mile north of Wilmington.

Planting is easy—No heavy lifting!

Boots and gloves are recommended, tools will be available.

Cardinal Conservancy will supply lunch and drinks!

Don't worry if you can't come early or spend more than an hour or two; we take turns planting trees with friends coming & going throughout the day.

Directions: From I-71 take Exit #45, turn East on SR 73. Go 2.6 miles, turn left on Anderson Rd. Go 1.4 miles, bear slight right on Center Rd. Go 0.9 mile, turn Right on Nelson Rd. Gate is 0.3 mile on Right.

Questions?

Email us at volunteer@ovfftrees.org

or call Bob Reckers (513) 265-1900

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Well.....it's official!

The reason Rick can't find any
antler shed this year.

Hey Rick....Why didn't you try
to take it away from him??

THE 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 mould, E'en the 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** 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.

You get the idea that **Ash**, any ole way, is fit for a King or Queen??

How to Keep (Most) Bugs out of Your Firewood

The best thing you can do to avoid insect infestations in your firewood is to dry it quickly. The drier the wood, the less hospitable it is to most insects. Proper storage of firewood is key.

Try to avoid harvesting wood when insects are most active, from April to October. By cutting down trees in winter months, you will lessen the risk of bringing home infested logs. Fresh cut logs invite insects to move in, so remove the wood from the forest as soon as possible. Cut wood into smaller logs before storing it. The more surfaces exposed to the air, the quicker the wood will cure.

Firewood should be covered to keep out moisture. Ideally, wood should be raised off the ground, too. Keep some air space under the cover and under the pile to allow airflow and quicker drying.

Never treat firewood with pesticides. The more common firewood insects, beetles, typically bore into the wood and won't be affected by surface treatments anyway. Burning logs that have been sprayed with chemicals is a health hazard and could expose you to toxic fumes.

Timber thieves stealing trees from state parks, forestry land by [Angela An](#)

A crime trend that is taking state investigators deep into the woods. People are stealing trees in state parks, forestry land and even private property.

“It’s not like it’s a flower being pulled out of flower bed,” says Lt. Carl Vance with the State Division of Parks and Watercraft. “It takes years and years and years for these to grow back,”

Lt. Vance says it’s easy to spot when someone has cut down a tree illegally. There are usually drag marks in the ground showing where timber thieves managed to drag 1200 lb. sections of white oak or walnut from the forests to their trailers.

“It’s damaging other trees, hurting the forest itself,” says Lt. Vance. “It’s very sad to see how someone will come in and destroy our state forest that everybody owns.”

Jim Savage owns a tree farm near Chillicothe. He never thought it would happen to him until this year. His neighbor lost two trees and he lost one.

“There was about an 18-20 in. tree about 100 feet high that had been cut off at the stump,” Savage says describing that snowy day in January. He thinks the trees were 100-125 years old.

“The other kind of aggravating thing is that when it fell, it knocked down 2-3 other smaller walnut trees that I was hoping to grow to increase the property.”

What’s driving the timber theft in Ohio are two factors: drugs and the rising cost of timber materials. That’s why state investigators with Parks and Watercraft, [Division of Forestry](#), Land Management Administration, and others constantly work investigations that take them throughout southern Ohio.

“We work well with the sawmills,” Lt. Vance explains. “We keep in contact with them to see when people are bringing logs in that actually aren’t loggers.”

Lt. Vance says some sawmill companies will refuse to buy logs from people who are known timber thieves. Sawmill owners lose the money if investigators find enough evidence to confiscate a log.

“This is pure vandalism, felony theft,” says Vance with some anger in his voice. “This is no different than someone coming to your house and you have a tree in your front yard for shade and they say, ‘I’m going to take that tree home with me today.’”

Catching timber thieves in the act can prove difficult given the hundreds of thousands of wooded acres that cover much of Ohio. Lt. Vance says the thieves work day and night, year-round.

“They’ll steal off of you just as quick as they steal off anyone else.”

Division of Forestry provides \$100K of Fire and EMS Equipment to Ohio Fire Departments

Posted on 11/4/2019 by Ohio DNR in [Forestry](#)

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry recently provided more than \$100,000 in fire and EMS equipment to dozens of rural fire departments throughout Ohio.

“The state is proud to partner with rural fire departments to help ensure that they have the tools they need to carry out their first responder duties and protect the public,” said Gov. DeWine. “Equipment was provided to more than 60 departments for free.”

Most of the equipment was acquired by the Division of Forestry through the U.S. Department of Defense Firefighter Property (FFP) program for the specific purpose of increasing the capacity of fire departments that serve rural areas in Ohio. The equipment was given to fire departments as part of a special equipment assignment day at Scioto Trail State Forest.

“The fire and EMS equipment program administered by the Ohio Division of Forestry allows us to help Ohio’s rural fire departments obtain important firefighting equipment that their budgets might not otherwise permit,” said Dan Balsler, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. “Rural fire departments provide an outstanding service to their communities and the Ohio Division of Forestry supports their mission and is a proud partner of the fire service in Ohio.”

FFP items assigned to fire departments included generators, power tools, hand tools, advanced life support (ALS) equipment, first aid equipment, hose, nozzles, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air packs. In addition to the FFP items, the Division of Forestry provided more than 50 surplus multi-agency radio communication system (MARCS) units to participating fire departments.

The Ohio Division of Forestry offers grants, equipment, wildfire prevention assistance, and other support programs to fire departments that are located within the division’s fire protection area. The Ohio Division of Forestry wildfire protection area includes eastern and southern Ohio, as well as the Maumee State Forest area in northwestern Ohio.

So What Does “Sustainable Forestry” and “Conservation Forestry” Actually Mean?

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is the management of forests according to the principles of sustainable development. Sustainable forest management uses very broad social, economic and environmental goals.

A range of forestry institutions now practice various forms of sustainable forest management and a broad range of methods and tools are available that have been tested over time. The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

For many, the term “sustainable forestry” may seem like an oxymoron. How can logging ever be sustainable when, by definition, it requires that trees be cut down? The complete answer is complex, but if we had to reduce it to one word, it would be “balance.” The hallmark of sustainable forestry, from a purely ecological perspective, is the extent to which forestry practices mimics natural patterns of disturbance and regeneration. Sustainable forestry balances the needs of the environment, wildlife, and forest communities—supporting decent incomes while conserving our forests for future generations. There are many practical steps that a community or business can take to protect the health and longevity of a forest while still profiting from the production and sale of timber and other forest products, such as nuts, fruits, oils, and plants.

In **sustainable forestry**, efforts are put into replacing almost all the resources we get from the forests, while extra care is taken to ensure that there is very little damage to wildlife and the natural environment. Here are 7 areas to consider:

1. Extent of forest resources
2. Biological diversity
3. Forest health and vitality
4. Productive functions and forest resources
5. Protective functions of forest resources
6. Socio-economic functions
7. Legal, policy and institutional framework

For the **conservation of forests**, the following is the main objectives:

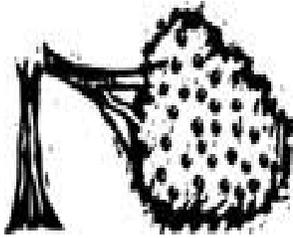
- (a) Conservation of forest is a national problem so it must be tackled with perfect coordination between forest department and other departments.
- (b) People’s participation in the conservation of forests is of vital importance. So, we must get them involved in this national task.
- (c) The cutting of trees in the forests must be stopped at all costs.
- (d) Celebrations of all functions, festivals should proceed with tree- plantation.
- (e) Cutting of timber and other forest produce should be restricted.
- (f) Grasslands should be regenerated.
- (g) Forest Conservation Act, 1980 should be strictly implemented to check deforestation.

John Muir’s preservation legacy aimed at permitting little to no industrial profit from the federal lands that have become our National Parks. In fact, Muir’s vision resulted in protecting forever some of the nation’s most iconic open spaces totaling over 100 million acres managed by an agency that was to be called the [National Park Service](#).

Despite arguments by some, Muir’s preservation and Pinchot’s conservation philosophies are not at odds. In fact they play, together, a huge role in protecting our natural open spaces—for generations to come.

For more than 100 years the success of the dual strategy of **conservation and preservation** has grown more and more obvious to the millions who benefit from jobs created and those who enjoy the wild places. Throughout the world other nations seek to emulate our federal land management system.

Thanks to Pinchot and Muir our federal dual system of conservation and preservation land management works in practical ways to keep our public lands open and productive.



March Meeting:

Mark Rickey and Jim Savage / Timber theft and Trespass

A very real topic that you will want to hear about and understand what actions to take if you see this activity!

Our usual format of covered dish will be observed.....
we'll eat at 6:15 with the presentation at 7:00

OSU South Center, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, OH. Meetings are held in the Endeavor Center



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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 _____ 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 778, Jackson Oh 45640

Make Check Payable to Southern Ohio Forestry Association (SOFA)

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