



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.

August 4th

Twenty members attended our 4 August planning meeting at Fred’s Pizza in Waverly. The food was good, the service was horrible, and we got a LOT accomplished after we moved the party to the nearby city park. We had a wonderful surprise when our favorite Scot, Stewart McGuire showed up! He’s feeling some better, but our continued good will and prayers will be appreciated. Welcome Back!

Kate, Dana, Jim, Sue, John, and Roger provided some excellent ideas and contacts who can talk about such topics as chainsaw maintenance and safety, invasive plants and how to get rid of them, how to start a butterfly garden, controlled burns, water and well safety, and Ohio concealed carry law.

On Thursday 18 August, anyone who is interested is invited to meet at the Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheater in Chillicothe to attend the outdoor drama Tecumseh! We will meet at the venue for dinner at The Kenton House Food and Ale at 6:00pm (purchased onsite – this is not a potluck) prior to the show. Tickets are available at www.tecumsehndrama.com for \$20-\$30 per person. This will be our September get-to-gather, there will not be a meeting in September.

The location for our topic on 13 October will be CCW laws and requirements, at the Lyons Building in Chillicothe. On 10 November we will have an in-house “farmer’s market” to sell and swap products that each of us makes on our farms and homesteads, location to be announced. The monies raised will go into the scholarship fund for Camp Canopy. Examples of products people will be bringing included eggs, maple syrup, wood products such as walking sticks and baskets, foodstuffs such as pickled vegetables, baked goods, roasted nuts, fresh fruits, etc. We encourage everyone to bring items from their farm that showcase what you do. Some discussion centered around having a silent auction as well. Additional details will be forthcoming in next month’s newsletter.

One other definite meeting date for 2023 – Mark your calendars for tax day, Saturday 15 April, to meet at the fish hatchery in Latham for an Open House and to learn more about how fish eggs are hatched, raised, and then released into local waters. Additional details will be available nearer the date.

Please note, it’s time for me to update the member list. Please send me any updated information, including a telephone number and your email address, to redstreakerhollowfarms@gmail.com by 30 September.

Kelly

It's with sad hearts that we learned of Stuart's passing on August 11th. He will be sorely missed.

Stewart McGuire, 65, of Bainbridge died unexpectedly at Adena Greenfield, following a brief illness. His wife Marianne (Artrup) McGuire survives. Stewart worked as a farrier and was an excellent horseman who had extensive knowledge of horses and a reputation for his gentle handling of them.

We will miss his stories and unforgettable accent.

**SOFA
OFFICERS**

John Usas Chair
937-878-6296

Jim Meacham, Treasurer
740-988-2073
jmeach42@gmail.com

Rick Wright Co-Chair
740-626-2382
wdssteward@gmail.com

Kelly Flaskerud , Secretary
410-703-1512
Redstreakerhollowfarms@gmail.com

Tim Shoemaker, Editor
740-851-9127
tshoe140@horizonview.net

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Going to the Birds by Dana Schmidt

I think birds have always interested me and of course my favorite game to hunt are birds (turkeys and Pheasants). However, I learned to hunt some with binoculars instead of guns. It was only a passing interest until I went to Hocking College (then known as Hocking Technical College) to study Wildlife Management. One of the courses I would take was Ornithology. I had no idea there were so many dad-blame birds. There were sparrows, hawks, seed eaters, insect eaters, raptors, warblers, wrens and many more. Many you would rarely even see if you weren't determined to look for them. They come in all sizes, colors and sounds. Yet, it was right up my alley, and I took to it quickly. I found a whole world happening all around us that we are often unaware of. As I got older I kind of got away from birding, but my ears and eyes have always been drawn to the birds as I go about life outdoors. I especially enjoy the spring when all the birds are in full color and singing their love songs. There is never a year that I don't watch the birds of the woods while I'm turkey hunting. It is one of the things I like about spring gobbler hunting, besides chasing turkeys.

I rekindled my birding interest in 1982 while I was working at Kincaid Fish Hatchery. We got a request from the central office that a Breeding birds of Ohio Atlas was being composed and they needed birders to do survey work in my area. I signed up to survey a couple Blocks and also do a raptor survey. Many early mornings found me in the field before work listening and spotting birds. It was different than just a normal bird-watch and list what you saw. You had to watch behaviors and try and build a probability of nesting criteria. So, you spent time watching and following species. Many were pretty easy to confirm as nesting, but others weren't so easy. Two species I found were of particular interest as there was little to no information on their nesting in Ohio. I found two colonies of nesting Prothonotary warblers (<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/birds/prothonotary-warbler>). At that time, they were considered as doubtful nesters in Ohio. You can usually see this species along Paint Creek below Paint Creek Lake at the tail-waters starting in May. They are often high in the trees, so take binoculars. I also recorded a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes. You can see the data on the shrikes here: http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/newsite/?page_id=48 click on the link to the first Atlas and choose group 7 in the index (waxwings, shrikes Etc) :

It's prime time to start building a bird list as many species are migrating through or returning to nest. The year-round residents are nesting also. Some of the most interesting are the Warblers that will pass through between Late March and June or come and stay to nest. You can go birding with nothing but your senses, but a pair of binoculars is a high priority. It's best you learn some songs as they help you pinpoint a bird and draw your focus to the right area. Starting with a good field guide is recommended, Amazon has several to choose from. Peterson's and Audubon are the two traditional standards.

<https://www.amazon.com/birds-North-America-Books>

Here are some more resources to help you identify birds by sight and sound:

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>, <https://www.audubon.org/news/birding-ohio>.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/ohio/stories-in-ohio/top-five-must-see-migrations-in-ohio/>

The wiki on Ohio birds is a good tool as when you mouse over a name it pops up a picture.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_birds_of_Ohio

Here's a neat sight as you can see a graph of when some warblers are expected in your area of Ohio.

<https://www.gregmillerbirding.com/ohio-warblers-in-spring/>

So if you're looking for something to do You can do it anywhere. Start in your own back yard. Just think a few years ago we would never have thought of Bald Eagles being a common appearance, but they are common now. That will give you a start. The Audubon site as sound files and an app with the birds, to learn songs. Take a notebook and keep a list if you want. Be careful or you may get addicted. For a fun movie on bird watching watch The Big Year .

S.O.F.A. Resource Advisers

Mark Rickey, DNR, Forester Vinton,
Ross, Pickaway
740-774-1596 ext 109
Mark.Rickey@dnr.state.oh.us

Perry Brannan, DNR Forester Jackson,
Lawrence, Galia, Meigs
740-589-9915
Perry.Brannan@dnr.state.oh.us

Brad Wireman, DNR Forester Fayette,
Clinton, Highland, Pike,
Fayette
614-212-3288
brad.wireman@dnr.state.oh.us

Jamie Dahl, Central State Univ. Forest
outreach co-ordinator
740-753-0904
jdahl@centralstate.edu

Dave Runkle, Vinton Soil & Water
Conservation Dist.
740-596-5676
david.runkle@us.oh.nacdn.net

Dave Apsley,
Nat'l Resource Specialist
740-286-5044
apsley.1@osu.edu

Jeremy Scherf, ODNR
Camp Canopy Director
740-439-9079
Jeremy.Scherf@dnr.state.oh.us

Ben Robinson DNR Forester
Clermont, Brown, Adams, Scioto
614-204-9026
Ben.Robinson@dnr.state.oh.us

Emily Archibald, ODNR Private Lands
Biologist 937-347-0925
emily.archibald@dnr.state.oh.us

By [Steve Nix](#)

THE MIMOSA TREE

The scientific name for the mimosa is *Albizia julibrissin*, sometimes called Persian silk tree and a member of the family *Leguminosae*. The tree is not native to North America or Europe but was brought into western countries from Asia. Its genus is named for the Italian nobleman Filippo Albizzi who introduced it to Europe around the middle of the 18th century as an ornamental.

This fast-growing, deciduous tree has a low branching, open, spreading habit and delicate, lacy, almost fern-like foliage. These leaves have a beautiful wispy green look during a normally moist summer but start to dry up and drop in early fall. The leaves express no fall color but the tree does display a showy pink flower with a pleasant fragrance. The flowering process starts in the spring and continues throughout the summer. The fragrant, silky, pink puffy pompom blooms, two inches in diameter, appear from late April to early July creating a spectacular sight.

Unfortunately, the tree produces numerous seed pods that are trashy in the landscape when they fall. The tree harbors insect including webworm and a vascular wilt disease that eventually causes the trees death. Although short-lived (10 to 20 years), Mimosa is popular for use as a terrace or patio tree for its light shade and tropical look but also produces a honey-dew drip on property underneath.

The litter problem of the blooms, leaves, and especially the long seed pods requires consideration when planting this tree. Again, the wood is brittle and has a tendency to break during storms though usually, the wood is not heavy enough to cause damage. Typically, most of the root system grows from only two or three large-diameter roots originating at the base of the trunk. These can raise walks and patios as they grow in diameter and makes for poor transplanting success as the tree grows larger.

The tree is an opportunist and a strong competitor to native trees and shrubs in open areas or forest edges. The silk tree has the ability to grow in various soil types, the ability to produce large amounts of seed, and an ability to resprout when cut back or damaged.

It forms colonies from root sprouts and dense stands that severely reduce the sunlight and nutrients available for other plants. Mimosa is often seen along roadsides and open vacant lots in urban/suburban areas and can become a problem along banks of waterways, where its seeds are easily transported in water.

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.

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 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.

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

By [Bob Strauss](#)

EDGE HABITAT

Across the globe, human development has fragmented once-continuous landscapes and ecosystems into isolated patches of natural habitat. Roads, towns, fences, canals, reservoirs, and farms are all examples of human artifacts that alter the pattern of the landscape.

At the edges of developed areas, where natural habitats meet encroaching human habitats, animals are forced to adapt quickly to their new circumstances—and a closer look at the fate of these so-called "edge species" can give us sobering insights into the quality of the wild lands that remain. The health of any natural ecosystem depends significantly on two factors: the overall size of the habitat, and what is happening along its edges.

Plants are the first living organisms to respond to these changes, usually with increased leaf-fall, elevated tree mortality, and an influx of secondary-successional species. In turn, the combined changes in plant life and microclimate create new habitats for animals. More-reclusive bird species move to the interior of the remaining woodland, while birds better adapted to edge environments develop strongholds on the periphery.

Populations of larger mammals like deer or big cats, which require large areas of undisturbed forest to support their numbers, often decrease in size. If their established territories have been destroyed, these mammals must adjust their social structure to accommodate the closer quarters of the remaining forest.

Researchers have found that fragmented forests resemble nothing so much as islands. The human development that surrounds a forest island acts as a barrier to animal migration, dispersal, and interbreeding (it's very difficult for any animals, even relatively smart ones, to cross a busy highway!).

In these island-like communities, species diversity is governed largely by the size of the remaining intact forest. In a way, this is not all bad news; the imposition of artificial constraints can be a major driver of evolution and the flourishing of better-adapted species.

The changes in animal distribution and population that result from fragmentation and the creation of edge habitats illustrate how dynamic a cut-off ecosystem can be. It would be ideal if—when the bulldozers have disappeared—the environmental damages subsided; unfortunately, this is rarely the case. The animals and wildlife left behind must begin a complex process of adaptation and a long search for a new natural balance.

Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series

David Apsley Natural Resources Specialist

College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Ohio State University Extension

17 Standpipe Road, Jackson, OH 45640 740-710-3009 Mobile

apsley.1@osu.edu e-mail , ou.osu.edu/sehiowoodss website

Here is the tentative 2022 agenda:

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

AMERICAN GINSENG

By **Steve Nix**

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*, L.) is a perennial herb that grows under a portion of the deciduous forest canopies of the eastern United States. Wild ginseng once thrived throughout most of the nation's eastern seaboard. Because of a demand for ginseng root, which is mainly used for its healing and curative properties, ginseng may be over-harvested and has attained endangered species status in some locations. Ginseng diggers are always encouraged to abide by all laws, leave young seedlings and plant all mature seeds. Because of concerned hunters, this non-timber forest product is making a serious comeback in some locations.

Harvesting of "wild" ginseng is legal but only during a specific season defined by your state. It is also illegal to dig ginseng for export if the plant is less than 10 years old (CITES regs). The season is usually the autumn months and requires you to be aware of other federal regulations for harvesting on their lands. Currently, 18 states issue licenses to export it.

Identifying American Ginseng

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) can be most easily identified by its three-pronged (or more) five-leaflet display of the mature plant.

W. Scott Persons, in "American Ginseng, Green Gold," says the best way to identify "sang" during the digging season is to look for the red berries. These berries plus the unique yellowing leaves toward the end of the season make excellent field markers.

American Ginseng's Favorite Habitat

The site is usually a mature hardwood stand where the terrain is sloping to the north and east. It loves a moist but well-drained and thick litter layer with more than just a tad of undergrowth. You will find yourself looking at a lot of other species of plants thinking they may be the prize. Young hickory or Virginia creeper will confuse the beginner.

So, American ginseng grows in shady woodlands with rich soils. Ginseng is found predominately in the Appalachian region of the United States that provides the natural cold/warm cycle so important in preparing the seed for germination.

Digging American Ginseng

Some ginseng diggers harvest ginseng after the fifth year of germinating from seed, but quality improves as the plant ages. A new federal CITES regulation now puts a 10-year legal harvest age on ginseng roots collected for export. Harvesting at an earlier age can be done in many states but only for domestic use. Virtually none of the remaining ginseng plants in the wild are 10 years old.

The roots are dug in the fall and vigorously washed to remove surface soil. It is important to handle the roots carefully to keep the branching forks intact and maintain the natural color and circular markings.

The above photo shows a seedling that is too small for harvest. This ginseng plant is 10" tall with only one prong. Leave it for as long as practicable (10 years if sold for export). The metal tool is also not appropriate as it could damage the root. Professional hunters use sharpened and flattened sticks to gently "grub" up the entire root. Start your digging several inches away from the base of the ginseng stem. Try to work your stick under the root to gradually loosen the soil.

W. Scott Persons in "American Ginseng, Green Gold" suggests you follow these four rules when digging:

1. Only dig mature plants.
2. Only dig after the seeds turn dark red.
3. Dig carefully.
4. Plant back some of the seeds.

Preparing the American Ginseng Root

Ginseng roots should be dried on wire-netting shelves in a heated, well-ventilated room. Since overheating destroys color and texture, begin drying the roots at a temperature between 60 and 80 F for the first few days, then gradually increase it to about 90 F for three to six weeks. Turn the drying roots frequently. Store the roots in a dry, airy, rodent-proof container just above freezing.

The shape and age of a ginseng root influence its marketability. A root that resembles a person is fairly rare and worth a lot of money. The most marketable roots are old, variously shaped and forked, moderate in size, stubby but tapering, off-white, light in weight but firm when dried, and have numerous, closely formed rings of wrinkles. Exported American ginseng roots are sold mainly to the Chinese market. There is also a growing domestic market as people are using more and more ginseng as an herbal product.



OCTOBER 13th

John Brown of J B's Gunshop

Information on CCW, and gun laws
 We all need to be knowledgeable in the area of firearms!

Meeting will be at the Lyons Building just off Piatt Ave. in Chillicothe
 We will observe our usual carry in dinner and short meeting



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