



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 9TH MEETING

Twenty-three members met on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lion’s Clubhouse in Chillicothe. We shared a delicious dinner of smoked chicken wings, KFC, fresh salads, and plenty of desserts. We also welcomed a visitor and now a new member, Mike Hathaway. He is a retired forester who moved to the area when other members of his family (including his grandchildren) relocated here. Another visitor, Robert Black, also joined us for the evening. He is a nature lover and pastor of Acts Believe Church in Pleasant Valley, He recently moved here from New York. We hope to see them both again soon!

After dinner, we discussed SOFA scholarships to Camp Canopy. SOFA, working with OFA, has provided funding to offer three scholarships to campers in need of assistance. We are hoping to feature information about “our” campers in future newsletters and will be inviting each of them to attend a meeting to tell us about their adventures at Camp.

Over 90% of members have paid their dues for this year and have noted that they enjoy reading the newsletter. We’d like to encourage more current members to attend meetings, so if you have comments regarding attendance, please send me an email at [redstreakerhollowfarms@gmail.com](mailto:redstreakerhollowfarms@gmail.com) to let me know what we can do to encourage attendance.

We discussed the updated trifold brochure that will be made available to Service Foresters, area Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and perhaps area real estate agents that provides the “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and, “why” for new forestland owners. We were updated on the status of tee shirts and hats. The tee shirts will be tan in color with the SOFA logo on the front and back. More details regarding the brochure and the availability of the hats and tees will be provided at next month’s meeting as well as on the Facebook page and website. If you are interested in helping with outreach to new members or have ideas on how else we can network, please reach out to any of the officers or come on over to the planning meeting in August.

We may also have a future cable TV star in our midst! Jackson has programming on their local cable station that offers viewers information about local organizations, events, and other items of interest. Jim Meachem will be checking with them about featuring SOFA. Information regarding when the program might be aired will be available on the website and Facebook page as it becomes available.

Our featured speaker, Wayne Lashbrook, talked about an amazing resource, the OFA’s Woodland Journal. The Spring issue had articles concerning such topics as invasives; the Great Black Swamp, a glacially-fed wetland in Northwest Ohio; and forest health and fungal diseases of conifers. The Ohio Woodland Journal is the official publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System. Published quarterly, it contains educational information on managing and protecting Ohio's forest, wildlife and water resources. The Ohio Woodland Journal content is directed to the non-industrial private forestland owner and offers guidance and understanding of the diverse possibilities for forest ownership.

CON'D

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

The Ohio Woodland Journal is sent free of charge to Ohio Tree Farmers, Members of the Ohio Forestry Association, Tree Farm inspectors, state legislators, and for one year to landowners who receive a Forest Stewardship Plan. It is also available by subscription for \$15.00 per year. You can find out more at <https://www.ohioforest.org/mpage/OWJ>.

The July meeting will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of July at Pap's Hilltop Honey and Distillery, 117 East Main Street in Bainbridge at 11 AM. Pap's is a family business owned by Chris and Marc Lewis that produces honey, including barrel aged honey, and honey products such as soap and lotion. The website is <http://www.papshilltophoney.com/home.html>. Pap's also has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pap's%20Hilltop%20Honey%20and%20Distillery/104738901483107/>. You may have noticed the "...and Distillery" in that title. Pap's also distills honey infused moonshine. Chris will be talking to us about the bee business and also the distilling process, so come on down to Bainbridge.

We will meet at the American Legion Pavilion in Bainbridge, across from the Dairy Queen. Please bring your own lunch or plan to eat at the DQ. We will not be having a potluck before this meeting.

Kelly

## Snakes - Whether to Respect, Hate or Love, A quandary By Dana Schmidt

I don't think any creature in all God's creation has stirred as mixed feelings as snakes. You will find people who are totally enamored with them and those who passionately hate and fear them. You can even find stories in the Bible about them.

I have never had a strong disdain for snakes, nor have I been enamored with them, I fall more in the respect them category. In other words, they are fine where they belong, but come into my space or endanger my friends and family and I will fulfill Biblical Prophecy and "Crush your head".

My feelings were tested a couple years ago when a family member fulfilled the other part of a Biblical prophetic statement, "and you will strike his heel.". My niece's young daughter (they live in Utah) was bitten by a rattlesnake on May 19, 2020 and is was hospitalized in serious condition. She was bitten by a Midget Faded Rattlesnake ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crotalus\\_concolor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crotalus_concolor)). So that incident might have caused me to judge snakes more harshly, but it didn't and generally I am willing to leave them alone.

They can be very beneficial in controlling rodents and other vermin. I just wonder why God made some of them so venomous. They are an interesting group of animals as they come in so many varieties and colors. We often can see large black Rat snakes ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantherophis\\_obsoletus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantherophis_obsoletus)) around our place and we have an old well head that is a good place to find milk snakes ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk\\_snake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk_snake)). Both are harmless and beneficial.

Some of the more colorful snakes we have in our area are the poisonous ones. In southern Ohio we have two pit vipers, copperheads ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agkistrodon\\_contortrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agkistrodon_contortrix)) and timber rattler ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timber\\_rattlesnake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timber_rattlesnake)). You'll rarely see either one, but it's still a good idea to be cautious when in the outdoors in areas they inhabit. I won't bother them if I am in their home, the woods and fields, but they best not show up in my yard.

Here are some tips for enjoying the outdoors in snake country:

- 1.) Be aware of where you're stepping. Learn where snakes like to hide. For instance, take caution when stepping over or around rocks and logs where they like to hide to ambush prey.
- 2.) Where appropriate clothing. Most snake bites are on the lower leg. High hiking boots, snake boots or gaiters.
- 3.) Look before you reach into closed spaces, over rocks or logs and other possible hiding places.
- 4.) If you encounter a snake don't react quickly, if you can avoid it, as it may provoke a strike.
- 5.) I also encourage you to simply walk away and don't mess with it. Most only bite for protection. Don't try to kill it, you may just be more likely to get bitten. Remember, you're in their home.

Snakes are part of the natural ecosystem and the fact we occasionally have a bad encounter should not be reason to hate them, for the most part they serve a purpose.

To learn more about the snakes of North America:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Snakes\\_of\\_North\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Snakes_of_North_America)

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## AS WE SEE IT: MAY 2022

By: Scott Dane – Executive Director, American Loggers Council

Bobby and Lori Goodson of the acclaimed series “Swamp Loggers” recently announced that after more than 40 years they have decided to shut down their logging and trucking businesses due to the fact that it was no longer profitable under the current conditions. Making this decision was obviously a very difficult personal choice,

Fuel costs have proven to be the “Straw that Broke the Camel’s Back”. Some mills have been professional and responsive in providing fuel adjustments, but most have not, and many have only provided a portion of the actual increase in production and transportation costs.

The Timber Industry is the only industry that allows the “buyer” to dictate the price even when it results in the supplier losing money.

That has to change. Timber Unity in the Northwest demonstrated the effectiveness of the timber industry rallying together. If loggers and truckers would practice this unity regarding what they get paid (not in collusion or in violation of anti-trust practices) for their services and products, based on what it costs them, things could change.

The timber industry model is the same as it has been for 100 years with loggers and truckers, whether in lumber camps or independent logging / trucking companies, being told what to do and if they don’t they will be replaced by a logger or trucker who will. Those days are over, there aren’t enough loggers and truckers to play against one another.

As the old saying goes “don’t kill the Goose that lays the golden egg”. This refers to killing something that brings one wealth. The loggers and truckers are the “Golden Goose” which has brought record wealth to many in the forest products industry. Those who are benefiting are risking killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

### BUY-SELL-TRADE

A new feature in the newsletter! If you have anything to sell or trade, or are looking for an item, send the information to [tshoe140@horizonview.net](mailto:tshoe140@horizonview.net) and it will be posted in the next newsletter. We all are doing the same kind of things, so what you have, or need just might be what someone else has an interest in.

## 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.

## PUBLICATIONS, HUNTING RANGES & CONTACT

The ODNR provides public shooting ranges so Ohio’s sportsmen and sportswomen have safe places to practice with their hunting implements. Safe shooting environments and knowledgeable range attendants foster an attitude of firearms safety and respect, where shooters can develop the knowledge and skills necessary to practice safe firearms use and take the next step to attend a hunter education class and become a hunter.

## A Note to all Members/ active and inactive

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](mailto:tshoe140@horizonview.net)

## Ohio Trees for Bees

Agriculture and Natural Resources by Denise Ellsworth, Department of Entomology

Many people are concerned about the health and survival of bees, including honey bees, native bumble bees and the hundreds of lesser-known native and wild bees that call Ohio home. Bees are threatened by an assortment of factors such as pests, pathogens, pesticides, climate change and a lack of nesting habitat and forage plants.

Bees and flowering plants have a critical relationship. Flowering plants provide nectar and pollen for a bee's diet. Pollen is an essential source of protein for developing bee larvae, and nectar provides a carbohydrate source. Honey bees convert nectar into honey by adding an enzyme which breaks down the complex sugars into simple sugars. Bees, in turn, transport pollen from flower to flower as they forage, allowing for plant fertilization and the production of seeds and fruit.

While trees provide many well-known ecological benefits, the importance of trees as a source of food for bees is sometimes overlooked. Ohio trees can provide food for bees from early spring through late summer, with most tree species in Ohio blooming in spring and early summer. This fact sheet describes some of the Ohio trees that provide food for bees. Trees included in this list have been described as important by multiple researchers and bee experts.

Other trees not listed here can also provide food for bees. For example, Ohio horticultural experts have noted significant bee foraging activity on trees such as Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*), goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) and Japanese pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) in landscape settings.

Consider selecting from this list of trees when choosing species to plant in urban, landscape and rural settings.

## Day in the Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Series

**David Apsley** Natural Resources Specialist  
**College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences** Ohio State University Extension  
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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/>

Annual Planning Meeting will be August 4<sup>th</sup> 11 AM at Fred's Pizza in Waverly Ohio. Anyone interested in helping plan next years programming is welcome to attend. Meal is up to the individual, or just come be a part of the planning.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.  
The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

# OHIO FISH HATCHERIES

## ENHANCING OHIO'S STATE FISH POPULATION



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife operates six state fish hatcheries. Sport fish species raised for stocking in public waters include: coldwater fish (rainbow trout, brown trout), coolwater fish (saugeye, walleye, yellow perch and muskellunge) and warmwater fish (hybrid striped bass, channel catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass). The Division has also raised non-sport species to re-establish threatened and endangered fish populations. The Division raises and stocks over 40 million fish each year to support these programs. Stocking is only one of the fish management tools used by the Division to manage state fish populations. The majority of Ohio's fish populations are sustained through natural reproduction. Stocking is appropriate when natural reproduction cannot sustain a population or to provide short-term fishing opportunities in specific situations or events.

Kincaid State Fish Hatchery is located on more than 200 acres in western Pike County. This facility became operational under the direction of the Division of Conservation, a predecessor to the Division of Wildlife, in 1935. The hatchery has 15 ponds containing a total of 24 water acres. The facility also has six indoor raceways and four indoor rearing troughs. Water is supplied by a spring that can deliver 70-3,000 gallons per minute, depending on groundwater levels. This cold-water supply allows the hatchery to raise muskellunge and rainbow trout. Muskellunge were first raised at the hatchery in 1953 and production has grown steadily since. Muskellunge production starts in the spring, while trout production starts in the fall.

## ODNR COLUMBUS, OHIO

### TAKE STEPS TO MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH TICKS

Outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to be cautious and take steps to minimize contact with Ohio's tick species this summer. Treat outdoor clothing with permeation-based repellents according to the label directions. Tuck pants into socks or boots and shirts into pants to keep ticks on the outside of clothing. It may help to wear light-colored clothing, which will make it easier to spot ticks. Thoroughly check clothes and skin for any attached ticks after any outdoor excursion.

Any attached ticks should be removed as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of contracting tick-borne diseases. To remove a tick, use tweezers or gloved hands. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out with steady, even pressure.

Ohio has three medically important species of tick: the American dog tick, blacklegged tick, and lone star tick. All three species have the potential to transmit diseases to humans and pets. The highest risk for contracting tick-borne disease occurs from June through August, but Lyme disease is possible year-round.

The American dog tick is the most common tick in Ohio and is found in grassy areas. It is most active during the summer months and is the primary transmitter of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Blacklegged tick populations have increased in Ohio since 2010, especially in forested areas. This species is active throughout the year, including winter, and can carry Lyme disease. The blacklegged tick is also known as the deer tick because it is frequently found on white-tailed deer. Lone star ticks are mostly found in southern Ohio in shaded, grassy areas and are active during the warmer months. This species can also transmit several diseases. More information on these and other tick species, and photos to help identification, are found on the Ohio Department of Health webpage.

To learn more about tick-borne diseases and their symptoms, visit [cdc.gov/ticks](http://cdc.gov/ticks). Ticks can transmit disease within 36 to 48 hours after the initial bite. It is important to regularly check for ticks and remove them as quickly as possible. Outdoor recreation increases the chance of encountering ticks. Urban and suburban development also increases the risk as people are close to mice, white-tailed deer, and other hosts for ticks. Pets in an outdoor setting should have tick control.



### JULY 7th

Pap's Hilltop Honey and Distillery, 117 East Main Street in Bainbridge.  
 Chris Lewis will be talking to us about the bee business  
 and also the distilling process

We will meet at the American Legion Pavilion in Bainbridge,  
 across from the Dairy Queen @ 11 AM  
 Please bring your own lunch or plan to eat at the DQ.  
 Bring a lawn chair!

**We will not be having a potluck before this meeting.**



**S.O.F.A.**  
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Visit us on the web at [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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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