



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 MEETING

We had a great meeting at Dana and Mary Lou Schmidt's farm on 8 August. They warned us all beforehand that the flowers were not at their peak due to Mother Nature's mischief, but they're were gorgeous! We all appreciated their beauty and it sure seemed like the local butterflies and bees appreciated their sweetness. I saw yellow swallowtails all over the place! The pizza from Silo Station was good too. And as always, the fellowship was the best part of the day.

In terms of the actual business meeting, we have several items on the "honey-please-do" list that need to happen sooner rather than later and will be asking for volunteers to work together to get these things done. One of the most important topics we discussed was how to increase our membership. Several great ideas were discussed including having each of us bring potential new members to meetings. If you know of someone who owns woodlands - from church, from work, your neighbors, friends or family, bring them to a meeting sometime.

I can't begin to describe how much Brent and I have learned from you all since our first time attending. And that doesn't even count all of the new friends and the fun we've had since then. So please give it some thought and invite someone to an upcoming meeting.

In the same vein, we are going to update the trifold brochure, Sue Hillger and Tim Shoemaker are already working on that, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please let them know. Once it's ready, we will print them out so that they're available for the people who you think might be interested in joining our group.

To increase membership and visibility within the community, it was proposed that we establish SOFA Representatives within each of our member Counties (Pike, Ross, Scioto, Adams, Highland, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Jackson, and Lawrence) to be a point of contact for outreach and to provide information to people and organizations such as teachers, 4-H leaders, fair boards, State and Federal employees, etc. Examples might include providing Camp Canopy information to your local high school FFA or VO-AG teacher, sharing brochures with the local ODNR folks and real estate agents, and introducing yourself to the local extension office staff.

We also need to review our by-laws before the December meeting. Dana has volunteered to start that project, but it's always good to have someone to bounce ideas off of, so if you're interested, please reach out or raise your hand at the next meeting.

We also talked about what topics we want to learn about next year. Some of the ideas included learning about the Carbon Tax Credit Program; touring a local orchard to learn more about how incorporating fruit trees can enhance your timber farm; the advantages and requirements for offering hunting leases on your property; learning about Ohio's birds, (especially our eagles and owls); learning about Native American artifacts and culture and touring Serpent Mound; visiting the stave plant to see how barrels are made from white oak; forest edibles, foraging, and using forest products in medicine; visiting a large scale maple syrup processor; and grading and processing lumber. Another idea that sounds like the perfect time to have potential new members attend is a "SOFA Show and Tell" meeting where we showcase what we do and who we are. We have members who grow things, cook things, build things, and create things using our own forest products that are amazing and beautiful and delicious! At some point, we should show off a tiny bit and talk about what we do with our woodlands.

Cont'd

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

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## AUGUST MEETING CONT'D

As you can imagine, it was a very productive meeting! And we have an exciting year ahead. The rest of this year is going to be interesting too. Look for additional details about the 12 September meeting which will include a tour of the 345 Allen Avenue ODNR house in Chillicothe and the 10 October meeting at our house to talk about bats! Just a heads up on the October meeting, we may start the meeting a bit early because it gets dark so early. And, you're welcome to come see all the decorations... I love Halloween and used to decorate for about 600 tiny trick-or-treaters. (No blood, no gore, no big scares, because we really did have lots of little ones coming over when we lived in DC.) Our speaker in October will be a bat researcher from OSU. I think it's going to be very interesting and informative. See you all soon!

Cheers, Kelly

### The Farm Table

“Dang that was good”

I chuckle sometimes when I watch all these youtube videos on homesteading, gardening and farming. They act like they have discovered a great revelation on life, but it's just good old fashion rural living. I like Andrew Zimmern's Bizarre Foods America show. The man is braver than me, but he also finds people eating off the land at good old home and farm tables. Mary Lou and I both grew up in rural homes farming and working on the land. We didn't even realize we were homesteading, so to speak, or living self sufficient lifestyles. It was just life.

My focus today is on the farm table of our youth and even into our adult lives. I wonder if today's society and families are missing out on a great treasure. I will tell you neither one of our households had much money, but man we sat at a rich man's table. For one thing, when it was mealtime, we washed up and sat down at a table together. A snapshot of that table was pure food paradise. Today's supper might be pan fried chicken, Mashed potatoes and gravy, Green beans, cornbread and a dessert of blackberry pie. There was plenty to go around and most of it came right off the farm. Another day might find a table set with wild game, Fried rabbit, fried potatoes, gravy, Greens and buttered corn with light bread rolls. Somedays it might just be a big pot of beans and cornbread. We raised and foraged a lot of our food, and I never sat down at a farm table that wasn't good.

There was a different sentiment back then too. If you worked on the farm or even nearby and you were known to the family, then there was always a place for you at the table. It was almost an obligation to feed the workers.

I remember with great fondness my mother-in-law's table. I learned not long after Mary Lou and I started dating that it was an open invitation. She (Bessie ) fixed a full meal for every meal time and when it was time to eat you never knew who all might show up. If cousins, brothers, friends or neighbors were close they were expected to come in and eat. If you declined, you missed some damn good grub. The woman could cook a clump of dirt and make it delicious. She loved making bread and pies and after we were married, we would get a call that said I made you some rolls, and you made it a point to get them while warm if you could. The best part of it all was the love that was cooked into it.

Both our mothers made Sunday dinner a special deal. All the family would show up for Sunday dinner. It was an event. The work could wait, this was a day to feast and rest. Whatever the menu, it was always large. There were always plenty of discussions and always somewhere a full belly nap.

My granny would be so offended if someone didn't eat at her house. She made many great jellies and jams and man she could fix fried squirrel and gravy on her old wood stove that was insane. Her fame came from her cinnamon rolls. She made them for each family every Christmas. I would challenge any pastry chef anywhere to duplicate them, I think she got the recipe straight from heaven. Sadly no one kept the recipe and although many have tried to reproduce them from memory, they have all fallen short. I think the missing ingredient is granny.

I remember dad taking us to help a farmer harvest one year and the gentleman that asked us told us there were strict dinner rules and we were puzzled. We soon found out what he meant. When lunch time approached, we stopped working and was told to sweep off a wagon bed. Soon an old car came slowly across the field and stopped. The farmers wife had brought lunch. First, she came out with soap and water and ruled we would all wash or not eat. Then she whipped out a tablecloth on the wagon and set a full table, dishes, silver ware and all. Then pot after pot of food. When she was done, we said a blessing and were allowed to eat. This happened every day we worked on the farm. Dad offered to give her something to help with the dinners and she said no it was her blessing to do it. Yup that is what a farm table looks like. I'm not saying it doesn't still exist today, but I think we could practice it a little more and maybe the love that was shared at those tables would make this world of fast food a little better.

Dana Schmidt

Frustrations.

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**Thoughts on cleaning up your woodland**

There are a few key things that can help guide the management of standing dead trees and fallen dead trees and wood. Standing dead trees provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds that feed on insects that move into the dead trees. So try to leave them unless they pose a hazard to buildings or roadways. A compromise is to remove the top of a tree but leave the bottom portion for habitat.

At what point does that dead wood become too much fuel load? How do you evaluate this? Wood on the ground is a fire hazard only if it is small, less than about 3 inches diameter. These small fuels provide most of the energy to wildfires, including large crown fires. If there are areas on your property where you want to reduce fire hazard, focus on removal of these small fuels. Larger pieces of wood, especially downed logs provide habitat for many vertebrate and invertebrate species, so leave them on the ground if possible. Downed wood also returns nutrients and carbon to the soil and contributes to moisture retention during the summer.

No one can really know for sure what type of management will produce the most resilient and productive forests. In human history, our strongest theory is that by managing for a range of ecological conditions consistent with the historic range of variability, we have the best chance of conserving many of the characteristics that allow our forests to grow and adapt.

Large quantities of coarse woody debris - as long as they are not spreading disease, preventing regeneration, or inhibiting wildlife passage - fall within the realm of variability. But they, they probably constitute an elevated fire risk too. Scale is important as well. A patch of windfallen timber an acre or two in size constitutes much less risk than hundreds or thousands of acres in the same condition.

To be a bit tongue in cheek, if you can walk a mile on top of a mat of slash without touching the ground, you probably want to consider doing some fuel management!

**Medical Joke:**

During my check-up I asked the Doctor, "So do you think I'll live a long and healthy life then?"

He replied, "I doubt it somehow. Mercury is in Uranus right now."

I said, "I don't go in for any of that astrology nonsense."

He replied, "Neither do I. My thermometer just broke."

**A Note to all who read this newsletter:**

You do not have to be a member to attend our monthly activities, come see what we are all about. No need to bring anything, just come enjoy! We'll feed you for free!

More info: Email [tshoe140@horizonview.net](mailto: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.

## Tentative SOFA Meetings 2024

September 12 th	Lion's Building / Tour of the ODNR building
October 10 th	Brent & Kelly's Spooky Hollow (Bats)
November 14 th	Auction / fund raiser
December 12 th	Annual Meeting / Christmas Party

**The annual Farm Science Review** in London, Ohio is almost here. As always, we will be at the Gwynne Conservation Area this year. Our schedule of talks did not make it into our newsletter this year due to a timing issue, so we wanted to be sure you had it. We have some great talks this year, including 'Eat Wild' themed talk on Tuesday.

In addition, we are having a **Pollinator Event at the OSU Mansfield Campus** on August 28, from 12 pm – 1:30 pm. We will be serving free pancakes with OSU maple syrup, blueberry syrup, and honey (whatever your preference ?)! This is a fun, laid-back event with a chance to speak with NR professionals working in the pollinator arena.

We hope to see you at one or both of these events! For more info: **Marne A. Titchenell** Wildlife Program Director, OSU Extension School of **Environment and Natural Resources** College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Rd, Columbus, OH 43210 614-292-0402 Office [titchenell.4@osu.edu](mailto:titchenell.4@osu.edu) [u.osu.edu/wildside](http://u.osu.edu/wildside)

## *A DAY in the WOODS*

We are proud to announce the lineup of events for the 2024 edition – our 13<sup>th</sup> season!

**September 13** – Night Fliers (5pm)  
**October 11** – Critter Homes: Wildlife Habitat Improvements  
**November 8** – Forest Stand Improvement

You can find our 2024 brochure on our [Facebook Page](#) and [Website](#) for any updates.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

### **Jessica Burns**

Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator  
 Community Development Educator

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## SOFA DUES

Please note! We don't want to loose anyone as a member, If your dues have been forgotten for the past few years, NO WORRIES! If you simply pay the current years dues, you will be completely caught up! We value your involvement, and would love to see you at the next meeting! Our Officers try hard to put on informative programs, as well as fun things that we “Outdoors People” like to do! See you soon!

## Southern Pine Beetle by Parks Brigman

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is currently causing significant concern among forest landowners in the southern United States. This tiny insect, no larger than a grain of rice, is one of the most destructive pests affecting pine forests in the region. The current outbreak is affecting several southern states, including from Louisiana to the Carolinas. The Alabama Forestry Commission shows that SPB levels are at their highest in nearly 25 years and Louisiana legislators have convened an emergency panel to address the myriad of issues that can result from an SPB epidemic.

The Southern Pine Beetle is a native bark beetle that primarily targets loblolly, shortleaf, pitch, and Virginia pines. While it has always been present in southern forests, its population levels can fluctuate dramatically, leading to periodic outbreaks. The beetle is particularly attracted to stressed or weakened trees, making forests that have experienced drought, storm damage, or other stressors more vulnerable.

The beetles tunnel beneath the bark, creating intricate galleries that disrupt the flow of water and nutrients within the tree, ultimately killing it. An infested tree can die within weeks, and the beetles can rapidly spread to neighboring trees, leading to widespread damage.

Understanding the nature of the outbreak, its impact on forests, and effective management strategies can help landowners protect their timber and maintain healthy forest ecosystems.

Early detection of Southern Pine Beetle infestations is crucial to limiting damage. Signs of infestation may include:

**Pitch Tubes:** One of the first signs is the presence of small, popcorn-sized pitch (sap) tubes on the bark of infested trees. These are formed when the tree attempts to defend itself by exuding resin - to 'pitch out' the insects

**Fading Needles:** As the beetles continue to damage the tree, needles will begin to fade from green to yellow and eventually turn reddish-brown as the tree dies.

**S-Shaped Galleries:** If the bark is peeled back, you may see the characteristic S-shaped galleries created by the beetles as they tunnel through the tree's cambium layers.

**Woodpecker Activity:** Increased woodpecker activity can also indicate an infestation, as these birds feed on the beetles and their larvae.

Managing Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks requires prompt and decisive action. Here are some strategies to consider:

**Monitoring and Early Detection:** Regularly monitor your forest for signs of SPB activity, especially during peak seasons in the spring and fall. Early detection allows for quicker response, potentially saving large areas of your forest.

**Thinning:** Overcrowded pine stands are more susceptible to SPB infestations. Thinning your forest can reduce competition among trees, lowering stress levels and making the stand less attractive to beetles. This practice also improves air circulation and sunlight contributing to overall forest health.

**Salvage Logging:** If an infestation is detected, consider salvage logging to remove infested trees before the beetles can spread further. This can help contain the outbreak and reduce economic losses.

**Insecticides:** In high-value stands or areas where other methods are not feasible, insecticides may be used to protect trees. However, this method is often used as a last resort due to the costs and potential environmental impacts. Consult with local forestry experts to determine the most appropriate treatment options.

**Prescribed Burning:** In some cases, prescribed burning can be used to reduce the risk of SPB outbreaks by eliminating potential beetle habitats. However, this method should only be conducted by trained professionals in accordance with local regulations.

**Looking Ahead:** Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks present a significant challenge for forest landowners. When beetle populations reach epidemic levels, landowners may face long lasting impacts. Regular monitoring and proactive management can help mitigate the damage. Working with a forester and staying informed about the latest research and recommendations can help you make the best decisions to protect the future of your forestland.

## Sayings worth repeating:

Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.  
Do not play a leap frog with a unicorn.  
Don't steal, the government hates competition.  
Growing old is inevitable...Growing up is optional.  
If at first you don't succeed, skydiving ain't for you.  
Officer, "I am not speeding I am qualifying."

The ODNR House is on the corner of High St. & Allen Ave

**DIRECTIONS TO THE LION'S BUILDING from ODNR**

From Allen Ave. / High St., Go 2 blocks west, turn right on Piatt Ave., 6 blocks, turn right into ally (Lion's sign), Second Building on the left.

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

345 Allen Avenue "ODNR house" in Chillicothe  
Meet here at 3:30 for a tour of the amazing building that houses our ODNR friends!  
After the tour we will head over to the Lions Building at Piatt Ave. for our traditional pot luck meal and some fellowship!

Looking for someone to volunteer to keep and bring the plates, cutlery, coffee, cups etc. to the monthly meetings. See one of the officers!

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

3681 US Highway 23  
Chillicothe Oh 45601



Visit us on the web at [www.ohiosofa.org](http://www.ohiosofa.org)

Meeting locations will vary from month to month, watch for announcements!

**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 Forestland Association (SOFA)

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