



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!

We enjoyed a wonderful meal together with lots of good conversation. We always look forward to this part of our gatherings. Some recipe sharing usually takes place when we sample all the dishes that have been prepared by our members.

Julie brought the meeting to order at 7. The first order of business was a discussion about notices of changes to meeting places and time or cancellation. Brent and Kelly offered to set up a Facebook page and to let all members know if and when changes were to take place. They will use email and phone and Facebook to ensure that all are notified.

Next on the agenda It was suggested that we have a cookout in early August as a farewell to members Betsy and Ramie Pierson. They are planning to move overseas. We will miss them dearly! They have been very active members of sofa for many years and have been an integral part of keeping us informed and running the business side of our group. We really hate to see them go but wish them well in this new chapter of their lives.

Because of State mandates our program presenters were whittled down from 3 to 1. Jim Savage was definitely up to the challenge. He did a marvelous job!

Timber theft and trespass

If you see a pickup truck hauling a huge log down the roadway, it is most likely a result of a theft! Legitimate loggers generally use large log trucks and equipment and are a common sight. Large Walnut and oak trees growing along roadways are easy targets for thieves.

Spotting theft on your property can be just noticing Tree Tops that are out of place, new stumps and drag marks.

In Ohio it can be very difficult to prosecute these theft. Sawmill owners are often uncooperative and pay for timber in cash. Law enforcement officials can have multiple jurisdiction and can be very apathetic about Timber Theft. Criminal penalties are not generally profound or easily attained.

Prevention methods

Permanently mark your boundaries, walk your lines frequently, know your neighbors, be aware of who is cutting nearby, keep good people on your property, inventory your woods and groves, place trail cameras that notify you by cell phone. In the event of a theft, insist on a police report.

Extending the scrap yard law to sawmills would be a major step in thwarting theft. It would require a photo ID of the seller to be kept on record. Mills would make their records available to law enforcement agencies and victims without need of subpoena. Mills would keep a known theft list and it would be illegal to purchase from them.

Cont'd

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Timber trespass can be described as a logger on a neighbor's property coming over the property line. There is currently a proposal in Ohio to pass the purple paint law which is in effect the same as a no trespassing sign. 13 states have already adopted this law.

After a theft, a Forester can value the loss by stumps. Included in the loss would be restoration of the land costs for example hiring an excavator.

In the case of reckless trespass, the damages to be paid are trebled. It is a felony to steal a saw log from a land owner over the age of 65 regardless of its value. Under the age of 65, the logs must have a value over \$1,000.

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation.

Jim was presented a handmade shaker box with a tree stump emblazoned on the lid. It was made by Tim Shoemaker.

The meeting was adjourned by Julie.

Happy trails, Fern

SOFA schedule for 2020

APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED!!

WATCH WEB SITE OR CALL FOR UPDATES!!

April **CANCELLED** – 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 mgn'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

Donald Althoff's email for the instructions on building a squirrel box.

If people are interested in participating in checking the squirrel boxes they just need to email him and he will add them to the list

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Did you know a Box turtle only roams 1 mile its whole life? If it is removed from its area/home then for the rest of its life it will roam aimlessly stressed out... trying to find "home" until it dies a very sad death.

Please do not remove turtles. Do not take them home as pets. If one is injured please mark the exact spot found for the wildlife center. If a turtle is in the road you can help by moving it directly across the street in the direction it was heading. Thank you!

I post this every few month because it's not really known. Many people think it is harmless to let their children take home a docile turtle to play with and release it someplace they see appropriate. Please share the knowledge.



Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?

Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Q. What is “Forestry Pollution”?

Forestry Pollution is defined in the Ohio Revised Code as the “failure to use management or conservation practices in silvicultural operations to abate wind or water erosion of the soil or to abate the degradation of waters of the state by soil sediment, including attached substances, from silvicultural operations”.

Q. What is a Forestry "Best Management Practice" (BMP)?

A forestry best management practice is a practice or combination of practices that is determined to be the most effective means of preventing or reducing agricultural forestry pollution sources to a level compatible with water quality goals. BMPs may include structural and nonstructural practices, conservation practices, and operation and maintenance procedures.

Q. If Forestry Pollution takes place on my land, who is liable? Me? The logger?

Both the landowner and/or the logger can be held responsible. This issue is addressed in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 1501:15-3-02 which states that each “owner, operator, or person responsible for a silvicultural operation shall prevent pollution caused by wind or water erosion. Silvicultural operations shall apply conservation practices in accordance with (the handbook) “BMPs for Erosion Control for Logging Practices in Ohio”. In other words, all persons associated with a logging job have a duty to comply with the law.

When investigating complaints, the ODNR Division of Forestry and the Soil and Water Conservation District gather facts related to the logging operation to determine who is responsible for the forestry pollution and what actions are needed to bring the site back into compliance.

Q. Are loggers required to be licensed and bonded in Ohio?

No, loggers are not required to be licensed or bonded in the state of Ohio. For this reason, we strongly encourage landowners to protect their financial and legal interests by developing a Timber Sale Contract with the assistance of a professional forester and other competent professionals. It is critical that you do your homework and request references, evidence of workers compensation and liability insurance before allowing the logging to take place on your property.

Q. Am I required to file a Timber Harvest Plan before logging?

Generally, no. Development and submittal of a written Timber Harvest Plan is a voluntary process in Ohio, but there are some important benefits that make it worthwhile. In the process of developing the plan, the landowner, logger and forester all have the opportunity to communicate and provide input on the road layout, log deck location and BMPs that will be used. As a landowner, this is your opportunity to influence the permanent features that will remain on your property after the logging is complete. Additionally, some log buyers and sawmills throughout the state will require the development of a Timber Harvest Plan for tracts of timber that they purchase.

Q. My logger says he is a “Master Logger.” What does that mean?

The Ohio Forestry Association sponsors a voluntary Master Logger program through its network of local loggers chapters. To participate in the program, loggers must be members of the Ohio Forestry Association, must receive training on the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce soil erosion, must use safe and efficient timber cutting and logging safety practices, must maintain current certification in First Aid and CPR, must maintain Workers’ Compensation coverage on employees, and must provide liability coverage upon request. For more information about the Master Logger program, visit the [Ohio Forestry Association’s Master Logger website](#). It is important for landowners to do a thorough vetting of all potential candidates before selecting a logging company. Reputation and landowner references should also be considered in addition to the logging crew’s training and professional credentials.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is an Ohio Invasive Plants Council (<https://www.oipc.info/>). “The council is a coalition of agencies, organizations, and individuals throughout Ohio concerned about the introduction, spread, and control of invasive, non-native plants in Ohio’s natural habitats. OIPC promotes public awareness of invasive species issues and encourages land management and research to detect invasive species and prevent new invasions into natural ecosystems.” According to their website they have plans to “add a new section to our website this winter which expands on our alternatives brochure by offering more suggestions for alternatives to invasives when replacing them in your landscaping or habitat restoration projects.”

“For those looking for opportunities to help control invasive plants in natural areas, one way is participating in the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association’s Stewardship Projects. See the ONAPA website at www.onapa.org for information on 2020 projects.”

If you need assistance in identifying an invasive or want a plant assessed by OPIC for invasiveness contact them through their website.

Check out the OPIC winter newsletter for more information on organizations working on invasive species management, native dogwoods and invasive Buckthorns.

Scientists Discover That Trees Have A "Heartbeat"

There is a huge number of living things on Earth, all with their own set of characteristics and unique ways of life. All the way from the smallest ants, up to the huge giraffes and elephants, one thing that everyone has in common is that they are alive! One type of living organism is plants and trees. While they may not walk around like other organisms, or have a kidney and liver, they do actually have their own set of organs, so to speak.

While a tree definitely doesn't have a heart, the idea that they have their own beat and sense of rhythm isn't as far fetched as many people think. [According to a study](#) which was headed by András Zlinszky, Bence Molnár and Anders S. Barfod from Hungary and Denmark, trees do in fact have a special type of beat within them which resembles that of a heartbeat. Who would have known?

To find this hidden heartbeat, the researchers used advanced monitoring techniques known as terrestrial laser scanning to survey the movement of twenty two different types of trees. The results shocked everyone and revealed that at night, while the trees were sleeping, they often had a beat pulsating throughout their body, just as humans, and other living [creatures](#) do too.

While these pulses aren't an actual heart beating, it does effectively do the same job in keeping rhythm and pumping liquids around the organism. The pulses which the scientists discovered are actually the tree pumping and distributing water around its body, just as a heart pumps blood. It has long been assumed that trees distribute water via osmosis but this new find says otherwise. This could change the way humans see and understand trees forever, so many things could change now. The "heartbeats" themselves were quite slow and steady, with some occurring every few hours. Even so, it's an amazing find that proves [nature](#) is far more complex than anyone could have ever imagined.

It wasn't just the heartbeat that the study discovered either, it also revealed that trees move quite a lot during the night, far more than people initially thought. As it turns out, a large number of species dropped their leaves down up to ten centimetres after the sun goes down. When trees do this, it's actually because they're sleeping (another human/animal trait), and they enter their own type of circadian rhythm known as 'circadian leaf movements', which is incredibly interesting to watch.

Trees and plants are some of the most [mysterious](#) living organisms that harbour so much information and have plenty of [secrets](#) left to give up. Some even say that trees have the ability to cry and feel pain, both of which would change the world if true. There's still so much we need to learn and more studies will hopefully reveal some more answers about the mysterious, yet mesmerising world of plants, and trees.

References: [www.frontiersin.org/...](http://www.frontiersin.org/)

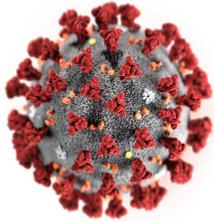
Richard texting his next door neighbor.....

Hi, Max. This is Richard, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt & hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. Richard

Max, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. Max then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard.

SECOND TEXT MESSAGE:

Hi, Max. Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all.



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UPDATES!!**

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