



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.*

### NOVEMBER SOFA MEETING

After a delicious meal, Jim Hillger spoke to the group regarding his job as the supervisor of a team of heavy equipment operators for the State of Ohio’s Division of Natural Resources (ODNR). Jim has worked in many and varied locations around the state, including East Fork State Park, Stewart Lake at SciotoTrails, and Lake White in Pike County.

At East Fork State Park, in Batavia, Ohio, Jim’s crews supported the Keep Ohio Beautiful (KOB) annual Great Ohio Planting Day during which sponsoring agencies and volunteers cut down older trees and planted new growth trees in better locations throughout the area.

Jim’s crews also supported an exciting initiative at Shawnee State Park called Storybook Trails. The ODNR, in partnership with the Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, launched the Storybook Trail program in 2019 to promote the importance of literacy, a healthy lifestyle, and connecting with nature. There are currently 11 half-mile Storybook Trails located at state parks in Ohio, each with 15-20 child-height panels featuring pages of a children’s book and an activity to accompany the text on the page. Storybook trails allow families to walk through the beautiful park and also learn about different aspects of nature from authors who were inspired by it. The web address to discover more details can be found at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/family-friendly/storybook-trails>.

Jim and his crew helped build new cabins on Kelley’s Island, update the septic system at Pike Lake, and create a youth fishing pond at Rocky Fork State Park. It was a very entertaining presentation as Jim has had a very interesting and exciting career. He had to duck out early as our meeting night was actually his 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary! He claimed his wife wouldn’t mind too much as he had already bought her flowers. We look forward to having him (and his wife!) at future meetings so we can hear more of his stories.

No old business was discussed. Under New Business, it was decided that the December 9, 2021 meeting will include our annual business meeting. There will not be a gift exchange that evening, but we will have a shared meal. As part of this event we will be celebrating John’s Schmidt's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! There will be a birthday cake! Please bring a Birthday card and a memento, if you wish, for John. Brent Flaskerud was “volunteered” as pit master and will bring a selection of smoked meats and plenty of his Grandmother’s Famous Beans. The location of this shindig will at the Rainsboro United Methodist Church. Any questions about what side dish to bring, contact Kate Roy at 740-663-7386.

PLEASE EMAIL ME AT [REDSTREAKERHOLLOWFARMS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:REDSTREAKERHOLLOWFARMS@GMAIL.COM) BY **DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM YOUR FAMILY WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE DECEMBER MEETING.(Friends Welcome too!)

Southern Ohio Forestland Association

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**MEMBER'S CORNER**  
**Tom Graham (859) 230-1516**

I just read the latest issue and thought that I would check in. I have never attended a meeting but have been a member for a number of years. I own a property in Pike County that is mostly a weekend place for my wife and me. It is about a mile away from the now famous murders site. Our primary residence is in Mason OH. I'm 67 now and still working. I may be able to attend a meeting someday when I retire. Lee Crocker suggested that I join this group years ago when I was working on a forestry program with him. I also now work with Brad Wireman. I enjoy monitoring your activities via the newsletter and website.

With regard to possible links for the website, I have a blog that is about my farm and also my hunting trips. I've been doing it for more than 10 years. Not sure if it is appropriate or beneficial but here's the link for your consideration. [Laurel Ridge Farm \(tomfarmblog.blogspot.com\)](http://LaurelRidgeFarm(tomfarmblog.blogspot.com))

Thanks for sharing Tom! We would like to hear from other members, to let everyone know who you are and what you are doing. Drop a few lines to me. Email [tshoe140@horizonview.net](mailto:tshoe140@horizonview.net)

**A Little Poem for Seniors, so True it Hurts!**

Another year has passed, and we're all a little older.  
 Last Summer felt hotter, and winter seems much colder.  
 There was a time not long ago, when life was quite a blast!  
 Now I finally understand, about 'living in the past'.  
 We used to go to weddings, football games and lunches.  
 Now we go to funeral homes, and after funeral brunches.  
 We used to go out dining, and couldn't get our fill.  
 Now we ask for doggie bags, come home and take a pill.  
 We used to often travel, to places near and far.  
 Now our butts get sore, from riding in a car.  
 We used to go to nightclubs, and drink a little booze.  
 Now we stay home at night, and watch the evening news.  
 That my friend is how life is, and now my tale is told.  
 So, enjoy each day and live it up.....before you're grey and old!

**Day in the Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Series**

If you are interested in some great educational programs, this is the place! It's been hard to plan ahead, so check often to see what and where the next program will be held. We will try to keep the latest info on our facebook page, but here is the website to check for yourself:

[u.osu.edu/seohiowoods](http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods)

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## The December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Meeting:

We will meet at **The Rainsboro Methodist Church**, between Bainbridge and Hillsboro on St Rt 50. At the intersection of Rt 50 and Rt 753, turn North. (There is only **one** intersection in Rainsboro)(North is right, if coming from Chillicothe, and left if coming from Hillsboro) ¼ mile, church on left (West).

## The Firewood Poem

It's time! Here is a reminder called the "**FIREWOOD POEM**"

Beechwood fires are bright and clear  
If the logs are kept a year,  
Chestnut's only good they say,  
If for logs 'tis laid away.  
Make a fire of Elder tree,  
Death within your house will be;  
But ash new or ash old,  
Is fit for a queen with crown of gold  
Birch and fir logs burn too fast  
Blaze up bright and do not last,  
it is by the Irish said  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.  
Elm wood burns like churchyard mold,  
E'en the very flames are cold  
But ash green or ash brown  
Is fit for a queen with golden crown  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke,  
Apple wood will scent your room  
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom  
Oaken logs, if dry and old  
keep away the winter's cold  
But ash wet or ash dry  
a king shall warm his slippers by.

A tree's diameter at your breast or chest height is the most common tree measurement made on a tree by tree professionals. It is also called "**DBH**" for short. The only other measurement made of a tree as important is a tree's total and merchantable height.

This diameter is measured over the outside bark using a diameter tape at the point forester's call "breast height." Breast height is specifically defined as a point around the trunk at 4.5 feet (1.37 meters in metric using countries) above the forest floor on the uphill side of the tree. For the purposes of determining breast height, the forest floor includes the duff layer that may be present but does not include unincorporated woody debris that may rise above the ground line. It may assume a 12-inch stump in commercial forests.

DBH has traditionally been the "sweet spot" on a tree where measurements are taken and where a multitude of calculations are made to determine things like growth, volume, yield and forest potential. This spot at breast level is a convenient way of measuring a tree without the need to bend your waist or climb up a ladder to take the measurement.

All growth, [volume](#) and yield tables are calculated to correspond with DBH.



### DEC 9<sup>th</sup>

**Rainesboro UMC** will be a tribute and celebration of John Schmidt's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

(We will also conduct our annual organization meeting on that night.)

**RSVP to Kelly for a head count for the Meat for the meal. 6 PM**

Be sure to read details on the first page!  
Contact Kate if you have any questions about side dishes.



**S.O.F.A.**  
1864 Shyville Rd  
Piketon Oh 45661

Visit us on the web at [www.ohiosofa.org](http://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 Forestland Association (SOFA)  
**Individual \$15, Family \$25, Partnership, Association, or Corporation \$25**