

Collaborative Placed- Based Woodland Owner Education to Support the Efforts of the Ohio Interagency Forestry Team

The Interagency Ohio Forestry team, a collaboration of Extension and all government agencies in Ohio with forestry in their mission, has developed a place-based woodland owner education series for Appalachian woodland owners focusing on Stewardship Opportunities, Selling Timber and Legacy Planning. These topics are being offered on a rotational basis in the 17-county project area.

Collaborative teams were formed in 2-3 county “places” where coordinated programming will be initially offered on these three key topics. The goal is to offer at least one program in each “place” annually. Partners in the project include but are not limited to local “ODNR-Division of Forestry (State Service Foresters), Ohio State University and Central State University Extension (ANR Educators and Specialists), county Soil and Water Conservation District (Technicians), area Natural Resources Conservation Service (area staff) and ODNR-Division of Forestry (private lands biologists).

Curriculum development is iterative and is led by Cooperative Extension with input from all partners and selected woodland owners. Cooperative Extension provides training for partners, marketing materials (Local media, social media and direct marketing) and on-site assistance for each program. All curriculum and marketing materials are being developed using TELE - targeted marketing principals designed for specifically for working the land and woodland retreat owners. Peers and Pros - 360 conversational approach is being employed in field-based sessions.



David Apsley

Dave has 33 years of professional experience in forestry and natural resources education, management and research. He focuses most of his energy on building partnerships to improve woodland management on family forests. Dave coordinates A DAY in the WOODS, a woodland owner outreach effort focused on Ohio’s Appalachian woodland owners (<http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods>). He is currently serving as the Outreach Coordinator for the Ohio Interagency Forestry Team’s Collaborative Oak Management Initiative. He has been a member of the National 4-H Forestry Invitational committee since 2006. Other programs that he has helped to develop since joining OSU Extension include: Call Before You Cut, Ohio Society of American Foresters directory, and the Ohio Woodland Stewards program.

Leslie Horner

Leslie Horner is the Regional Extension Associate for Central State Extension’s southeast region. She has a B.S. in Natural Sciences (Biology concentration) and an M.S. in Forestry, and 20 years of combined experience in forestry education with adult and youth learners, collaborative natural resource management, and asset-based community development that integrates social, environmental, and economic well-being. She is experienced in peer-learning, targeted action-oriented messaging and marketing to unengaged and underserved audiences, applied social science research, and group facilitation methods.

Building on her previous work for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and Extension programs, Leslie is interested in expanding partnerships around small business development and supplemental income opportunities relating to woodland improvement activities

needed to sustain the health and resilience of privately owned woodlands in the region. A long-time resident of southeastern Ohio, Leslie also has county, state, and regional ties and experience relating to cooperatives (food and forest), agroforestry business development, maker-spaces, value-added product development and marketing, and with ecotourism and historical tourism partners in the southeast region.