



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.

**JULY SOFA OUTING &
AUGUST SOFA PLANNING MEETING**

We met at the tree farm of Fred and Judy Hempsted on July 13th for a cook out and tour of the farm. Despite the threat of rain, the weather co-operated with a beautiful evening. There was good food, good company, and some interesting information about what the Hempsted's were doing on their farm. Thanks to Fred and Judy for hosting us!

Our annual officers' meeting was held on Tuesday, 8 August at Richie's in Piketon. We had a very productive meeting during which we discussed this year's remaining meetings, the November not-so-silent auction fundraiser, the annual Christmas party, and topics for 2024 meetings.

We also offered our condolences to Jim Meacham on the death of his lovely wife, Pam. Please keep Jim and Pam, their family, and friends in your thoughts and prayers. He was presented with a set of wind chimes from SOFA in memory of Pam. (Obituary on page 5)

On Saturday, 16 September, we will meet at Randy Sander's for a farm tour and cookout. Plan to arrive at 11:00am and be sure to bring chairs! (Driving directions on page 5)

October will be a busy month for us, on 5 October 2023, Wayne Oney will be hosting a farm tour at his property at 31686 Gibson Hollow Rd in Londonderry. David Runkle, a forester with the Vinton Co. Soil & Water Conservation District will discuss CAUV requirements for your property and after lunch Wayne will talk about the 100 year history of one particular 100 acre hollow that is now his farm. We will take a short walk to look at various roads, their purposes and locations, and discuss laying out a new road and the thought process involved before construction.

October 12th, Brent and Kelly will be accepting an award from the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District for our outreach efforts. The event will be held at The Barn on Buchanan Rd in Pike county, and will be a combination dinner celebration and annual meeting for PSWCD. There is no charge for attending and we are encouraged to attend as a group and spread the good word about SOFA. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Darlene Brewster at Darlene.Brewster@oh.nacdnet.net. Additional details will be forthcoming as we get them and will be posted on the Facebook page and in the next newsletter.

The November auction will again take place at the Lion's Clubhouse in Chillicothe. Be sure to save some goodies for the group to bid on!

Our annual Christmas party and annual business meeting will be held on Thursday 14 December at the Pike County Fish and Game Club. We will be electing officers for the new year, so if you'd like to volunteer, please let me know.

Cheers, Kelly

SOFA T Shirts

We have T shirts with trees and the SOFA emblem on them. They are great to get the word out about our forestry group. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt. Contact any officer and we will make arrangements to get them to you, or better yet, attend a meeting and purchase there!

**SOFA
OFFICERS**

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

CAMP CANOPY NEWS

Highlighting the recent effort of one of our forest pros [Jake Peer](#) volunteering at [Camp Canopy](#) in Ohio at this year. Camp Canopy is a long running program for high school aged students with volunteer educators from many different fields of natural resources. This year's camp hosted 80 campers that learned about finding snakes, turtles, and salamanders; measuring tree volumes; and how to identify more than 20 tree species. There were also sessions on how Ohio's Native Americans used and managed forests in the past, including how they made and hunted with atlatls. And of course, career opportunities in natural resources! It's great to see the passion for educating and inspiring the next generation, nice work Jake!

Of course Jake was one of many, many volunteers and experts it takes to pull off such an event, so credit is due to all who made the event in Ohio a success! Give them a shout out if you know more!

Hunter Fodor

Michigan Wildlife and biodiversity, Sustainable timber harvest or non-timber forest products

16 Jun 2023

Forest Professional Friday: Hinge-Cutting, An Unsafe & Unsustainable Management Practice

Many landowners in the Midwest have goals that are specific to wildlife management and recreational hunting opportunities. Providing habitat for desired wildlife species such as white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and wild turkey can go hand in hand with sustainable forest management. Unfortunately, many activities that are promoted by uneducated “habitat managers” can have long-term negative effects on forest sustainability and future wildlife populations. One such activity that has gained popularity in recent years is the method of hinge cutting.

Hinge cutting is the process of cutting a tree using only a back-cut that creates an intentional “barber chair”. The intent of this is to maintain a portion of the sapwood/cambium layer attached to the stump to keep the tree alive and in a horizontal manner. In theory this living tree will then produce vertical limbs/shoots from the trunk that provide cover and browse to local wildlife at the understory level.

The problem with this method is 1) a “barber chair” is a dangerous cutting outcome that should be avoided due to the safety hazard that it creates. 2) The idea is that these stems stay alive moving into the future and create habitat for wildlife. However, based on the dozens of hinge-cut scenarios I have encountered in the forest, and the recent data collection I performed, this just is not the case.

In 2022 I collected data on a State of Michigan Game Area where 8-years prior 233 trees were hinge-cut. After review, I found that only 18.9% (44 trees) of the hinge cut trees had trunks that remained attached to the hinge/stump. Of those trees only 4.7% (11 trees) had trunks that were still living and had foliage present. This means that after only 8 years a mere 11 trees of the 233 originally hinge-cut were still in the condition intended. Besides the obvious failure of these hinge-cuts this site had now been overtaken by invasive plant species and provided little-to-no benefit to native wildlife.

There are many great management practices that can benefit desired wildlife species. Sustainable forest management can provide improved habitat while also increasing recreational opportunities. From my research and observations, however, I think hinge-cutting is a practice that is best left unused.

To understand more about why hinge cutting is unsustainable and unsafe check out the report and article on my website at the following links:

https://community.forestfoundation.org/links?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hlmforestry.com%2Fpost%2FHinge-cutting-an-unsafe-unsustainable-activity&lid=Ps3HWoMj5tI6JBT8A_oU0Q

https://community.forestfoundation.org/links?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hlmforestry.com%2Fadditional-resources%2F8f3227c8-e0cf-49d7-848f-c1342a5877ca&lid=Ps3HWoMj5tI6JBT8A_oU0Q

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Tentative program schedule for A DAY in the Woods in 2023

Sept 8– Improving Your Woodlot

Location: Vinton Furnace State Forest

For registration contact:

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College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Ohio State
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While working at a pizza place, I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone, and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into four pieces or six.. He thought about it for some time before responding.

"Just cut it into four pieces. I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat six pieces."

“ How little we know of what there is to know”

About Smokin'

It Picks Your Pockets, Burns Your Clothes,
& Makes a Chimney Out of Your Nose!

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

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.

Gardens, Katydids and Catfish

Summer's songs and quest

It's Late July to mid-August and it's hot, humid, and called the dog days of summer.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

The dog days or dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius (known colloquially as the "Dog Star"), which Hellenistic Astrology connected with heat, drought sudden Thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

Despite the disparaging terminology there's a lot happening in the mid-summer heat and humidity. I don't particularly like it and those close to me will tell you that I am a cool weather person, but it is a time of great harvest and happenings. It's time to get busy and both a time to wait. Our environment is dependent on this period. Many plants and trees are maturing their fruit and seeds during this period.

This is the season we begin to see the fruits of spring's labor in the garden. Tomatoes are ripening, green beans are ready, new potatoes can be dug and sweet corn is ready to pick. Blackberries have ripened and cabbage is ready to cut, as well. If you garden, you probably preserve food for later use by canning and freezing. Mornings or late evenings find you out harvesting in the garden before or after the heat. Other times find many of us sweating in the kitchen about the task of cleaning and preparing all the bounty. This is also the time of great fresh meals. We relish when we can sit down to a meal and say, "nothing on this table was purchased (maybe just a meat)". However, many times the meat is homegrown as well. Fresh chicken or home butchered meat is part of many rural homes today. Man, that feels good and is delicious. I bet most of us also have a surplus and enjoy sharing the crop with neighbors and family.

Mary Lou and I also have an extensive flower garden on the Schmidt farm. August means blooms by the thousands. I am not bashful in saying they are beautiful. We enjoy them immensely and enjoy sharing them. Sunflowers, Dahlias and Zinnias get the largest plantings, because they are the boss' favorites. It really is a special time of year.

The wonder doesn't stop when the sun sets. Nights have their own splendor and activities. Every night has its own symphony of Katydids and bugs. One step outside and I am reliving nights on the banks of paint Creek waiting for a catfish to bite, watching the meteors and listening to the Katydid Chorus. I have fond memories of August nights from my younger years.

As a teenager and young man, I waited for August with great anticipation. We farmed and mostly lived by subsistence harvesting from the land. What they popularly call homesteading on the social media and TV outlets now, we called it surviving. This meant putting produce in the freezer and cupboard and meat in the freezer. We raised "fryin" chickens and August was butchering time for those, but my focus was on a more varied meat, Flathead catfish. August was when the flatheads finished spawning and came off their nest hungry. Dark August nights with a thunderstorm meant these behemoths were on the prowl for food. I set trot lines and limb lines in deep holes waiting for them to stir. Daytime meant catching bait in local streams and ponds. Bait was often bluegills and other fish big enough to clean and eat, but big flatheads like big meals. We targeted big flatheads in the 20-to-40-pound range. Most summers we were successful in getting at least a couple "big-uns". My personal best is 42 pounds. The meat off a big flathead is mostly white and solid. They are best when the thin dark red layer is removed leaving only the pure white meat. It is sweet and delicious. This was a freezer staple right beside the chicken and beef in our house. Yep, Dog days are for far more than laying around like a lazy dog.

Dana F Schmidt 8/12/2023

Tentative SOFA Meetings 2023

September 16th	Farm Tour @ Randy Sanders Farm in Pike county 11 AM – 3 PM
October 5th	Farm Tour @ Wayne & Lynn Oney's Farm 10 AM : 3 PM
November 9th	Auction / fund raiser at the Lions Building 7 PM
December 14th	Annual Meeting / Christmas Party Pike Co Fish & Game 7 PM-?

**Tour of the Sander's farm - Saturday September 16, 2023 from 11:00 - 3:00.
Randy's Cell 614.288.0604**

Sanders Farm Address: 1424 Vanaka Bank Rd., Lucasville OH. Note: Three roads form a triangle around our farm- Vanaka Bank (T-311), Left Fork (T-312) and SR 772. Our gate is just east of where McCann Rd. (T-310) dead ends into Vanaka.

From the north turn south onto SR772, go 8.6 miles, turn left onto Camp Creek Rd (CR 22) past Salyers Rd (closed) then right onto McCann Rd (T310) and left onto Vanaka Bank at deadend.

From the south - go to Rarden (SR 73) then turn north onto SR 772. Go past the Mt. Joy church and Big Bear Creek Rd. to Left Fork Rd (T312) - can only turn right. Then a hard left onto Vanaka Bank at the big intersection where Unger Hill also ends/begins. Driveway/gate on the left before McCann Rd.

Note - go slow up the driveway especially over the 9 water bars and take at an angle on low side. Stay on the gravel there are some deep ditches where culverts go under.

Lunch: Randy will provide grilled hotdogs, chips, water and sodas.

Bring - lawn chair and tick/chigger spray.

Program: We will be walking around the farm to view past wildlife habitat and forestry projects (mostly EQIP) including wetlands, TSI, and invasive plant control. May also have the sawmill out for a quick milling demonstration.

PAM MEACHAM OBITUARY

Pamela Beth (Mullady) Meacham, age 79, of Jackson, Ohio passed away Saturday, July 22, 2023, at Four Winds Community of Jackson. She was born February 23, 1944 in Lima, Ohio, to John T. and Avanelle D. (Holbrook) Mullady. On August 21, 1965 she married her high school sweetheart, James F. Meacham, who survives in Jackson.

Pam was a 1962 graduate of Lima Senior High School. She received a degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy from The Ohio State University. She worked as Speech and Hearing Therapist for a short time for the Cory-Rawson, Ohio school system. From there she (and Jim) moved to Carbondale, Illinois, where she set up and ran a Speech and Hearing Program for a consortium of seven country school systems. From there Pam (and Jim) moved to Midland, Texas and later Houston where Pam operated a home daycare center. Jim retired from his oil company position and they moved to Jackson, Ohio. Here they raised 4-H Dairy Goats and opened Hand Me Ups Children's Resale Store until 2002 when they both fully retired.

She especially enjoyed her children and grandchildren, reading, travel, her goats and pets. She was active in the Jackson Historical Society, Friends of Buckeye Furnace, Friends of Leo Petroglyph, and the Southern Ohio Forestland Association.

Pam and Jim were blessed with 6 children, Bethany A. Brunsman of Lincoln, Nebraska, Genevieve R. "Geny" Hernandez of El Lago, Texas, Joel F. Meacham of Maineville, Ohio, and Marcus A. Meacham of Honolulu, Hawaii; Jefferson P. "Jeff" Meacham of Jackson and Roshel L. Meacham, who preceded her in death; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Pam and Jim also fostered 50 babies for a private agency over a 13 year period while living in Houston.

Other survivors include sister, Deborah J. "Debbie" (Mullady) Leach of Florida.

Pam spent her last several years at Four Winds Community.

As per Pam's request no viewing hours will be observed. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to Lewis & Gillum Funeral Home of Jackson. The interment of ashes will be in Fairmount Cemetery at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to www.lewisgillum.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Ohio's Hospice, 200 Timberline Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750..



SEPTEMBER 16th Farm Tour Randy Sanders Tree Farm
 11 AM-3 PM
Tour, Hike, and Demonstrations
Hot Dogs, & Chips for Lunch
Bring a Chair and a Drink

See page 5 for driving directions



S.O.F.A.
 1864 Shyville Rd
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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 776, Jackson Oh 45640

Make Check Payable to Southern Ohio Forestry Association (SOFA)

Individual \$15, Family \$25, Partnership, Association, or Corporation \$25