



## The Ohio Forestry Association 2007 Annual Report

### 2007 Highlights

It was a year of change and challenge for OFA, particularly in the leadership and staff for the association. It started on an early and very unfortunate note when just before the Annual Meeting at Atwood Lake Resort, Executive Director Bob Romig suffered a traumatic head injury. After sustaining the injury at home, Bob spent considerable time in the hospital and afterwards recuperating. During that time, the association relied on the dedicated staff and volunteers to continue operations and keep things rolling along.

There were two interim Executive Directors during this time including Scott Zody and Mindy Bankey. Bob was able to come back to work on a part-time basis in the fall, but decided to “hang up his boots” at the end of the year. With Bob’s announced retirement, the Executive Committee immediately began searching for a replacement.

In spite of Bob’s absence, a number of traditional activities still occurred including the annual Paul Bunyan Show, the Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, and the OWIN Summer Meeting. In addition, OFA continued its work with the Loggers Chapters and the Master Logging Company Program, the OFA Worker Compensation Group program, and support of the Ohio Tree Farm Program.

On behalf of the members of OFA and the OFA staff, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the Executive Committee: Bob Boyles, President; Brad Perkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Walt Lange, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Jason Good, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, and Emmett Conway, Past President for what was an inordinate amount of their time and dedication to keep the association moving ahead this past year. They gave up valuable work and personal time to volunteer their services during a very difficult period for the association. Much appreciated, guys.

### Change in IRS Incorporation status from 501 (c) (3) to 501 (c) (6) Not-for-Profit

Effective April 3, 2008 the Ohio Forestry Association will begin operation as a 501 (C) (6) Not-for-Profit corporation, changing from a 501 (c) (3) under which it operated since first incorporating. This incorporation change was recommended to us by legal counsel and is based in large part to the OFA significant involvement in trade association activities. Although the membership should see no difference or impact to their programs, the change consumed many hours of staff time during 2007.

### OFA Membership

<u>Member Category</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Primary Manufacturers	83	81
Secondary Manufacturers	20	19
Wholesalers/Brokers	18	21
Suppliers	96	101
Service Firms	20	19
Consulting Forester Co.	13	17
Contractors	157	155
Individuals	<u>197</u>	<u>218</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	604	631

## Paul Bunyan Show

The OFA Paul Bunyan Show (PBS) is one of the country's premier wood industry trade shows. First held more than a half century ago, the Paul Bunyan Show annually attracts buyers and sellers of wood industry equipment and materials as well as a cross-section of people interested in learning about the industry and forestry, and wanting to enjoy the fun of logging and equipment competitions.

Two years ago, the OFA leadership elected to end its relationship with Hocking College who hosted the show on college property. The show was moved to the Guernsey County Fairgrounds near Cambridge, Ohio. This location is well situated with major inter-state access routes, is in the middle of a heavy concentration of wood industry and forest land, and has the necessary amenities a city can offer exhibitors and visitors.

The PBS has been very successful both years since the move and is expected to continue so into the future. Normally held during the first weekend of October, when fall colors are near peak, the 2007 show endured unseasonably warm weather exceeding 90 degrees. As a result, attendance particularly from the general public appeared to suffer. That aside, sponsors, exhibitors, vendors and competitors all appeared once again satisfied with a well-run show.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Participation</u>	
Exhibitors	203	
Sponsors/Advertisers	53	
Food Vendors	18	
OWIN Hospitality	77	
Volunteers	94	
Ohio Lumberjack Champ.	24	
Intl. Lumberjack Comp	17	
Logger/Skidder Comp	47	
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>Attendance</b>	14,227	10,073

Special thanks to the PBS Committee and the large number of volunteers who made the show a success!

## 2007 OFA Annual Meeting

The 2007 OFA Annual Meeting took place on March 2 & 3 at the Atwood Lake Resort in Sherrodsville, Ohio. The theme of the meeting was **Focus on Furniture** which featured a close look at the Amish Furniture industry in north central Ohio. The meeting was well attended with **211** participants and exhibitors. A number of traditional activities took place including the OWIN tour on Friday traveling to Canal Dover Furniture Co, followed by the WIN reception on Friday evening. Tree Farm interests hosted a tour of the Empire Chestnut Company on Friday afternoon followed the next day with the traditional Tree Farm Luncheon, during which Ohio's 2006 Outstanding Tree Farmer of Year, Jim Pry and his family were honored. And finally, no meeting is complete without the annual Logger's Supper with awards and entertainment. Entertainment was provided by Jim Teter.

### Awards

Outstanding Logger of the Year  
Sexton Excavating  
Outstanding Individual in Government Service  
Outstanding Individual in Industry  
Outstanding Individual in Private Service  
Outstanding Individual in Conservation Education  
Ohio Forestry Hall of Fame

### Recipient

Shawn and Will Sexton,  
Jeremy Sherf  
Gene Walters  
Glenn Waggy  
Dave Woodring  
Ron Abraham  
Doug Brenneman  
Mike Long

In addition to their recognition as Ohio's outstanding logger, Shawn and Will Sexton were recognized as the Forest Resource Association (FRA) 2007 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger, making them one of the top 4 logging companies in the country! Congratulations on a job well done! Thanks for helping to make Ohio and the OFA proud.

### OWIN Summer Meeting

The 2007 OWIN summer meeting was held in Zanesville on July 25 & 26. Along with the usual Board, LSC, OWIN and OFA Executive Committee meetings, there was the OWIN Tour of All American Homes followed by the OWIN Reception. The following day, all attendees enjoyed their sport of choice, between golf at EagleSticks golf club or the Sporting Clay shoot at Briar Rabbit Shooting Sports.

Attendance	166
Sponsors	28

### The Ohio Voluntary Master Logging Company Program / Logger Training

The Ohio Master Logging Company Program is a voluntary certification program administered by the Ohio Forestry Association with direct oversight from the Logging Standards Council. The Master Logging Company Program has been in existence for nearly 20 years, starting as a fledgling effort to encourage training among loggers in Best Management Practices (BMP) into a program with over 200 individuals trained in BMPs, and chainsaw techniques, certified in safety practices, and meeting business standards of practice such as Worker Compensation and liability insurance as requested.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Master Loggers	226	217
Master Logging companies	154	147

<b>2007 Classes</b>		
<u>Classes</u>	<u># classes</u>	<u>attendees</u>
Chainsaw Level 1	5	62
Chainsaw Level 2	2	24
Re-Certification	2	91
BMP	4	54
Lumber Grading Short Course	<u>1</u>	<u>17</u>
	14	241

### OFA Workers Compensation Group Program

The Ohio Forestry Association is sponsor to a Worker Compensation Group Insurance program whereby companies who share common work responsibilities may pool their insurance "risk" to reduce their cost of premiums to the Bureau of Workers Compensation. Companies who can demonstrate the lowest injury rates among workers share in the highest premium reduction, which by law is limited now to 85% reduction from regular premium. Compensation Consultants, Inc. (CCI) is the carrier with whom OFA contracts to service the group program.

When first started, the program generated significant revenue for the association. In recent years, as the BWC laws and rules have changed and there has been increased competition from other programs, participation in OFA's program has declined.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u># Companies</u>	<u># New</u>	<u>Total Company Savings</u>	<u>OFA Revenue</u>
2006	58	8	\$1,329,463	\$
2007	60	9	\$1,596,408	\$56,733

### Ohio Tree Farm Committee

The Ohio Tree Farm Committee (OTFC) promotes the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting the environment as well as educating the public on the benefits of productive forestry. The OFA is a sponsor of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and provides administrative and program support. The OTFC is nationally recognized as a state program that regularly meets or exceeds standards of Tree Farm Inspections. In addition it is known for its work in forestry education and outreach.

One of the annual highlights is the Tree Farm Luncheon at the OFA Annual Meeting where Ohio's Outstanding Tree Farmer is recognized. In 2007, the Outstanding Ohio Tree Farm is the **Pry Tree Farm owned by Jim and Janet Pry**, located in Sandusky Township of Crawford County along the Sandusky River.

**2007 Ohio Tree Farms      1,686 (294,408 acres)**

### OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp – Camp Muskingum

The OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, first held in 1950, is a week-long camping and learning experience for high school students to learn about forests and forestry in a structured camp setting. It combines informal, outdoor classes taught by professional forestry and natural resource professionals with a fun camping experience. The camp has been held at different locations around Ohio over the years, but is now held at the Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. Although the camp is run by FFA, the experience would not be possible without the OFA members and other professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to teach our youth about forestry and natural resource management.

	<u>Participation</u>
Campers	95
Instructors	30
Contributors	9
Counselors / staff	4

### Hardwood Value Improvement Project

The Hardwood Value Improvement Project, commonly referred to as HVIP, is a cooperative agreement between the USDA, Forest Service and OFA to improve bucking of hardwood logs in the US. The grant will provide funds to train and develop a cadre of log-bucking educators throughout the eastern US (30 states total) who will work with the wood industry to improve bucking skills and ultimately result in the increased value and quality of hardwood logs. Since the project was started, there have been 18 training sessions that have resulted in 112 HVIP certified trainers. Ohio currently has 11 instructors, well above the average for the other states..

In addition, in states where HVIP is active, 14 states now recognize HVIP bucking training classes as part of the curriculum for Master Logger recertification credits.