

# Southern Ohio Forestland Association



[www.ohiosofa.org](http://www.ohiosofa.org)

JULY 2016

Serving Adams, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, and Scioto Counties

Founded 1995

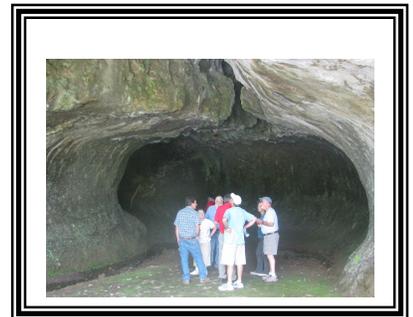
## Our Mission . . .

*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.*

## June 18, 2016

This meeting found twenty enchanted members learning about and touring Cave Lake and its impressive Frost Cave in Pike County Ohio. This well-hidden gem was developed over a period of years by the family of founder Nobe White, and is currently owned and operated by the Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association (YLA). The 600 acre site is home to a 42 acre lake, Ohio's largest entrance to a cave developed in Dolomite, and a rich ecology of diverse and rare animals and plants. Long term family campers populate and fund the site's current operation, and the YLA intends to expand its successful array of youth programming to include sessions on land stewardship and nature at the site. David King, YLA Development Director, talked about the mission and youth development activities of the organization and their vision for Cave Lake. Brad Wireman, ODNR Service Forester for Pike County (as well as Fayette, Clinton, Highland, and for the time being, Adams and Scioto counties) spoke about his activities and tools in studying the Lake's property and creating a plan for developing and maintaining their forestland in line with their objectives. Chair Rick Wright knighted Brad with what would have been his Indian name "Runs With the Trees", which, if you have worked with Brad, is quite fitting! A hike to Frost Cave entrance was both a cool and "cool" experience, as the temperature at the cave's mouth was quite refreshing. The weather was lovely, the site magical, and the information interesting and thought provoking. Good field trip, with many thanks to John King who arranged it all after Gina and Gary Hochenberger lost their barn to fire and their spot on the SOFA 2016 calendar to the chaotic aftermath of that event.

CONT'D bottom of page 3



## SOFA OFFICERS

Rick Wright, Chair  
740-626-2382  
[wdssteward@gmail.com](mailto:wdssteward@gmail.com)

Jim Meacham, Treasurer  
740-988-2073  
[jmeach42@gmail.com](mailto:jmeach42@gmail.com)

Joe & P.J. Gordy, Board  
President & Vice President  
740-634-2470  
[pjhunny@bright.net](mailto:pjhunny@bright.net)

Dana Harsh, Co-Chair  
740-835-6491  
[dharsh1958@yahoo.com](mailto:dharsh1958@yahoo.com)

Betsy Pierson, Secretary  
740-703-1645  
[prsn@horizonview.net](mailto:prsn@horizonview.net)

Tim Shoemaker, Editor  
740-851-9127  
[tshoe140@horizonview.net](mailto:tshoe140@horizonview.net)

## S.O.F.A. Resource Advisors

Mark Rickey, DNR, Vinton,  
Hocking Ross  
740-774-1596 ext 109  
[Mark.Rickey@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Mark.Rickey@dnr.state.oh.us)

Tim Wilson, DNR, Adams,  
Brown, Clermont, Scioto  
937-378-4920  
[Tim.Wilson@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Tim.Wilson@dnr.state.oh.us)

Perry Brannan, DNR, Jackson,  
Lawrence, Galia, Meigs  
740-589-9915  
[Perry.Brannan@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Perry.Brannan@dnr.state.oh.us)

Brad Wireman, DNR, Fayette,  
Clinton, Highland, Pike  
740-774-1596 ext 102  
[brad.wireman@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:brad.wireman@dnr.state.oh.us)

Cameron Bushong, DNR, Athens,  
Morgan, Washington  
740-596-1102  
[Camron.Bushong@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Camron.Bushong@dnr.state.oh.us)

Stephen Rist, DNR, Service  
Forest Coordinator. Madison,  
Pickaway  
740-774-1596 ext 103  
[Stephen.Rist@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Stephen.Rist@dnr.state.oh.us)

Dave Apsley, Nat'l Resource  
Specialist 740-286-2177  
[dapsley@postoffice.ag.ohio.state.edu](mailto:dapsley@postoffice.ag.ohio.state.edu)

Mike Besonen, West Dist  
Forester, South Central Ohio  
740-772-3681  
[Michael.besonen@glatfelter.com](mailto:Michael.besonen@glatfelter.com)

### Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

**When in doubt,** just take the next small step.

**Life** is too short to waste time hating anyone...

**Your job** won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.

**You** don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

# Foraging for Blackberries

**Early American Life Magazine** August 2006 by "Wildman" Steve Brill

**Blackberries** helped get the Pilgrims through their first summer. Today the same fruit grows wild across America, free for the foraging. Here's all you need to know to find and enjoy this year's crop. In the earliest years of our country, the best part of blackberries was that they grew wild—at least the colonists didn't have to plant them. Months before the Pilgrims' first crops came in, for instance, they likely found ripe blackberries in the woods

Wild blackberries are among the best of fruits on many grounds. They're very common, widespread, abundant, prolific, easy to recognize, tasty, and nutritious.

### **KNOWING THE BRAMBLES**

Brambles are usually woody plants with thorny, arching stems called *canes*. They can reach 10 feet tall (although some species trail the ground), and the tip of the stem sends roots into the soil if it touches the ground.

### **BERRY AMONG PEERS**

The common blackberry (*R. allegheniensis*) grows two to eight feet tall with very thorny erect or arching purplish canes. The leaflets are three to seven inches long and pale green underneath. The white flowers are one inch or less across. They grow in long clusters of six to fifteen. The berries, under one-inch long with the same configuration, ripen in August. The species grows throughout the Northeast.

Blackberries grow in thickets in sunny or partially shaded disturbed habitats, places where the previous vegetation has been removed. Native Americans used controlled fires to create these disturbed habitats, increasing the land's ability to produce the berry.

### **IN THE FIELD**

Because blackberries are thorny and ripen in the hottest part of the summer during mosquito season, it's best to wear long pants and sleeves, plus a sun hat while foraging. Check out the long-range weather forecast and plan to gather as early in the morning as possible on the coolest days. Bring along plenty of drinking water.

Native American women and children, the main berry pickers, tied small splint baskets to their waists in front, with a cord passed through the handle. They would empty these containers into larger pack baskets lined with large basswood leaves. Colonists probably adapted similar methods. Nowadays you can follow suit by punching a hole in a small plastic food container, inserting a key ring or cord into the hole, and attaching the container to your belt with a key clip. When the container is full, empty it into other containers in a backpack.

Heavy-duty work gloves make blackberry collecting faster and safer. If you're right-handed, cut the fingertips off the right glove, so you can move the branches around with your left hand and grasp the berries with the fingertips of your right hand.

Pick only completely ripe berries, which come off the cane readily with the slightest tug. Partially ripe berries, which you have to force off, are bitter.

Not every year is equally good for blackberry crops. Too little sunlight in the spring, brought about by weeks of rainy weather, limits necessary photosynthesis and ruins the crop. So does severe drought in the summer

Avoid places that are obviously polluted or sprayed, such as railroad rights-of-way. Areas within 50 feet of heavy traffic may be contaminated by heavy metals. Use common sense—treading on canes destroys and defaces the source of your food—and be discrete. Not everyone understands that collecting renewable resources is environmentally innocuous. If possible, bring children along. Kids love collecting berries, and positive nature experiences in childhood creates a life-long interest in nature and conservation.

Beware of poison ivy and poison oak, which grow in the same habitat as blackberries. Wild blackberries are great eaten raw and added to fruit salads, or baked into pies, casseroles, cakes, cobblers, or other desserts. They're much tastier than commercial blackberries, but they also contain the hard seeds, which can be quite annoying in puréed recipes such as ice cream, jam, smoothies, or sauces. To avoid the seeds, pass the purée through a strainer.

Once you're hooked on wild blackberries, you'll find yourself planning forays for this remarkably good traditional food resource year after year.

## TO-DIE-FOR-SCALLOPS

SOFA members are great  
Cooks!

Try this featured recipe by Cindy  
McPherson from Freemont, Ohio.

Melt butter in a skillet and add soy sauce, garlic powder, lemon juice and scallops. Cook over medium heat for 15 minutes. During the last 5 minutes, add green onions. When done, add enough cracker crumbs to absorb juice. Serve with lemon slices on the side.

1 stick butter	½ cup chopped green onions
3 tbsp. soy sauce	½-¾ cup cracker crumbs
1 ½ tsp. garlic powder	lemon slices
3 tbsp. lemon juice	
1 lb. Tiny scallops	

### THE ADVENTURES OF WAYNE & TIM

Tim: "Hey Wayne, yer awful early"

Wayne: "I just couldn't wait to get started today"

Tim: "There's still a bed of coals from last nights fire"

Wayne: "Yea, I think it's still hot enough to cook on!"

Tim: "How 'bout some sausage & eggs and flapjacks with **Hillger's Maple Syrup** for breakfast?"

Wayne: "You know me....all I want to do is eat!"

Tim: "OK. You get to brownin' that sausage, I'll mix the flapjack batter"

Wayne: "Man! There is nothin' like eatin' breakfast cooked on an open fire on a summer mornin'.....  
Thank-you Lord!"

Tim: "AMEN!"



CONT'D from page 1

A brief business meeting ensued, with Chair Rick Wright welcoming Fred Hempstead and Dale Bruce, forestland owners in northern Ross County. These fellows – neighbors on Pennyroyal Road - are seeking the recommendation of a Consulting Forester for expedient assistance to Dale with EQUIP and Fred with ash trees. Members can send a recommended name to Dale at [brucemurch@gmail.com](mailto:brucemurch@gmail.com).

Betsy brought up a request from Tom Mills to assist the Ohio Tree Farm Committee with contacting those listed as Tree Farms who have not responded to recent surveys and requests for information. The members present agreed to peruse the list and contact any individual listed with whom they were acquainted to insure that they get their information in place.

There will be a chainsaw safety course in Chillicothe in October – details to follow.

Jim Meacham reported \$2792 in the treasury with enough designated "scholarship-fund" to send one camper next year. (We sent two this year.)

Dana Harsh will supply more details regarding the July meeting which will be held at the OCI plant west of Waverly on the old DTI rail bed.

Thursday, August 11 at 11:30, All interested members are encouraged to attend the 2017 program planning lunch (Dutch treat) at Golden Corral in Chillicothe.

Remember to get your trail-cam and person-manned-cam wildlife and forestry pictures to Rick or Betsy for the September meeting picture contest. The Annual Meeting and Christmas Party will be held on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> at Canter's Cave if they'll have us. Trusty Joe Gordy adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Betsy Pierson

## S.O.F.A.

### **THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2016 (Subject to Change, Please Watch Monthly)**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday** Waverly “OCI Mill Tour” see page 5

**August** Thursday 08/11/16 11:30 am “Program Planning Meeting for 2017” Chillicothe, Golden Corral Everybody Invited

**September** Thursday 09/08/16 Piketon “Tips on Trail Cameras” Trail cam contest. Everyone urged to participate!  
Presented by Rick Wright

**October Saturday** 10/15/16 11 am – “Apple Orchard tour and Serpent Mound”  
Presented by Orchardists Karnes

**November** Thursday 11/10/16 – 6:15 pm Piketon Everybody “Open Mic Night”

**December** Thursday 12/8/16 – 6 pm – “Annual Meeting”, Officer Election & Year End Celebration

### **Janet Sweigart**

Janet Sweigart filled many important roles: mother, wife, nurse, tree farmer, friend, classmate, mushroom expert, and SOFA champion. Although she and her husband, Jack lived in Ada, a non-SOFA covered county, they - after meeting PJ and Joe Gordy at a forestry weekend in the nineties – became loyal attendees at SOFA meetings.

Once there, Janet and Jim Meacham renewed an old acquaintance – they had been classmates growing up. Janet passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 in her sleep.

She and Jack (who died in 2009), along with their children and grandchildren had developed and managed a 60 acre tree farm that was awarded the distinction of being named Outstanding Ohio Tree Farm of the Year in 2005 and was recognized as a National Regional Tree Farmer in 2006.

Janet was active in the Ohio Tree Farm Association, and was a past president. In recent years, we missed seeing Janet as often as we had in the past, as she and her partner Norm split their time between homes in Michigan and Ada.

We will miss Janet, her keen perspective, quick wit, ready laugh, well honed sense of fun, and the twinkle in her eye.

PJ and Jim (as is our routine practice on the loss of a member) have ensured that trees will be planted in Janet’s memory by the Arbor Day Foundation.

**The Great Wildlife Picture Contest** – coming in September, 2016. Get your pictures of the wonders of nature in the great outdoors to Rick Wright or Betsy Pierson soon. Please designate whether each picture is from a trail camera or your camera. Members at the September SOFA meeting will vote the winners – who will be awarded NICE PRIZES!

**July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting** and program will be held at Oak Chips, Inc. (OCI) in Waverly. OCI specializes in the production of high quality Toasted Oak Chips. The natural extracts from the oak improves bouquet and flavor of wine and spirits.

Bring a covered dish, and meet in the facility lunchroom at 11AM. A tour of the production and talk about the business' history and operation will follow lunch.

OCI is located at 306 West North Street. Follow Rt 220 West from Rt 23 in downtown Waverly. (W N St is Rt 220)

**John Hilger** reports his first bobcat sighting on their property in Adams County. A few weeks ago, going out to the road for the mail, John saw the critter from about 70 yards away.

## DAY in the WOODS 2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAYS

**David Apsley** [apsley.1@osu.edu](mailto:apsley.1@osu.edu)

**If you are interested in attending any of the programs, there is a small fee and reservation required. Contact Dave for more info.**

**July 8th Periodical cicadas: How do they affect our trees, woods and wildlife?** 2016 is the year for the 17 year cicada. We'll also explore other examples of arthropods and their interactions with trees, forests and wildlife.

**Bonus-July 22nd Summer Tree Identification**– Off-site at Hocking College. The emphasis of this program will be identification based on leaf characteristics.

**August 12th Preparing your woods for an uncertain future.** With all of the uncertainty in the future (extreme weather events, invasive species, global markets etc.) it is important to have woods that are diverse and healthy.

**Bonus-August 26th Streams and Streamside Forests.** Off-site, the location to be determined (Raccoon Creek Watershed). Topics covered will include water quality, watersheds and watershed management, riparian forest buffers, aquatic organisms, electro fishing demo, human impacts etc.

**September 9th Interactions Among Wildlife Populations and Humans.** This program will look at wildlife population trends and their relationships to habitat changes due to natural and human caused disturbances.

**October 14th Propagating Native Trees, Shrubs and Herbs .** Off-site Wayne National Forest HQ, Nelsonville. Learn how to collect, treat and plant the seeds of woody and herbaceous plants

**November 4th A Night in the Forest.** Focus on night skies (Weather permitting), owls and mammals.

**November 18th Winter Tree Identification.** Off site at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp near Jackson.



**NEXT SOFA MEETING**

**Saturday July 16th**

**The OCI plant west of Waverly on the old DTI rail bed.**

**306 West North Street.**

**Follow Rt 220 West from Rt 23 in downtown Waverly.**

**(West North St is Rt 220)**

**Bring a covered dish, and meet in the facility lunchroom at 11AM**

**S. O. F. A .**

1864 Shyville Road  
Piketon, Ohio 45661



Visit us on the web -  
[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** \_\_\_\_\_ **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.