

## 2017 Ohio FFLA Chapter Report

Ohio Chapter member ship remained constant for 2017 at 9 members.

Two significant Fire Tower projects were started and one completed in 2017. The first project both started and completed in 2017 was the Armintrout Fire Tower, formerly an Ohio Department of Natural Resources tower located in Meigs County, Ohio (one of many now located on private land when deactivated in and around 1988) was relocated to the Ohio State Fairgrounds and specifically to the Natural Resources Park of the fairgrounds in Columbus, Ohio. With this \$130,000 project, funded by ODNR, came a complete disassembly, restoration and rebuild of the tower to its original silver and orange color, as many towers in Ohio were painted. The tower lost one section of height (20 feet) to better fit into its now urban setting, but it really looks great as the picture attached (taken the first week of 2018) will attest.

The second project started in 2017 is the beginning of fundraising to re-locate the former Rockbridge (Sugar Grove) Fire Tower, also a former ODNR tower on private land, located in Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio to the Charles F. Alley Memorial Park located a short distance away. Alley Park is a 400 acre park located outside the City of Lancaster, Ohio and is owned by the Lancaster Parks and Recreation Department. The tower, once relocated, will be at about the same elevation it currently sits and will provide for a fantastic view and be much more accessible to the public. Currently, \$800.00 has been raised and I feel that in 2018 we will see that total significantly increase with monetary and in kind donations. It is proposed to disassemble Sugar Grove by sections, totally restore the cab and steps and paint/repair each section prior to reassembly at Alley Park. I am leading the fundraising and restoration effort along with the the Friends of the Lancaster Parks providing funds support. A link to a great article in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette is listed below that kicked off this effort.

<http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/story/news/local/2017/03/26/sugar-grove-fire-tower-needs-care-new-home-alley-park/99484710/>

Activity on fire towers in Ohio gained in 2017 much a part to the events listed above as well as a great article written on Ohio Fire Towers by Craig Springer in Ohio Cooperative Living Magazine significantly contributing to our efforts. (See Pages 23-24 of the Country Living Digital Edition attached)

[https://issuu.com/ohiocooperativeliving/docs/ocl0617\\_fullissue\\_high\\_res](https://issuu.com/ohiocooperativeliving/docs/ocl0617_fullissue_high_res)

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. White  
Director, Ohio Chapter

Forest Fire Lookout Association



Armintrout Fire Tower at Ohio Natural Resources Park, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio (January 2018)



Rockbridge (Sugar Grove) Fire Tower at its original site on Firetower Rd, Berne Township, Fairfield County Ohio. To be relocated to Charles F. Alley Memorial Park, Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio A City of Lancaster, Ohio Parks and Recreation Department facility. (2015)