



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 SOFA OUTING

Eighteen of us met at Randy Sanders’ farm in Lucasville on Saturday 16 September for a cookout and tour of his extensive property. We had hotdogs cooked on the grill, chips, salads, and brownies made by the birthday girl, Sue Hillger. Randy told us about the history of the farm and all of the improvements the family has made over the years. Randy talked about how they’ve been able to work with the EQIP program to plant food plots, create areas for deer, grouse, and pollinators, as well as do some crop tree release to encourage growth. The farm has a large area of persimmon trees and Randy described how he’s been able to cultivate the area and encourage growth by identifying male and female persimmon trees and thinning the males to allow more room for female trees. It was interesting to see the old aerial map of the property and see parcels that have been added over the years. The farm seems typical for our area in that it has lots of hills, “hollers”, and ridge tops. The wildlife on the property is abundant as there is a large area of woods of various ages, some feathering leading into fields, and five developed water sources.

Randy has done a lot with this property, including harvesting timber that he has milled and uses for making picture frames. The home is original to the farm and is filled with family memorabilia, natural resources, and art. The weather was perfect for a walk through the woods.

Before lunch, we had a short meeting to discuss upcoming events. Wayne and Lynn Oney will be hosting a tour of their farm on 5 October from 10am to 3pm. Directions to the farm are on page 5 of this newsletter and will be available on the Facebook page. Be sure to bring a chair, a side dish to share, and a drink. Also in October, SOFA members are invited to attend the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District (Pike SWCD) and the Pike County Solid Waste District’s event at The Barn at the Jordan Family Farm, on Buchanan Rd. That will be held on Thursday 12 October. Please RSVP to Darlene Brewster at 740/947-5353 as soon as possible. Dinner will be provided and SOFA will be receiving an award for sharing news and info about all the activities and educational programs provided by the Pike SWCD.

Our annual auction to raise funds for our treasury will be held in November, so start setting goodies that you’d like to donate aside!

The cost per Camp Canopy camper has gone up slightly for next year, but we are hoping to send at least as many campers in 2024. Plans are firming up for the Christmas party as well, so keep checking the newsletter for additional details.

See you at the Oney’s October 5th!

Please keep our SOFA family in your thoughts and prayers. Several of us are having health issues and other family or personal issues.

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!

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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

Money doesn't grow on trees - or does it? By Robert Hudson Westover

As the days grow shorter and a subtle chill fills the air, one of nature's most fascinating transformation begins across the varied landscapes of the United States. They say money doesn't grow on trees but in communities near our forestlands, in the Fall the locals might have another take on that adage. When tens of thousands of leaf peeping tourists come to be delighted at the sight that autumn paints on the leaves of many a tree, perhaps these leafy-eyed visitors might buy a trinket to remember the beauty they've seen or have meal in a local restaurant overlooking the colorful landscape.

But beyond the stunning visuals, there's a deeper connection to nature that occurs during this season. It's a time for reflection, for hikes among the rustling leaves, and for savoring moments of tranquility amidst the grandeur of these forests. Fall color tourism is a significant contributor to the economies of the areas around these magnificent forests. So, whether you find yourself wandering through the autumnal splendor of our forests it is a treasure worth experiencing, one leaf at a time.

Parks Brigman (The Family Forest)

Now that Labor Day is behind us, and we're starting to notice the sun setting a little earlier, fall is right around the corner once again. Fall is great season to get projects done around your land. More opportunities for favorable weather conditions for prescribed burning, insects like bark beetles at the end of their annual life cycle, and even tree planting. While fall is the 'harvest season' it can also be a great time to plant! This week we're re-sharing a post from last fall about the opportunities and advantages of fall tree planting. Enjoy these days in your woods!

Planting in the fall offers landowners and foresters many of the same benefits of planting in the spring. Temperatures are typically cooler, meaning trees lose less water through their leaves due to transpiration than they would in hotter conditions. The fall season typically brings precipitation as well. Greater water availability reduces stress, and more energy can be directed toward root production. When the air temperature drops below soil temperature, shoot growth stops and roots continue to develop until the soil temperature drops below 40°F. Snow on the ground does *not* mean the soil is frozen. For soil to freeze, day time lows have to stay below 32°F for 4-6 weeks. Additionally, pests are becoming less active and diseases are less likely to inflict damage on trees in the cooler weather. A healthy, well-established root system goes a long way towards ensuring vigorous growth in the spring before the stresses of summer arrive.

As a general rule, deciduous plants are more suitable for fall planting than evergreens. Evergreens, lose water through their leaves (needles) through the winter and are susceptible to winter injury. Plants with shallow, fibrous roots are usually the best choices for fall planting because they recover faster than those with large, thick taproots. A few deciduous species that respond well to fall planting include, lindens, maples, and honey locusts. and elms. Success is also likely with deciduous shrubs such as lilacs, witchhazels, and forsythia.

If you're curious and want to learn more, here are some resources with more detailed planting information:

[Tips for Planting Southern Pine Seedlings - Alabama Extension](#)

[Tips for Central Hardwood Seedlings - USFS & Purdue Univ.](#)

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[Join us in wishing](#)
[Dave Apsley,](#)
[Nat'l Resource Specialist](#)
[A happy retirement!!](#)

“Forest Wildlife Habitat Relationships” offered by A DAY in the WOODS at the Vinton Furnace State Forest on Friday, October 13th

Many times, landowners think of managing their properties for either forest-specific or wildlife-specific reasons. In reality, managing for one of those reasons will manage both. ‘Forest Wildlife Habitat Relationships’ will help you understand how managing for the forest can benefit the wildlife or vice versa. This program will be offered Friday, October 13, 2023 at Vinton Furnace State Forest. It will give you the opportunity to:

Understand the elements of wildlife habitat found in our woodlands and natural areas in SE Ohio

Learn about many of the wildlife species (game and non-game) that inhabit southeast Ohio

Understand what you can do to enhance wildlife habitat on your property

This program will take place at the Vinton Furnace State Forest near McArthur on Friday October 13th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. A registration fee of \$15 will cover the cost of lunch and program materials.

Please use one of the following methods to register by October 9th: Register and pay online at <http://go.osu.edu/vintonswcd>

Call Vinton SWCD 740-596-5676

Email Jessica Burns at burns.1097@osu.edu

For brochures and more information about this and upcoming programs visit: <http://u.osu.edu/sehiowoods>

How can you tell that a tree is a dogwood tree?

By its bark!

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.

Those D*m Willow Trees, Kill or Save Trees and Phytoremediation by Dana Schmidt 2023

I subscribe to a few youtube channels and some of them are gardening channels. This morning I was watching one done by an Ohio Lady named Jenna and her topic was Are We Gardening in a Toxic world. Here is a link to her video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkg3vi2ion4> There's a lot of junk on the internet, but also a lot of knowledge. Channels like Jenna's is one of those with a lot to learn from.

Now to how this video changed a strategy in my property plans and what I was about to do. My pond lies just below the wetland along my drive, and I have had an ongoing battle with woody plant growth around it. In fact, I have pretty much lost the battle and now I am just trying to contain the damage. The damage is lost integrity in my levee and obstruction of navigating around the pond. The trees are also getting tall enough to obstruct our view of the valley. My plan was to cut them down and do my best to kill the stumps with salt. Previous attempts have failed but I was determined to kill them this time.

Willows and yellow poplars are the dominate trees. Jenna spent some time discussing Phytoremediation and she mentioned willows were used for this self-healing biological strategy. Ding Ding, the bells went off and I realized I was about to do something that might be better left undone. My willows trees may not be the villains I thought they were. I am aware of the value of wetlands and grass lands, but I was not really thinking that a tree we often categorize as bad is quite useful.

I should have known better. During my career with Ohio Division of wildlife I had watched willow trees being used to remediate stream erosion. My response is now modified. I will trim them down, but I will not kill them. I will just keep them at a lower level so we can maintain our view and let them continue to filter the air and soil.

It may look like an overgrown mess, but its beautiful biology. What an amazing world we live in! We all are members of S.O.F.A. because we love our trees and forest. I think we are ahead of the curve most of the time, but in this case old dogs can learn new tricks. It is not that we do not always know what should be done, but we need reminded to do it, thank you Jenna for reminding me.

Here are links for more information on Phytoremediation:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2019/08/30/trees-can-do-dirty-work-waste-cleanup>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/a_citizens_guide_to_phytoremediation.pdf

<https://healthguidenet.com/foods/plants-used-in-phytoremediation/>

The wood that resists fire

As gold-crazed settlers flocked to the Bay Area in the 19th century, they needed lumber to build their homes and mines. And what better way to get a lot of wood at once than toppling an enormous redwood? Little did they know the wood had a greater legacy in store.

In April 1906, San Francisco awoke to a major earthquake. As if the rocking buildings weren't bad enough, residents were soon battling massive fires that threatened to consume the city. But the city didn't go up in smoke for one reason: redwoods.

Though the fire spread for three days, a curious thing happened when it hit a building made from the mighty tree. While not totally fireproof, the redwood's low resin content and porous grain allow it to take on moisture, which makes it far more flame-resistant than woods like pine. As one reporter noted, "In all principal directions, the fire was finally stopped in the very midst of frame redwood buildings."

SOFA Meetings 2023

October 5th	Farm Tour @ Wayne & Lynn Oney's Farm 10 AM : 3 PM (THURSDAY)
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 Oney farm – Thursday Oct 5th, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Take Rt 50 east of Chillicothe approximately 12 miles to Londonderry

From Londonderry,

Turn north on Rt 327, drive approximately 3 miles, turn right on to Rt 671, go about 3 tenths of a mile, turn right on Dixon Mill Rd., drive about 2 tenths of a mile and take the left fork up the hill. This is Gibson Hollow Rd. Drive 3 tenths of a mile to the first trailer on your left.

Woodland Management Night AUGUST 30th

Several current and former active SOFA members attended the recent Woodland Management Night on a beautiful late August night at a farm in Ross County. The evening was a cooperative effort between Ross and Pike County Extension offices and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to present information on the extensive benefits of woodland planning. It included presenters from OSU Extension, Central State University, Ohio Division of Forestry, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Wild Turkey Foundation and others including the woodland owner.

The event was held at a farm not far from Tim Shoemaker at the farm of Jesse Dailey. The evening began with a quick box dinner and an opportunity to talk to other participants and presenters. We then got together, and the owner briefly explained a little about his 100 acres along with some of what he was doing with the property. The farm was an impressive property with several projects going on including a good number of beehives visible, grape vines growing, and a small patch of Paw-paws being established.

We then broke up into three smaller groups that rotated through presentations on different subjects around the property. One presentation was by Jesse, farm owner and others to discuss the rationale for landowners to get a forest management plan and timber appraisal for their property. The primary point was that hiring a forestry consultant to come in and provide the plan was well worth the expense and effort. They pointed out how those documents provide the basis for access to benefits of cost share programs to manage the woodland through USDA/NRCS programs. The timber appraisal is also a valuable document for tax purposes to provide a basis for calculating taxes if/when any timber is sold. Another presentation provided was a robust discussion of controlling invasives and managing the woodlands to get more benefits of having a healthy environment to meet landowner goals. This included discussion of different types of invasives, some best practices for control, and times of the year to do those practices. A key point was the caution to strictly follow label directions and safety protocols for use of herbicides for not only the health of the woodland but the health of the landowners or those using the products.

The third presentation was a discussion of the benefit to the landowner for planting a proper mix of trees and grasses to support wildlife management objectives of the landowners as well as support a healthy woodland. It included discussion of types of grasses and other native species and how to establish them. This included one key point that maintaining a good mix of native plants and grasses may take significant effort and may have to be redone as often as every 5 to 10 years. Lastly, Tim Shoemaker should be applauded for the good thinking to bring SOFA brochures and cards to the event. Dave Aspley recognized how SOFA and other similar organizations can be worthwhile support group of other landowners with similar concerns. Tim was able to hand out quite a few brochures to interested people and potential new SOFA members.

Brent & Kelly Flaskerud



Thursday October 5th Farm Tour The Oney Tree Farm
10 AM

Tour, Hike, and Demonstrations

The Oney's will provide the meat, bring a covered dish

Bring a Chair and a Drink

31686 Gibson Hollow Rd., Londonderry

GPS: 39.273004 82.733570

See page 5 for driving directions



S.O.F.A.
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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