Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2013

Chair Barbara Keyes called the meeting to order after everyone shared a bounteous and delicious meal. She welcomed all and asked that everyone introduce him or herself and say a bit about what brings them to SOFA.

She then passed out a survey from Kevin Yost for everyone to complete and return regarding priorities and ranking of services and programs for the Pike County Soil and Water District.

Barb read the secretary’s report for last month and Treasurer Jim Meacham reported that we have $2,002.59 in the treasury and have sold 101 of the 226 Cookbooks we had printed.

Another matter of old business: reservations for the group Christmas celebration must be to Jim by December 2nd. This year there will be no alcoholic beverages and no gift exchange. This is not because we have misbehaved during the year, but rather because the venue for the celebration precludes it. We hope that Jennifer Warfe and her date for the evening will attend as our guests, and we intend to extend a personal invitation to all our swell forestry advisors.

John Hillger, as a consideration for future New Business, mentioned that he thought it would be fun to charter a bus to take the group to the Paul Bunyan show next year.

Open Mic Night surfaced a lot of information, updates, and questions. First up was Wayne Oney with pictures from his farm, an update on what he and Lynn are up to, a history and enumeration of the plush and well-engineered observation towers instigated by Gary Blair in their neck of the woods, and advice to members who host farm tours to take photos during the event. Betsy Pierson then interjected a question about who or how to create large tree “cookies” (John Hillger can do that and Betsy will be in touch with him) and noted that she was also going to ask about small hard round growths on oak twigs, but that Walt Saaranan, whom she was sitting next to, had already answered that it was an insect-generated gall.

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November Minutes Continued..........................

Next up was Tim Shoemaker, who has clearly been up to something - as usual. He talked about the history of his tree farm and his involvement with SOFA, and it was pretty impressive to learn how instrumental so many of the members had been in Tim’s journey. What he has been up to most recently is rustic furniture and décor creation using the fruits of the forest – i.e. interesting and beautiful pieces of wood. He gave a nicely crafted cedar bench to John Hillger in appreciation for his help in securing appropriate pieces of wood for the workshop. He had also brought a candle holder, which Fern Bethard won as a door prize, that will lend itself well to the Christmas décor in Fern and John’s new residence – the cabin on the Schmidt Family Tree Farm.

John Hillger then updated us on his and his brother’s maple syrup operation which includes plans to build a sugar house this winter on an 18’ x 18’ concrete foundation. He also provided a fine door prize, a jar of maple syrup, which was won by John Bethard. (It seems only appropriate that the Bethards both won door prizes by way of housewarming gifts!)

Wayne and Benita Lashbrook are really putting on the dog in their cabin, as we can just imagine the splendor of the new, linseed oil-finished cherry flooring – fashioned from a tree on their farm!

It was noted that the Ohio Environmental Council will be sponsoring the Central Ohio Vernal Pool Monitoring Workshop on March 22, 2014 at the Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted: Betsy Pierson
**Featured Recipe:**

**NEW YEAR’S CAKE**

A silver coin is hidden in this cake. The cake is served at midnight on New Years Eve. The person who finds the coin will be blessed with good fortune and health throughout the New Year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 eggs</th>
<th>½ cup butter</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 ½ cup flour</td>
<td>½ lemon freshly squeezed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ tsp baking soda</td>
<td>½ cup milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup sugar</td>
<td>1 ½ tsp baking powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup confectioners sugar</td>
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Separate egg yolks & whites. Beat egg whites and set aside. Beat egg yolks and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter & slowly add sugar, continue beating until creamy. Slowly beat in egg yolks and flour with baking powder alternating with milk. Add beaten egg whites and baking soda, which has been dissolved in lemon juice.

Clean a coin (Quarter, half dollar, or dollar). Wrap coin in wax paper & place in batter. Grease 10 inch round cake pan, and pour in batter. Bake at 350 degrees 30-35 minutes (Until toothpick comes out dry). Cool and put sift confections sugar on top of cooled cake.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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**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


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**A DOCTOR’S ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS:**

**I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?**

**DOCTOR:** The Heart is only good for so many beats, and that is it.. Don't waste time on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up the heart won’t make you live longer; it’s like saying you’ll extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap!

**Should I reduce my alcohol intake?**

**DOCTOR:** Oh no, Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that means they take the water out so you get even more goodness. Beer is also made of grain. Bottom up!

**How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?**

**DOCTOR:** Well, if you have one body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one.
A Note from The American Forest Foundation:

Sitting around the dinner table with family and friends this holiday season, there are many reasons to be thankful. For woodland owners across the country, high on the list is changes to the estate tax law.

I wanted to share with you a recent article in American Forest Foundation’s Woodland magazine, “How Recent Changes in the Estate Tax Affect Your Family.” In a last minute rush on January 1, 2013, Congress passed a landmark tax bill to keep the nation from hurling off the dreaded “fiscal cliff.”

The legislation permanently set the estate tax levels at a $5.25 million exemption (adjusted for inflation). This significantly reduces the number of woodland owners who will face a federal estate tax bill in the future that could put their land ownership in jeopardy. The American Forest Foundation (AFF) worked tirelessly to get this important estate tax provision passed.

And thanks to research AFF commissioned, we now know how significant this change will be. The U.S. Department of Agriculture research showed a dramatic decrease in the number of woodland owners now impacted by federal estate taxes—96 percent fewer woodland owners! And that accounts for 72 percent fewer family-owned acres at risk. This is something we can all be thankful for this holiday season. A win for family forests and forest conservation.

I hope you’ll consider a subscription to the new Woodland magazine. We are proud to bring you informational articles with the latest research results that pertain to you as a family woodland owner, and for a limited time, you can get a one-year subscription for only $15.95.

Woodland is designed to inform and inspire. This quarterly, full-color publication is packed with engaging stories, beautiful photos and practical tips for enjoying and benefiting from forestland.

Happy Holidays from our family at the American Forest Foundation to yours!

Sincerely,

Melissa Moeller
Manager, Public Affairs
American Forest Foundation

The American Tree Farm System® and Project Learning Tree® are programs of the American Forest Foundation. We grow stewardship every day.

CONGRADULATIONS WAYNE LASHBROOK!!!!

October 10th Wayne was inducted into the ODNR Division of Forestry Forest of Honor!!

Wayne is a long time member and past SOFA Chairman, and a wealth of forestry knowledge.

WHITE-TAILED DEER (Odocoileus virginianus)

…..are on the move this time of year and that movement frequently takes them across back roads, urban streets, highways, and other roadways. Motorists are advised to take special precautions this time of year to avoid collisions, especially at dawn and after sunset, and during the hours of 5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Be extra careful throughout November, as last year's number of accidents peaked at 5,050 collisions during the month. What can drivers around Ohio do to remain safe and decrease their chances of an accident?

* First of all, remember that breeding season for deer is October - December, and although most accidents occur in October and November, remain vigilant through December.
Tentative 2014 Meeting Agenda

January........No Meeting
March.........Updates on Lyme Disease & West Nile Virus
May..........John Schmidt Sings About Trees!
            Woodworking Projects
March.........Updates on Lyme Disease & West Nile Virus
April.........Goodseed Nursery Tour & West Nile Virus
May..........John Schmidt Sings
June.........Member Farm Tour
July.........Conservation Area Tour
Aug..........No Meeting
Sept.........Member Farm Tour
            Maint.
Oct..........Pond Development &
Nov..........Open Mic
Dec..........Member Christmas Dinner

FALL CLEAN UP FOR A BETTER SPRING GARDEN!

Fall is an important time in landscape maintenance. Cultural practices completed prior to the beginning of winter will ensure a healthier landscape for next spring. Many pest problems and diseases encountered this season may survive until next season on or in plant debris.

Some of the fall crops can still be left in the garden for a while, however warm season vegetables are about done for the season. Remove all annual vegetable plants from garden beds in order to prevent overwintering insect and diseases. Diseased plants should not be composted unless the compost pile reaches temperatures that kill the pathogen; otherwise bag this material and place in the trash. Compost should be added to improve garden soil for next spring.

Take advantage of the autumn sunshine and spend some in your annual and perennial beds. Annuals should be pulled out of the ground with the roots included. Dead stems and foliage should be pruned on most perennials and wildflowers. Of course, this task is garden specific, as some people prefer to leave certain herbaceous ornamentals such tall grasses uncut to enjoy their winter interest. Seed heads of achillea (yarrow), Echinacea, rudbeckia and other perennials are also important food sources for many of our overwintering bird species. Fall is also a great time to divide perennials and plant new perennials. Applying 2” of organic mulch to these newly planted perennials will help retain the soil temperature to encourage root growth and prevent heaving of plants over winter's freeze and thaw cycles. Tender bulbs and tubers such as tuberous begonias, cannas and dahlias should be dug up and stored after the first frost.

Fall is also an excellent time to do corrective pruning of your trees and shrubs. Corrective pruning encompasses removal of dead, damaged, or diseased branches and the elimination of limbs that may be causing structural problems. Structural problems include branches that may be rubbing, those that are growing back to the center of the tree, and those with abnormally narrow crotch angles. As leaves drop from deciduous woody plants, it is easy to inspect and identify defects in your trees and shrubs. When not obscured by foliage it is easier to see canker formations, rubbing branches, splits or cracks in wood.

Putting your garden to bed this fall is just as important as any other gardening chore you perform throughout the season.

The best vitamin for making friends..... B1.
Trees are not only impressive in their variety, they are the tallest, largest, and oldest living things on the earth!

A Bristlecone Pine in California’s White Mountains is thought to be the oldest tree at 4,600 years! That is when the Egyptians were building the pyramids!

S.O.F.A. Christmas Dinner

Saturday December 14th

We will be at the Bell Tower in Bournville.
(Reservations required)

It is about 15 miles west of Chillicothe on State Route 50. The building is brick, an old church building, in the center of the village on the south side of the road.

This year there will be no alcoholic beverages and no gift exchange. We have a 2-hour time slot for our dinner, due to the fact that the Bell Tower uses all volunteers, and all the proceeds go to their outreach program.

Plan to be there promptly at 7 PM

S.O.F.A.

1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661

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