



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.

Hello all.

Our meeting was called to order by Betsy following a Sumptuous Meal made by all. There were approximately 30 members in attendance.

Thanks again to John Kaldmo for last month's farm tour. It was great!

Welcome back to Sue and John Hillger and Tim Shoemaker. They are all on the mend from some health issues.

Christmas dinner is to be celebrated at the Pike Fish & Game Club House again this December 12th at 6 pm. It will be a Catered Affair by seven miles Smokehouse of Chillicothe. Dinner is \$21 per person and BYOB. Payable to sofa. Our resource people will be invited as usual.

Remember it is also time to pay membership dues for next year.

We still need some officers for sofa for next year. Any members are welcome to volunteer!

Sofa business cards are available to pass out for new members.

John King presented a wonderful slideshow of members Wildlife photos thanks to everyone who participated. 97 photos were sent in by 11 members. Many thanks to John for putting the show together. It was suggested that a photo collage be put together with these beautiful pictures.

Next was the auction for the camp canopy scholarship fund. It was officiated with great humor by John Usas and Wayne Oney.

Over 50 items were auctioned off such as cookbooks, a concrete bird house, and original artwork by PJ Gordy.

It was a very successful auction indeed! Thanks to everyone!

Happy trails, Fern

**SOFA
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Southern Ohio Forestland Association

For Immediate Release

Nov. 22, 2019

ODNR Investigation Leads to Arrest for Timber Theft from State Forests

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A Ross County resident was recently convicted and sentenced for stealing timber from Tar Hollow and Scioto Trail state forests and from several private properties in the area, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry and Division of Parks and Watercraft.

Robert Silcott of Londonderry was arrested after ODNR natural resource officers investigated a tip. Silcott later confessed and pleaded guilty to two counts of theft, two counts of vandalism, and one count of criminal mischief. He was sentenced in Ross County Court to 16 months in jail and ordered to pay \$4,864 in restitution. Officers also seized equipment used during the thefts, including chainsaws, trailers, and winching equipment.

"These trees represented long-term investments the citizens have made in sustainable forest conservation and wildlife habitat," said Dan Balsler, chief of the Division of Forestry. "State Forests exist for the public good and should not be exploited by criminals. I hope this conviction will deter future timber theft in any of Ohio's forests."

ODNR personnel discovered thefts at Tar Hollow State Forest in December 2018. Additional thefts were discovered in Scioto Trail State Forest and private properties in the county over the next year. In all cases, the valuable bottom section of the tree was missing. ODNR foresters and natural resource officers analyzed the stumps to track down delivery locations and retrieved sales documents. The thefts totaled 10 trees with a standing timber value of nearly \$4,000, mostly black walnut and white oak trees which are frequent targets of theft due their high value.

Landowners with timber should take precautions to secure their property. Painting ownership boundaries and regularly inspecting your property are good practices. Reporting theft to local authorities immediately is also important.

The ODNR Division of Forestry promotes the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio's public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio's woodlands, forest health and tree care, visit forestry.ohiodnr.gov. Follow us on Instagram at [@odnrforestry](https://www.instagram.com/odnrforestry). ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

Did You Know??

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

SOFA schedule for 2019

December 12thAnnual Membership Meeting and Christmas Party

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The Adams County Amish Bird Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 3735 Wheat Ridge Road, West Union, OH 45693. You have the option of registering and paying online securely with any major credit card.

Registration is open!

- Online Registration can be found at: www.amishbirdsymposium.org
- Speaker bios and programs are listed on the website
- If you prefer to pay by check, a paper form is available on the website (after the speaker info)
- You may register up to two attendees at one time
- Children under 12 are free but must be accompanied by an adult
- Shop local vendors selling hand crafted items and visit the exhibitors
- Raptor, Inc. will be there with live birds of prey

We have some exciting speakers to connect you to the world of nature and birding (in order of appearance): Jim McCormac, Bruce Beehler, Amy & Carl Wilms, John Howard.

We hope to see you there!

Billions of Gallons of Water Saved by Thinning Sierra Forests

By Jason Alvarez - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED · Image by Photoquest / Dreamstime

There are too many trees in Sierra Nevada forests, say experts from UC Merced, UC Irvine and the National Park Service working at the National Science Foundation Southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory (NSF SSCZO).

This comes as a surprise to those of us who see dense, verdant forests as a sign of a healthy environment. After all, green is good, right? Not necessarily. When it comes to the number of trees in California forests, bigger isn't always better.

Another Great Tracking Season Full of Surprises



What an interesting fall migration season it has been! Warmer weather in portions of the U.S. led to a protracted fall migration season. Observers submitted multiple sightings of white hummingbirds. Finally, just this past week, rare sightings of Black-chinned hummingbirds in eastern U.S.

From Kendallville, Indiana: Michael said it all when he submitted this entry from October 2019: "Today marks the fourth morning without a hummingbird sighting since our last reported sighting on the evening of October 4th. Temperatures are going to start falling into a more seasonal range of lows flirting in the upper 30 degree to even the possibility of first frost in the next few days. As per standard practice our feeders will remain up and maintained for at least 10 more days (2 weeks from last hummer sighting). Having noted sightings are still occurring north of our location, there's always that one migrating traveler getting a very late start that will need a refueling boost along the way. This 2019 hummingbird season has been a busy one for me diverting my usual observing and reporting attention. Still it has been another great season and I'm looking forward to the 2020 season. Thank you to everyone there at Journey North for a wonderful 2019 hummingbird season!" (10/08/2019)

From Delano, TN: Deanna commented, "Freezing temperatures prompted me to contact SEAR and a birder friend, because I still had what I thought was a juvenile male Ruby-throated Hummingbird still feeding from my feeder. On Feb 16th, the hummer was trapped, tagged and measured. This morning I found out she is a Black-chinned. Five birders from as far as western TN left today many pictures later. What an exciting day." (11/18/2019)

From Virginia Beach, VA: Kelly submitted this surprising sighting: "Young juvenile male Black-chinned Hummingbird most likely overwintering in my yard. Has been here a month. He has finally been confirmed by eBird as a Black-Chinned which is super rare for our area!" (11/21/2019)

From Alamogordo, NM: Mary noted "I am still seeing 1 rufous. I'm not sure if it is overwintering or what but it looks like one I have had since the summer. I had 2 on the 15th but the last couple days I have just seen this colorful beauty. It was nectaring from one of my feeders." (11/17/2019)

Taking a Short Hiatus

Journey North will take a short hiatus from emailing our weekly news updates for the 2019 migration season. However, the hummingbird migration story continues. In western and southern regions of the U.S., hummingbirds can still be seen. Please continue to report your observations.

Thank You!

Thank you for all your submissions. Journey North citizen scientists contributed an impressive 14,000+ observations. Thank you for all that you do for Journey North on behalf of hummingbirds. News updates will begin again in spring 2020.

Little Johnny's preschool class went on a field trip to the [fire](#) station. The [firefighter](#) giving the presentation held up a smoke detector and asked the class: "Does anyone know what this is?"

Little Johnny's hand shot up and the firefighter called on him.

Little Johnny replied: "That's how Mommy knows supper is ready!"

Be careful with our stately treasures.



PLEASE.



ANNUAL MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

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Bring a gift that will get Rick excited!!



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 778, Jackson Oh 45640

Make Check Payable to Southern Ohio Forestrand Association (SOFA)

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