



The Ohio Hetuch



Winter 2012

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Chair Comments –Jim Downs, OSAF Chair

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank those who helped with the 2011 Summer OSAF Meeting. Tom Shuman, Janice McMahon, Jeremy Scherf, Casey Burdick, Kathy Smith, Stephanie Miller and of course all of the wonderful speakers, without their assistance I am sure the meeting would not have been a success. On a similar note, I am in the process of putting together the 2012 OSAF Winter Meeting, which will be held on The Ohio State University’s main campus on March 13th and 14th. While there will be a variety of topics presented, the main theme of the meeting will be ecological restoration and invasive species. There will be CFE and ISA credits available, so please mark your calendars! I hope to have a finalized agenda and registration mailed in early February.



For those of you who do not know me, I am currently an assistant professor of forestry at Hocking College and am in the middle of my fourth year (time flies on a fun job!). I actually started my forestry education at Hocking College and transferred to The Ohio State University where I earned my Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Forest Ecosystem Management and Natural Resources, respectively. During the summers I enjoy travelling across the country on vacation or on a wildland firefighting detail.

I would also like to issue a warm thank you to Janice McMahon for serving as the Secretary-Treasurer for OSAF the last few years. Also, thanks go out to Casey Burdick for serving as the editor of the Hetuch over the past few years. Both Janice and Casey have served OSAF well but have decided that it is time to pass the torch. In addition, I would like to thank Tom Shuman for a job well done for serving as OSAF Chair this past year. In my opinion he put on one of the best winter meetings in recent memory. I would also like to congratulate my former advisor Dr. Roger Williams (The Ohio State University) for being awarded the Guangxi Golden Hydrangea Award from the regional government of Guangxi (P.R. China). Well done!

In closing, I look forward to serving as the chair of OSAF this coming year. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Meeting and wish all of you a prosperous new year!

Jim Downs, OSAF Chairman

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Silent Auction Items Requested

The Winter Meeting Silent Auction has very successfully benefited the Forester’s Fund and the Cowen-Embree Scholarship fund in recent years. Ohio has utilized the Forester’s Fund for several projects including the "Contact a Forester First" brochure and many OSAF professional members were past recipients of the Cowen-Embree Scholarship.

For the auction to be a success, we need your help! Please consider donating an item to the auction. Any new or gently used contribution will be a great addition. Forestry, outdoors, or wood related items are preferred and will likely sell the best, but if you have something else you are considering please offer it up. Something as simple as a hat or book or as elaborate as a handmade item are all welcome.

If you have a donation please contact Greg Guess at gregwguess@yahoo.com or call (740) 285-5585. He would like to have a list of items compiled by March 1st (the week prior to the meeting). Bring the items with you to the Winter Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call or email Greg ASAP to make arrangements to get the item to the meeting.

Don’t forget to renew your membership to SAF at www.ohiosaf.org

Research into the Restoration of America's Elm

- Kathleen Knight, USDA Forest Service

Before Dutch elm disease (DED), the American elm could commonly reach over 100 ft tall and 60 inches DBH. It typically inhabits wet areas in floodplains or swamps. DED is caused by two different fungal species, *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*, which were spread into North America in the 1930s and 1940s, respectively. The fungus is spread by two species of elm bark beetles, the smaller European elm bark beetle and native elm bark beetle. These are the beetles that make the vertical (European) or horizontal (native) galleries you often see etched under the bark of elm trees, with the smaller larval feeding galleries radiating from the larger central egg-laying gallery of the mother beetle. The DED fungus clogs up the vascular tissue of the tree so it can't effectively take up water leading to wilting leaves (often affecting one or a few branches early on,) eventual yellowing/browning of the wilted leaves, death of individual branches, and finally death of the tree. DED virtually wiped out American elm as an urban tree and decimated elm populations in natural areas. Elm populations in natural areas today usually consist of smaller sized trees which grow and reproduce, then get infected by DED and die before they reach very large sizes.

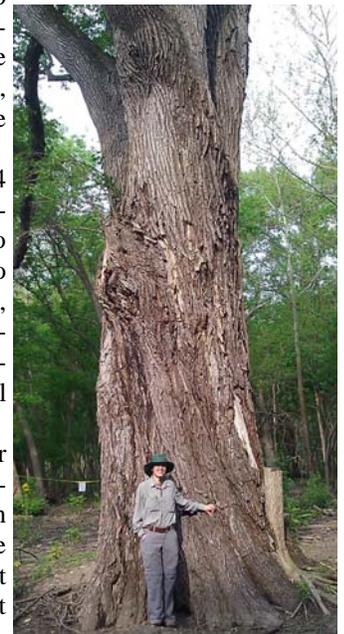
Efforts to breed American elm trees that can tolerate or resist DED have been underway for over 40 years. By screening thousands of American elm trees, different groups of researchers found a handful of trees that could tolerate DED. This means that they do get infected by DED and exhibit some symptoms, but generally recover and survive. Some of the DED-tolerant trees that have been discovered are now marketed as cultivars with names like "Princeton," "New Harmony," and "Valley Forge." At the Forest Service lab in Delaware, Ohio, researchers began growing many of these known and other potential DED-tolerant American elm trees in a single plantation for further testing and breeding experiments. The trees are grown until they reach susceptible size then injected with DED to test their tolerance of the fungus. Recently, Jim Slavicek has found that crosses among DED-tolerant cultivars can produce DED-tolerant elm trees, a very promising finding for American elm restoration.

Our eventual goal is the creation of a DED-tolerant American elm seed orchard for use in experimental restoration of American elm. In order to do this, we need to obtain more DED-tolerant American elm trees to have enough genetic diversity. We are creating a database of the locations and characteristics of large American elm trees across its native range. We will prioritize these trees based on their size, their location and habitat (we want to

represent a range of habitat types and locations,) and their health. Once our grafting methods are perfected and funding becomes available, a few small branches (scion wood) will be collected from the high priority trees and used to clonally propagate these trees. When the trees reach susceptible size, they will be tested for DED tolerance. Trees with tolerance will be used in elm seed orchards where they will cross with other DED-tolerant elms and produce DED-tolerant seeds for restoration.

About a year ago we launched a website for people to submit locations of large (greater than 24 inches DBH) American elms for this effort. We are excited to announce that 560 elms have been submitted to the database from across the country. We have done well at getting the word out in Ohio, so many people have submitted elm trees here. The largest ones are over 90 inches DBH. I have gone to see a few of these trees in Ohio, and they are amazing. While some elms were submitted by foresters, arborists, and park managers, others were submitted by homeowners and woodlot owners. Some people have even offered to collect scion wood for us once we're ready for that step. Many of the submitted elms are in yards or along streets, and we are still interested in additional elms especially in natural areas. The website for submitting elm trees is <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/survivorelms>.

If you run across a healthy elm tree larger than 24 inches DBH, please consider entering it at our website. We need to know the location (GPS coordinates or address,) DBH, landowner contact information, and the submitter's contact information. You can also enter the habitat type, tree crown health, whether there are smaller elms in the area with DED symptoms, and any other notes on the tree. We would like to thank everyone who has already submitted trees to the database. This project is a long-term effort, but we hope that someday towering American elm trees will be a common sight in our forests once again.



Forest Supervisor Chosen for National Forest in Ohio

Release Date: Oct. 31, 2011

Source: www.fs.usda.gov/wayne

Nelsonville, OH – The USDA Forest Service’s Eastern Region headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin announces the appointment of Anne Carey as the new Forest Supervisor for the Wayne National Forest located in southeastern Ohio.

Carey, a native of St. Louis, Missouri currently serves as the District Ranger for the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana. She is expected to start her new assignment on the Wayne National Forest on Monday, November 7, 2011.

“I truly believe in multiple use management as we continue to implement the Forest’s Land and Resource Management Plan,” said Carey “I look forward to meeting the employees and our partners as we continue the good work that the Wayne National Forest is known for throughout the Forest Service.” She has worked for the Forest Service in a variety of resource management positions in Missouri, Michigan, Wyoming, California and Indiana.

Carey started her career in the Forest Service in 1981 as a trainee Forester on the Mark Twain National Forest, where she became a Supervisory Forester. In 1987, she spent almost two years as a District Ranger on the Ottawa National Forest and in 1991 became an assistant District Ranger on the Ashley National Forest in Wyoming. In 1995, Carey worked on the Cleveland National Forest as a Recreation Lands Officer, where she later became the Forest Recreation Planner in 2006.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

As Forest Supervisor of the Wayne National Forest, Carey will have the responsibility for managing 241,000 acres of national forest land in southeast Ohio. The Forest, which is comprised of two ranger districts, is known as a recreation destination for many people in the region since its establishment in 1934.



Photo Credit:
www.fs.usda.gov/wayne

Roger A. Williams awarded the Guangxi Golden Hydrangea Award for 2011

Source: <http://senr.osu.edu/newsitem.asp?id=70&itemid=13630>

The regional government of Guangxi (P.R. China) announced on Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, that SENR’s [Roger Williams](#) won the 2011 Guangxi Golden Hydrangea Award, as recommended by Guangxi Ecological Engineering Vocational and Technical Institute.

The Golden Hydrangea Award is from the People’s Government of Guangxi, Zhuang Autonomous Region, and is awarded to outside experts in recognition of their contribution to the economic construction and social development of Guangxi Province, P.R. China. It is the highest award that the provincial government awards to foreign experts. A total of 170 awards have been made since its inception in 1994. Dr. Williams is only the second forester to win this award over that time period.

In Guangxi, Dr. Williams has been engaged in forest management, forest carbon sinks and forest fire prevention teaching and research work. He presided over The Ohio State University students’ cooperative project for forest carbon sinks and bird habitat research in 2010. Since 2007, he has presented many lectures and seminars at the Guangxi Ecological Engineering Vocational and Technical Institute, Guangxi University, Guangxi Academy of Forestry, Guangxi Forestry Survey and Design Institute on topics such as forest management principles and practices in the United States, understanding current international forest carbon sinks and markets, and cutting-edge knowledge of forest fire prevention.

With active assistance from Dr. Williams, Guangxi Ecological Engineering Vocational and Technical Institute and The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources have signed a memorandum of understanding to carry out exchanges and cooperation in many areas, including the exchange of visiting scholars, U.S. student cultural exchange projects, and the development of a 2+2 academic program between the two institutions.

Dr. Williams will formally accept the award in June 2012 when he leads The Ohio State University China Research Abroad program to Guangxi.

The School congratulates Dr. Williams on this award.



Memory Snippets - Walt Smith

My introduction to the black locust species was again at the Hawthorne farm in Guernsey County, Ohio. Two large trees – photographs indicate that the one tree was 30-36” diameter in 1953 – stood not twenty feet from the corner of the house. The trees were as tall as the two-story house and I do remember the trees smelling good when they blossomed. Also, on that corner of the house was a dug well. I now suspect that the healthiness of the black locust trees were maybe due to its roots stealing water resources from the well. My Dad probably identified the tree for me. While at the Hawthorne farm, I do not remember or associate any particular uses of the black locust wood either for fence posts or firewood. However, Dad probably did use the species for those two uses. For the kitchen was heated with a pot-bellied stove and farms always needed fences repaired.

My next association with the black locust species was in my strip mine reclamation job with Ohio Power Company. And, boy, did they utilize millions of black locust seedlings starting in the mid to late 1940’s and thereafter. Although the black locust borer wrecked havoc with the tree, eventually killing the main original bole, the reclamation properties of the black locust has stood the mining industry in good stead. When I arrived on the scene, the amount of black locust seedlings in the planting mixture had been reduced from one hundred percent to 16-20 percent of the total seedlings planted on any given acre depending on site. The black locust species would consistently have good survival and growth results. There was no finer reclamation scene than looking at a strip-mine reclaimed and planted area when the black locust was in full bloom. In 1969, at the dedication of the Big Muskie dragline, the black locust was in full white bloom and more than one tour visitor on the bus tour marveled at how well the reclaimed land on each side of the coal haul road looked. Yea! And on more than one occasion, bee keepers would bring in tractor trailer loads of bee hives and harvest the “light colored” honey that the blossoms produced.



In a one-acre plus site located along side State Route 83 near a place called Windy Hill (south of Cumberland, Ohio) there was a grid planting of various cultivars of “prostrate” black locust. It was an out planting supplied by a research outfit and had been researched as a possible replacement for the standard black locust species. Howard Kriebel had an article in the 1960 Journal of Forestry (page 222) regarding this mutant species. The original mutant planting was at the Secret Arboretum in Wooster. The local planting stayed in place all my employment tenure but my memory says that the borer, early on, also devastated the prostrate form. I do not recall it being used in industrial, reclamation planting programs. It may have been hard to commercially reproduce and I suspect that the fast growing “height factor” of the normal black locust more quickly covered up the mined land and made the land look reclaimed to a young forest condition. I typed in “prostrate black locust” into the Internet search and found a nursery that sells “Robinia pseudoacacia Ohio Prostrate – Dwarf Black Locust.” Interesting.

My latest and last association with black locust is as wood fuel. I cut it and Dad burned it in his warm morning stove. In a 15-year period I have helped cut 3-10 pickup loads of black locust firewood for friends and family as their primary or secondary home heat source. I have not cut any in the last five years because I ran out of friends. I’m kidding, of course. I got older and chainsaws got heavier. Put a 10-12 inch diameter, 2 foot long piece of black locust log on the fire, shut down the draft, have a warm night’s sleep, and hot coals in the morning to ignite another log with a minimum of ash. My, oh my, what living warmth. Some folks contend that black locust burns too hot but I am from a school that says “hot” is what I was looking for in a heat source.

The black locust species was an improbable species upon which to at least partially base one’s career. But black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) was good to me. And when I see strip-mined land that was reclaimed with, among other species, black locust, I usually see that it did its nurturing job very well. If you are curious as to where the genera name came from, a footnote in my “old” *Textbook of Dendrology* by Harlow & Harrar says that “Robinia was named after Jean and Vespasien Robin, herbalists to King Henry IV of France, who grew black locust in the Louvre gardens and did much to popularize the species in that country.”

Membership Milestone Recognition

Each Winter Meeting, Ohio SAF honors our members who have reached membership milestones. Members who are present at the meeting receive service pins for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years as a Society of American Foresters member. OSAF has many members who will be receiving their service pins. Please congratulate and thank them for their membership! If you are listed, please plan to attend the Winter Meeting so we can honor you with your pin and congratulate and thank you in person!

(Remember you have to attend the Winter Meeting to receive your pin)

10 Year

David King

Jaimee Searl

Doug Schwemlein

Michael Chedester

Tim James

20 Year

Walter Saaranen

Steve Siam

Mary Mason

Stephanie Miller

30 Year

Stan Swierz

Jim Mickey

David Chamberlain

Randy Clum

50 Year

David Berna

David Schatz

60 Year

Jack Vimmerstedt

Outstanding Alumnus – 2011 Dr. James H. Brown - Dan Kincaid

The WVU Division of Forestry's Outstanding Alumnus award this year was presented to Dr. James H. Brown, known as "Jim" by his many friends and colleagues. Jim was a 1953 graduate of WVU with a BS in Forest

Management. He received a Masters in Forest Silviculture from Yale in 1954 and his PhD in Forest Genetics and Forest Soils from Michigan State in 1967.

Jim Brown grew up in Nicholas County, West Virginia and graduated from Richwood High School. He entered WVU in the Fall of 1949. Jim reminisced, "WVU had about 4,000 students at the time, but it looked huge compared to Richwood. I stood in line at the old Field House to register as a Freshman," he said. "I was interested in forestry, but I had just about decided to sign up for the Mechanical Engineering program. However, that line was too long and the forestry line that day was much shorter. So, I signed up for forestry and I never regretted it."

That was forestry's gain and engineering's loss, for sure. But Jim was a natural fit for forestry. Both sides of his family in Nicholas County had been involved in farming, logging, and lumbering for years. That area was, in many ways, the heart of forestry in West Virginia. In fact, his uncle had been the Superintendent of the old Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company in Richwood. Jim had grown up around forestry, logging, sawmills, hunting, fishing, and the whole bit. So, on to forestry school it was.

After a stellar undergraduate career at WVU, and with the encouragement of Dr. Gus Tryon, Jim applied for and was accepted at Yale. Prior to, during, and immediately following his studies at Yale, Jim worked as a Research Assistant for the U.S. Forest Service in Orono, Maine; Parsons, West Virginia; Laurel, Maryland; and at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia. He then served in the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps from 1955 – 1957.

Upon returning from the Army in 1957, Jim began work at WVU. With the help of his close friend and mentor, Dr. Tryon, he began research in Christmas tree production and mined-land reclamation. In 1961 Jim was named an Assistant Professor, continuing his research responsibilities, while teaching a Seeding and Planting course and serving as an undergraduate advisor. In 1964 and 1965 he moved to East Lansing, Michigan to complete course work, exams, field research, and other requirements for his PhD at Michigan State University.

Jim then returned to WVU and resumed his previous duties. He was named an Associate Professor in 1967 and also taught half of the Fire Protection course and the artificial regeneration portion of Silviculture. Jim's work with the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association, and his research and publications in that field, led him to give many presentations throughout the East, Midwest, and South. That worked to Ohio's benefit and West Virginia's loss, when in 1970, he accepted an Associate Professor position with Ohio State University (OSU) at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, Ohio.

Jim has remained in the Wooster area to this day. He became a full Professor, Associate Chair of the Division, Associate Director, Acting Director, and since retirement from full-time work in 1995, he has been Professor Emeritus in OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources. In addition to teaching, advising, and continuing his research on Christmas trees, Jim spent considerable time studying mined-land reclamation and forest soil/site relationships. He later assumed numerous administrative responsibilities at both OSU and OARDC.

Jim has authored or co-authored over 115 research publications, given more presentations than you can count, and belongs to many organizations, including SAF, the Soil Science Society, the Ohio Christmas Tree Association, and others. He was named a Fellow in the national SAF in 1986, received the Ohio SAF Outstanding Member Award in 1987, and was elected to the Ohio Christmas Tree Hall of Fame in 1996. Jim has also served on advisory committees at Hocking College, Ohio DNR, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Districts, and the Ohio Forestry Association. In 2011 Jim was presented with the Outstanding Service Award by the National Christmas Tree Association at its annual convention at the Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.

I am so pleased that Jim Brown was named Outstanding Alumnus for 2011. It is well deserved. He taught two classes that I took as an undergraduate at WVU; he was an excellent instructor. I later worked closely with him on various projects in Ohio when we both served in the Ohio Forestry Association and the Ohio SAF in the 1980's. I have gotten to know Jim well over the years and he has always been an excellent ambassador for the forestry program at WVU. He has been instrumental in developing and solidifying the Gus Tryon Scholarship presented annually by the WVU Forestry Alumni Association.

A true friend of WVU, the forestry program, and the Alumni Association.....and a proud Mountaineer from Richwood, West Virginia – Jim Brown!



Jeremy Scherf
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Upcoming Events

2012 Ohio Woodland, Water, & Wildlife Conference

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM

Mid-Ohio Conference Center, Mansfield Ohio

Registration is \$60 before 2/17/2012, after \$80. Registration closes 2/28/2012.

For more information and for online registration visit <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>

2012 Ohio SAF Winter Meeting

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 13-14, 2012 8:30 AM to 3:45 PM

Ohio State University, Ag Administration Bldg, Columbus Ohio

Registration is \$45 for OSAF members, \$75 for non-members, Students free with registration

2012 Ohio River Valley Woodland & Wildlife Workshop

Saturday, March 24, 2012 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Kings Island Resort & Conference Center, Mason Ohio

Registration is \$45 before 3/12/2012, \$55 after. Registration closes 3/19/2012.

For more information and for online registration visit <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>

Iron Furnace Chapter 2012 Events

Iron Furnace Chapter Upcoming Meetings: April 25 & July 25, 2011, location to be determined

Iron Furnace Annual Cookout: Mid-October at the Lashbrook's Tree Farm, details to come