



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.

September 13th Outing

Hi all. We had a really fun time at Tim Shoemaker's farm on Thursday evening. The pseudo campfire cooking competition between Tim/Wayne and John/Rick yielded some wonderful dishes to add to our always plentiful pot luck meal. The voting was rather sketchy, but I believe there was a tie. All the food was delicious.

The cooks described their working methods with the use of a Dutch oven. The Tim/Wayne team used an open wood fire with Dutch ovens hanging on chains above the coals. They also put wood coals on the top of each oven. For appetizers they cooked little pizzas on a flat griddle over the fire. They also exhibited a "rocket stove" made from cement blocks.

The John/Rick team placed their Dutch ovens on a flat table surface with charcoal underneath and on top of the pots. Rick's venison roast took several hours to cook so he was tending his fire all afternoon. I believe John has now perfected his recipes for fruit cobbler and corn casserole! They have become our usual contribution for many occasions. Our meeting was very well attended. I counted 35 folks. They must have been drawn by the expectation of a camp food festival. I don't believe anyone was disappointed or went away hungry.

The meeting was officially called to order by our illustrious chairperson, Dana, at 7:15. He announced date (Dec 13), time (6pm), and place (Pike Fish and Game Club) for our upcoming Annual Meeting & Christmas party. The club is located on Fish and Game Rd near Lake White. Catering will be provided by The 7 Miles Smokehouse of Chillicothe. I suggest folks go to the restaurant and do some taste testing. John and I did and give a big "thumbs up" to everything we tried. I'm getting hungry just thinking about it!

Our group, sadly, has lost another member, Joe Gordy. Betsy announced that a graveside service is to be held at the Bainbridge Cemetary on Oct 6 at 3 pm. A celebration of both Joe and PJ will follow at the Pierson's home. (Yet another opportunity for a pot luck)!

Note: Pike Lake Rd proposed opening date is Friday, Sept 21.

Also of news: young Steve Wilson was named Senior Citizen of the Year by the Bainbridge Senior Center; And Dana has received an email from another science teacher who has utilized our website and links to related sites.

The Photo contest rules for our Oct meeting: limit each participant to 6 photo entries from trail cams and 6 from handheld cameras. Entries to be submitted at least seven days before the meeting.

We are losing 2 great members who are moving out of state. Gary and Linda Blair will be greatly missed. Good luck to you both in this next phase in the adventure of life! We hope you can join us at our Christmas Party this Dec. A beautiful handmade Shaker box by Tim Shomaker was given to them as a parting gift from SOFA.

Cont'd

SOFA OFFICERS

Dana Harsh, Chair
740-835-6491
धारsh1958@yahoo.com

Fern Beathard , Secretary
(740)634-2799
overlookhillsfarm@gmail.com

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

Betsy Pierson, , Co Chair
740-703-1645
prsn@horizonview.net

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

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

We welcomed new members, RJ and Melissa Donahue. They were invited to wash dishes.....as a new member initiation? ha ha (we could never get any participation with this trick)

Much hilarity and "lame duck" jokes followed. Dana closed the meeting as we all continued to enjoy the evening together. All meetings should be this fun.

Happy trails, Fern

A Day in the Woods Tentative Program Schedule for 2018

February 5, 2018

by [David Apsley](#)

November 9th – Understanding Woodland Wildlife Habitat & Critters that Rely on it.

9 am to 3:30 pm. Vinton Furnace State Forest. Registration fee \$12. Learn about the various woodland wildlife habitats that can be found in Appalachian Ohio. Discover techniques that you can use to monitor the habitat in your woods.

A SATURDAY in the WOODS – Family Event. Date to be Determined. Noon to 9:30 pm. Vinton Furnace State Forest. Registration fee to be determined. We have not worked out the details yet, but we are planning to offer a Saturday event kids from 1 to 100. This event will provide multiple opportunities to explore the forest and its inhabitants. We hope to end the day with a night program focusing on night skies and nocturnal animals.

SOFA Tentative scheduled for 1019

January.....No Meeting
 February 14thSalamanders and other creek critters.
 March 7thSurveying your property.
 April 11thProgram about Camp Canopy.
 May 9thThe Chestnut Tree.
 June (TBA).....Christmas Tree Farm Tour. (Saturday)
 July (TBA).....Kids Day
 August 8thAnnual Planning Meeting
 September 12thOhio State Park Activities Presentation
 October (TBA).....Kaldmo Farm Tour
 November 14thOpen Mic / Photo Contest / Camp Fund Auction
 December 12thAnnual Membership Meeting and Christmas Party

Tentative **2018** SOFA schedule

October 11th.....Forest to Family Room
 November 8th.....Open Mic & Photo Contest
 December 13th.....Annual Meeting and Dinner

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
740-493-2441
brad.wireman@dnr.state.oh.us

Cameron Bushong, DNR, Forester
Athens, Morgan, Washington,
Perry
740-596-1102
Camron.Bushong@dnr.state.oh.us

Jason Van Houten, DNR Forester
Madison, Franklin
614-265-6703
Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us

Dave Apsley, Nat'l Resource
Specialist 740-286-2177
dapsley@postoffice.ag.ohio.state.edu

Mike Besonen, West Dist Forester,
South Central Ohio
740-772-3681
Michael.besonen@glatfelter.com

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

The Lost Language of American Loggers

Remember Paul Bunyan and his big, blue ox? The giant frontier logger may be a vaguely-recalled legend today, but in the mid-twentieth century, he was a symbol of a disappearing, iconically American way of life.

The lumber industry had begun to see American forests as giant tree farms. Loggers used trucks and tractors to bring in the harvest, and treated the job like any other, living in towns near forested areas with their wives and children.



In the earlier tradition of lumberjacks who spent most of their time in logging camps far from civilization, creating “a vocabulary so pithy and colorful that its memory stays alive in loggers’ sentimental hearts.” Although, as it turns out, much of that vocabulary didn’t make it into any account since “most of the loggers’ lingo has been, through the years, semantically too high-test for print.”

One word that did jump into mainstream use was “haywire,” the term’s actual origins were in the reuse of wire from a hay bale to repair a strap or chair, hang wet clothes on the line, or hold together a cracked stove. The kind of logging venture that required a great deal of such inventiveness

“Jerk,” which he defined as “a punk.” Punk, in turn, meant a boy or young man who was new to the job.

“Guthammer” for a gong that calls loggers to meals.

“Deacon Seat” for a long bench made of halved logs.

Some still survive, in one form or another. Jack, meaning any man, became “Hijack”—from a bandits’ command to “stick ‘em up.” And “Skidroad”, a forest road using greased cross-skids, became the section of town where loggers might carouse on their day off—the kind of place we might still know as “Skid Row” today.

While logger culture may have vanished, some vestiges of their language stay with us.

BANKER JOKE

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack. "Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

The bank manager looks back at her and says, *"It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."*

Trees are Migrating West to Escape Climate Change

By Marlene [Cimons](#) [Nexus Media](#) August 16, 2018

An individual [tree](#) has roots and, of course, it doesn't move. But trees, as a species, do move over time. They migrate in response to environmental challenges, especially [climate change](#). Surprisingly, they don't all go to the Poles, where it is cooler. As it turns out, more of them head west, where it is [getting wetter](#).

Sure, some species, such as evergreens, are heading to the Poles to [escape the heat](#). But others, like certain oaks and maple, are going west in search of [rain](#). For the most part, "tree migrations are moisture related," said Songlin Fei, associate professor at Purdue's University's department of forestry and natural resources, who has studied this phenomenon in recent years. "Precipitation has a stronger near-term impact on species shift than temperature."

Both trends are a consequence of [climate change](#), which is producing more heat and heavier rainfall, fueling deforestation. This is worrisome, as forests soak up carbon from the atmosphere, and [recent evidence](#) suggests that soil is exhaling carbon dioxide faster than trees can take in. The migration of trees may help preserve individual species, but also threatens to destabilize forest ecosystems.

"The majority of the species moving westward are broadleaf species that can better handle flood and drought, and have a large seed mass, which improves the seedling's ability to survive," he said. "One example of westward shift species is Scarlet Oak. Miss Scarlett was 'gone with the wind,' but Scarlet Oak is 'gone with the rain.'

Researchers compared the distribution of trees in 1980 and 2015, calculating the distance and direction of the trees' movement. During the more than three decades covered by the study, the mean annual temperature in the eastern United States, where they collected the data, [rose around 0.3 degrees F on average](#), Fei said. The northern areas of that region saw among the largest temperature increases, he added. Precipitation patterns in the regions also changed during those years, as increasing heat spurred in widespread [droughts](#), another reason for trees to gravitate toward the rain, he said.

The scientists' initial findings appeared in a [study](#) published in the journal *Science Advances* last year. Fei and his team currently are working to update the earlier results, hoping to publish their new findings soon. The researchers have concluded that changes in rainfall and temperature have put "the resilience and sustainability of various forest ecosystems across eastern United States in question," Fei said.

To be clear, the study focused only on the eastern half the country, meaning tree species didn't move to, for example, [California](#), Oregon, or Washington. In fact, the transition was gradual. "Species, on average, moved about 10 miles per decade, or about one county during the study period," Fei said.

The trees have picked up on the trends driven by climate change, moving from regions getting less rainfall than in the past to those that are getting more. Even though the Southeast still gets more rainfall than the Midwest, it's been receiving less in recent years than its historical average, Fei said. At the same time, rainfall has been increasing in the Midwest. "Reduction of moisture in the Southeast and increase of moisture in the Midwest is one of the major reasons caused the shift of species," he said.

Fei said it helped that the team could use real-world data for its analysis, and that they did not need to rely on traditional computer modeling. "It is not future predictions," he said. "Empirical data reveals the impact of climate change is happening on the ground now. It's in action."

Some Thoughts About Trees



The New York Times, Gabriel Popkin is a [science and environmental](#) writer.

For several years, I've led tree walks in Washington, D.C. I start by asking participants who they are and why they want to spend precious hours looking at trees. My students are nearly all highly educated, successful people who work impressive jobs, speak multiple languages and effortlessly command sophisticated computers and phones. Yet most know barely the first thing about the trees around them.

There was a time when knowing your trees was a matter of life and death, because you needed to know which ones were strong enough to support a house and which ones would feed you through the winter. Now most of us walk around, tree blind. But here's the good news: Tree blindness can be cured.

A few years ago, I knew two types of native trees, oak and maple. I considered all conifers to be pines. Then in 2012, I took an ecology course in Wisconsin in which we learned to identify 14 tree species — which, in the chilly upper Midwest, actually gets you pretty far. Suddenly the largest, most conspicuous living beings in my environment were no longer strangers. The trees lining my street in Madison with the rough, saucer-size leaves were basswoods. The giant in my backyard with the diamond bark and opposing rows of leaflets neatly lined up like soldiers was an ash.

Just naming trees might sound a bit like a parlor trick to impress your friends. But it's also a way to start paying attention. Then you notice more interesting things.

Trees put on one of nature's great sex shows. Each spring they break their winter dormancy with a burst of flowers. Some, including the famous cherries, are insect-luring exhibitionists; others, such as the oaks, are more coy, relying on the wind to help consummate the mating act. Take a moment to watch and listen to a flowering redbud tree full of pollen-drunk bumblebees. I promise you won't be bored.

Tree death, like tree sex, can reveal deeper truths. You may have seen bare trunks with branches that fork over and over in perfect symmetry (that opposite branching again). These are ash trees, victims of the deadly emerald ash borer. The borer is a consequence of global trade, and it's only the latest iteration of this sad story; chestnuts, hemlocks and elms have already taken major hits from foreign pests.

Luckily, not everything in tree world is so dismal. The trees around us can uncover forgotten history. Sometimes a huge oak rises in a yard or in the midst of a much younger woods. These "witness trees" once marked the edges of farm fields. An oddly straight line of junipers or locusts likely signals an old fence row. Neighborhoods built in the 1960s might be lined with once-loved, now-hated Bradford pears; older ones may feature towering willow oaks with roots bulging out of undersized tree boxes. Trees can also tell us how well we're managing our environment today. Unless we find a way to manage our woods, using predators and periodic fires, we're probably on our way to species-poor forests dominated by beeches. As much as I love the tree's smooth, elephant-skin bark and brittle leaves shivering on their branches through the winter, I don't think an all-beech future is one I want to see.

Some may want more practical reasons for learning trees. If so, I offer that knowing your trees opens up an abundant and entirely free food source. Those in the know can gorge on juicy native mulberries and serviceberries in the spring, and persimmons and pawpaws in late summer. That's to say nothing of tree nuts, which carpet the forest floor in fall. Pecans, walnuts, hickory nuts, beech nuts; with proper preparation, they're all edible.

We're so used to eating domesticated plants that the idea of eating wild tree parts seems strange, primitive and possibly dangerous. As a result, we're letting billions of dollars' worth of free, high-quality food go to waste.

And it's about not letting the built environment make me too tame. When you engage with a tree, you momentarily leave the human-created world. [Look at an American elm in winter](#), its limbs waving like Medusa's snaky hair. The elm may grow along streets and sidewalks, but there is nothing tame about that tree. In cities, where animals feast on human gardens or garbage and most landscape plants are domesticated cultivars, native trees are the last truly wild beings.

Yes, people may look curiously if you stop to study a tree. But so what? Let yourself go a little wild.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 11^h
FOREST TO FAMILY ROOM

OSU South Center
1864 Shyville Rd
Piketon, Oh 45661
Endevor Center Building

Our "carry-in dinner" will be @ 6:15 pm
Brief meeting then the presentation beginning at 7:00 pm
(Building on right side of park lot as you enter)
As usual, bring a dish you wish to share, OR just come and help us eat what is there.
(We realize that not everyone has time to fix something, please don't let that stop you from coming to a meeting!
Sometimes we even have leftovers! Just ask Tim.)

S.O.F.A.
1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 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 _____ 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.