



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.

APRIL 14TH MEETING

Our most recent meeting was held in the Chillicothe Lions Club International clubhouse. The venue was perfect for our meeting with plenty of space, lots of tables with bright yellow tablecloths, and a flag. Before the meeting started, John Usas led us in The Pledge of Allegiance, and Roger said the blessing. After sharing a delicious dinner of country style pork ribs, homemade beef and noodles, pizza, fresh cornbread, spinach salad, and (of course) desserts, we learned some interesting facts about our host from Fred Hempstead.

The Lions Club is an international organization that exists to serve others. Their mission is simple – to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding. There are currently nearly 1.5 million Lions in the US, including seventy-two in Chillicothe who participate in such activities as providing fish fry dinners at various times throughout the year, work closely with local law enforcement during the Christmas season to support Shop With A Cop, collect eyeglasses to be used in international missions, and collect cell phones so that people in the United States who don't have access to a cell phone can call 911 when necessary. Lions also staff the oldest non-profit booth at the Ross County Fair where members serve hot meals throughout the day to hungry fair-goers. The Chillicothe Lions also provide five \$1,000 scholarships each year to local students. If you'd like to learn more about the Lions Club, their website is located at <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en>.

We discussed the 2022 Camp Canopy and SOFA's ability to offer scholarships this year to incoming freshmen through graduating seniors (up to 19 years of age) who are interested in learning about all things forestry and wildlife in a Summer camp setting at the Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, Ohio. Topics include Forest Forensics, Ohio Raptor ID (eagles, hawks, and more), Arborist, and a demonstration of how the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife's K-9 Program uses dogs to help with law enforcement. Of course, Camp Canopy is not ALL classes - there will also be many activities during recreation breaks in 2022 – archery, rifle range, woodland hikes, and the now-traditional Camp Canopy Boat Float. Evenings are also full of fun - night hikes, campfires, beach parties, and more! Please encourage eligible students to apply at <https://campcanopy.com/>.

Cont'd

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

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Another topic of discussion surrounded the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program and their Winter 2022 newsletter. The newsletter contains pertinent information regarding the Spotted Lanternfly eradication efforts, the Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership, and the upcoming Maple Bootcamp: Ohio seminar which is scheduled for June 22 – 24, 2022 at the OSU-Mansfield campus in Mansfield, Ohio. Details regarding that class and other learning opportunities can be found at www.woodlandstewards.osu.edu.

Finally, we had a discussion on the signing of Ohio Senate Bill 215, which changes the concealed carry licensing option for Ohioans. The group has many questions and hope to have answers from local law enforcement at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on 12 May at John and Fern Beathard's farm (814 Schmidt Road in Bainbridge, Ohio 45612). We will break bread together at 6:00pm and meet after dessert. See you there!

Kelly

2022 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE!!

Send to Jim Meacham 4332 St Rt 776, Jackson Oh 45640
Make Check Payable to Southern Ohio Forestland Association (SOFA)

A Note to all "inactive" Members:

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
P.S. We wouldn't mind hearing from "Active" members too!

Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series

David Apsley Natural Resources Specialist
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Here is the tentative 2022 agenda:

<https://u.osu.edu/apsley.1/2022/02/21/a-day-in-the-woods-tentative-agenda-for-2022/>

S.O.F.A. Resource Advisers

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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.

8 Documents Every Tree Farmer Needs

Deeds: A property deed doesn't just record your ownership of your land—it also records the land's exact location and boundaries.

Management plan: A complete and up-to-date management plan offers many advantages: it serves as an inventory of what's on your property, a work plan for its future and proof that your Tree Farm is a business if you're claiming a profit or loss at tax time.

Property map: This map shows not just boundary lines, but everything you value about your woods.

Permits: Keep permits for any activities that require them

Contracts: Make sure to keep all your contracts, along with proof of insurance and other contract requirements, for any contractors you hire.

Landowner liability insurance policies: "You've worked hard to acquire your property and improve it," says Burns, "so you want to protect it." And protecting it means keeping records of any insurance you have for yourself, your property and any structures on it, and for anyone working on your land.

A copy of your state Best Management Practices (BMPs): Copies of your state BMPs are usually available for free.

Receipts, warranties and instruction manuals: If you purchase supplies or tools for use on your Tree Farm, keep all the documentation that comes with them.

The farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chicken's his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood scooping up chickens and putting them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, the boy reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst.

"Pa, the chickens got loose," the boy confessed sadly, "but I managed to find all twelve of them."

"Well, you did real good, son," the farmer beamed. "You left with seven."



MAY 13th
John and Fern Beathard's farm
(814 Schmidt Road in Bainbridge, Ohio 45612).
 We will have our usual carry-in dinner at 6 PM
 Meeting at 7 PM

From Rt 50, take Potts Hill Rd (East side of Bainbridge), 2 miles turn right on Schmidt Rd., 1 mile.
 From St Rt 772, turn on Potts Hill Rd at Nipgen, go 6 miles, turn left on Schmidt Rd., 1 mile



S.O.F.A.
 1864 Shyville Rd
 Piketon Oh 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 _____ 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