



# The Ohio Hetuch



Winter 2016

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## Chair Comments –Stephanie Downs, OSAF Chair

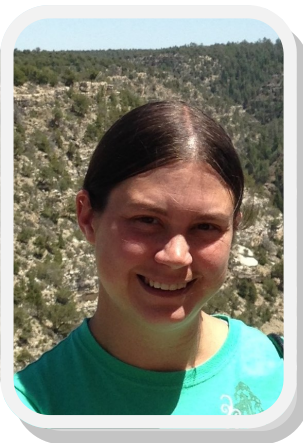
Hello everyone. I hope your winter has been going well! I would first like to thank all of you for your support in electing me as chair for this great group of Ohio foresters. I feel that our SAF chapter is not only a place to stay up-to-date on forestry happenings and receive continuing education, but also a group of people who genuinely care about each other and the profession. I am proud to serve as chair this year. I would also like to extend my extreme gratitude to Casey Burdick for stepping up as Vice Chair, Ryan Waid for as Treasurer, and John Mueller as Hetuch Editor. It is great to work everyone on the executive committee and I encourage all of you to attend some or all of our meetings to participate in the behind the scenes process & discussion.

Congratulations to our Past Chair, Jeremy Scherf! He was awarded the prestigious *National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year* award at the American Tree Farm National Leadership Conference in Seattle last month! Many people in this state assist with the Tree Farm Program, and I am sure you all agree that Jeremy is well-deserving of this recognition!

OSAF Winter Meeting registrations were in your mailboxes by mid-February. The meeting is at the Ag Administration Building on The OSU campus March 22-23. The theme is one that has always interested me – *How our History Shapes our Future*. I think the historical side of forest management is fascinating, and with so much history in our state, it's important to understand where we go from here. When talking with some of you about ideas for the meeting, I realized that there are enough historical topics to hold a week-long meeting and still not cover them all! We do have a great lineup of speakers and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

At the 2015 SAF National Convention a lot of discussion focused on the idea of evolving forestry. We will hear more about this concept at the winter meeting from Jeff Ghannam, SAF's Director of Strategic Communications. In the meantime, I would like you to be thinking about what "forestry" means to you. The field has certainly progressed over time, and changes have and are occurring (whether we want them to or not!) When talking to students about forestry as an instructor at Hocking College, I have to think back to my initial ideas about the profession before I took my first class – a forester was someone who improved forests for timber production of course! While discussing different career paths and what they all entail, I am constantly reminded just how broad profession forestry is and how amazing that must be for someone just entering it. A forester is not only the person who improves the forest for timber, but for so many more goals. It's also greater than managing for individual landowner objectives. Management at the property level is still important, but I feel that forestry is shifting perspectives in a sense: getting the bigger picture.

I am very excited to work in a profession that is constantly evolving, yet remaining solid. We have an excellent network of individuals with their own areas of expertise who work very well together to look at the big picture. Not just National SAF, but here in Ohio. I am reminded at every SAF meeting how connected foresters are and how supportive we are to each other. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year!



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## Mapping Seed-bearing *Ailanthus* in Ohio – A Collaborative Effort Between the US Forest Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

-Leila Pinchot, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station



Aaron Kloss, Ohio Division of Forestry, prepares for aerial survey of *Ailanthus* trees.

Photo courtesy of Joanne Rebeck, USDA Forest Service

Anybody who has spent time in Ohio's woods is familiar with *Ailanthus altissima*, aka tree-of-heaven. This infamous non-native invasive tree grows rapidly, sends out clonal sprouts, produces an allelopathic compound; all characteristics that enable it to outcompete native tree regeneration; and it stinks to high heaven! Until recently, locating and controlling *Ailanthus* trees hidden in large forested acreages has been prohibitively expensive, requiring reconnaissance surveys.

Incited by this challenge, collaborators from the USDA Forest Service; Northern Research Station (NRS) and the Wayne National Forest (WNF); and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) decided to test a more efficient and cost-effective (and adventurous!) method – mapping seed bearing

*Ailanthus* trees from helicopters. Fixed wing aircrafts have typically been used for digital aerial vegetation surveys in other states, but they fly fast and high, making fine-scale mapping difficult. With this in mind the team: Drs. Joanne Rebeck, Todd Hutchinson and Louis Iverson, NRS, Aaron Kloss, Michael Bowden, and Greg Guess, ODNR, and Cheryl Coon, WNF coordinated the helicopter mapping of 289,000 forested acres in southeastern OH, including areas in the Tar Hollow SF and each of the three districts of the WNF. During mapping flights the pilot was accompanied by two mappers who used a digital aerial sketchmapping system, allowing them to manually draw dots and polygons onto a map viewed on a touchscreen tablet. Once back on ground, those polygons and waypoints were uploaded onto handheld GPS units.

To test the precision of the aerial mapping, the team sent a crew to ground truth a subsample of the mapped *Ailanthus* trees. The crew was able to locate between 88-95% - pretty darn accurate. This aerial mapping method shaves weeks, if not months, off of the traditional ground survey approach. Mapping 9,600 acres in Tar Hollow SF from a helicopter, for example, took only 2 hours and 15 minutes. What's even better is that this method is cheap, costing \$0.40/acre.

ODNR and WNF are using methods produced by this research to develop management plans for the chemical treatment of *Ailanthus* on ODNR and WNF forestlands. Additionally, ODNR is now implementing helicopter mapping of the invasive *Phragmites* along the banks of Lake Erie and may use this method for mapping other invasive plants and trees in the future. Just another example of how the strong collaboration between the Forest Service and ODNR advances forest management in Ohio.



Aerial view of seed-bearing *Ailanthus* trees during the dormant season. Red circles show clusters of females. Photo courtesy of Tom Shuman, Ohio Division of Forestry

For the nitty gritty details of the study, read: Rebeck, J., Kloss, A., Bowden, M., Coon, C., Hutchinson, T. F., Iverson, L., & Guess, G. 2015. Aerial Detection of Seed-Bearing Female *Ailanthus altissima*: A Cost-Effective Method to Map an Invasive Tree in Forested Landscapes. *Forest Science*, 61(6), 1068-1078.



## Memory Snippet: Bigtooth Aspen

-Walt Smith

Bigtooth aspen, *Populus grandidentata* Michx., may seem like a strange tree species for a forester to write an essay about. Sure, it has a pulpwood value, maybe some wildlife value; but, really. Sometimes, one sees “aspen” lumber at stores. But the more I thought about my tree species list and how they affected my

forestry career, the more I came to realize that bigtooth aspen represented a very special tree.

As I have noted in earlier tree species essays, I started my forestry and maybe more importantly, my tree planting career with the Ohio Power Company Reclamation Section. Tree planting to reclaim strip-mined land was a major job of that employ for many years. The Reclamation Section had a multi-species tree planting mixture that it used to plant for strip-mine reclamation purposes. The Reclamation Section easily utilized one million seedlings annually. On several occasions, the count exceeded two million seedlings. In my tenure as Supervisor I signed purchase orders to the tune of 20,588,370 seedlings. Historically, the Ohio Power Company purchased and planted some 39 million seedlings from 1946-1978. I have no records after that date. The tree seedlings, a variety of 15-20 deciduous and coniferous species, all came from the Ohio Division of Forestry nurseries located at Green Springs, Zanesville, and Marietta.

For planning purposes, the ODF nursery personnel and the OPC Reclamation Section personnel would get together on an annual basis at one of the nursery locations with 4-6 foresters and nursery personnel around the table. The nursery personnel would present the species inventory that they could supply and we discussed pickup dates. We would supply the approximate

seedling order for the coming spring delivery and project the seedling numbers estimate for the next year. We would go to lunch and afterwards take an in-depth tour of the nursery. Year after year the nursery meeting would take place. I remember first meeting Don Richter, George Soine and Harold Todd all of the Columbus office (I although I first met George as a forestry student in 1960-1961 in Cambridge, Ohio,) Carl Bailey (Green Springs,) Frank Wood (Zanesville,) John Eaton (Marietta,) and later Roger Hendershot (Marietta.) The meetings were always enlightening, informative, and very enjoyable. At one meeting at Green Springs Nursery, we went to lunch for about an hour. We came out of the restaurant with three inches of snow on the ground – there was no snow on the ground when we went in. We quickly decided the meeting was over. I slowly snow-plowed my way back to Columbus



Photo courtesy of Ohio Division of Forestry

and decided not to drive on to Zanesville. I caught a couch at a friend's house in Columbus and went home the next morning. A good time was had by all despite the weather conditions.

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Photo courtesy of Ohio Division of Forestry

## Bigtooth Aspen, continued

At one of the meetings, in the early 1970's, the question was broached "had the ODF Nurseries ever raised bigtooth aspen or for that matter, quaking aspen?" I think I asked the question but do not hold me to memory precision. The answer was "No," but Frank Wood jumped in and took up the challenge. I volunteered that we would purchase all the aspen seedlings Frank could grow. It is too bad that the real, detailed story of Frank's effort cannot now be told; but, Frank never again showed a fondness for seeding more bigtooth aspen. He indicated it was like planting grains of sand and that you needed a microscope to actually see the seed. The issue of seeding the seed, getting germination, and fighting fungus attacks undoubtedly made for interesting, if not stressful, effort. Office records show that in 1973 the Zanesville Nursery supplied and the OPC Reclamation Section planted 18,075 bigtooth aspen seedlings in Morgan, Muskingum, and Noble Counties. Furthermore, office records indicate that bigtooth aspen represented 1.1 percent of the total tree seedlings planted in 1973. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find or remember the planting sites. Gary Kaster thinks he knows "a" location in Morgan County and one of these days we will have to check it out. Considering that 43 years have passed, I am probably lucky to remember my name.

In conclusion, when I see bigtooth aspen in the forest, I fondly remember my wonderful association with a great bunch of nursery managers of the Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Seedling Nurseries. At the time, I did not think much about the challenge of growing aspen. In retrospect, I applaud the mere fact that Frank Wood and company accepted the challenge. Of course, it might be said by peers that challenges were normal for those guys.

Never, I say never (and never is a longtime,) did I ever receive BAD seedlings of any tree species from those fellows and their nursery operations. I would suggest that others would back me up on that statement. It is a tribute to their technical and professional expertise that the Nurseries performed so well. The Nurseries are now of a bygone era, but not less remembered. Others may write a better history of the Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Seedling Nurseries, but never a better memory.

*Acknowledgements: A big thank you to Brian Cox of American Electric Power for his archive search of the seedling number and dates, Roger Hendershot and Ann Bonner of Ohio Division of Forestry, and Gary Kaster of CPS LLC for their kind assistance when I gave them the 40 year question about bigtooth aspen. WDS*

## A Note From an Old Friend...

-Dan Kincaid

Dan Kincaid retired from the U.S. Forest Service and is living the good life in The Villages, Florida. "No more snow," he says, "which is a good thing." Actually, Dan developed a blood condition that is aggravated by temperatures less than about 60 degrees, so doctors recommended a move south from Athens. "Been here going on two years."

Dan was an OSAF Chairman, Newsletter Editor, and Communications Committee Chair in the 1980's, while he worked out of the Marietta office of Wayne National Forest. He taught at Forestry Camp for five years, was Outstanding OSAF Member, Communicator of the Year, and elected to Fellow status in 1990.

Dan wanted to let us know that he wrote a book last year. It details his high school team's (Huntington Vinson) state basketball championship in West Virginia in 1966. "It was an unexpected, Hoosier-like story and we will be introduced on the 50th anniversary of the championship during halftime of the state finals in Charleston in March," Dan says. *The Penicillin Kids* is available at Amazon.com under the book title and author's name. Dan next book release is in the next couple of months, which is a compilation of some weekly outdoor newspaper columns he wrote in Ohio in the 1980's. It will also be available on Amazon. Dan says "Hello!" and invites all his OSAF friends to contact him at [dbkincaid@outlook.com](mailto:dbkincaid@outlook.com)

## Nuggets of Wisdom

-Tim Wilson, Service Forester, Ohio Division of Forestry (retired)



Photo courtesy Brown County SWCD

As I get to the end of my career with the Division of Forestry, I wanted to pass on a few things I have learned. Some were learned by my failures, some from other Foresters, and some by trial and error. I am still convinced that Forestry is the best profession there is and I am honored to have been able to practice Forestry for the past 30 years.

Now, for some things I have learned (in no particular order)

**Ask Questions.** Find out what motivates the landowner. Some landowners are very open and will be quick to offer their goals while others need some massaging. I also make a point to find out about their profession. When talking to farmers, I found out that it is important for me to know about livestock, hay, tobacco, fruit trees and the crops they are growing.

**Help the landowner feel good about their property.** I try and find something good to say about every property I walk. It might be a small stand of mature pine or an interesting ravine.

**Keep it Simple.** I learned early on that landowners' eyes will start to glaze over if I got too technical in my observations or recommendations. Talk in terms they can understand.

**Keep on top of markets.** Years ago, we would go to all the mills in our project to gather data for the Timber Price Report. I found this useful. Not only for keeping up with the markets but I got a chance to know the buyers and them to know me. I still make an attempt to stop by mills when time permits to talk to the buyers.

**Practice Forestry.** Take your prism out and use it. Don't estimate. Take your D-tape out and measure. Use your Clinometer. Not every property will warrant this but cruise timber when it is needed.

**Elephant in the Room.** Don't be afraid to point out the Elephant in the Room. Often times we all see it, but no one wants to recognize it. If things need to be "stirred up", stir!

**Be curious.** I don't profess to know every plant in the forest. Some of my best memories are teaching a landowner (and ultimately me) how to key out a plant we stumbled upon.

**Maintain your sense of humor.** This goes a long way in diffusing some situations. Also helps when dealing with all the paperwork.

**If you can't be on time for an appointment, be early!** This one is from my Dad.

**If a landowner offers you a cup of coffee, say "yes".** This is a good way to get to know the landowner before walking their woods. Along the same lines, I hate to be tied to my watch. Spend as much time as the landowner needs. They will appreciate this in the long run.

**When marking a timber sale, I try and put myself in the loggers' boots.** Which way is the tree going to fall? Sometimes you need to mark trees that are going to be collateral damage. This is also a good way to make a few group openings.

**Lastly, be happy!** We still have the best job ever. When I get discouraged, thinking that all the effort is for nothing, I find myself revisiting with one of the "old timers." We all have them. Those landowners with a thick file. It renews my faith that long term management DOES WORK.

The time will go fast and hopefully, like me, you will look back on your time with good memories. It has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you. *Wilson, out!*



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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Ohio Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting**

March 22-23, 2016

Ag Administration Building, Ohio State University

Registration and Refreshments Start at 8:30 a.m.

### **Intro to QGIS**

March 16, 2016 -

9:00-4:15

<http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/>