



Kentucky  
Woodland  
Owners  
Association

[www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)

vol. 23 no. 1

## ***KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER***

Winter 2015

# **KWOA 2015 Annual Meeting - Mammoth Cave National Park**

***Your Woodlands: Timber and Non-Timber Perspectives***



*Photo by: National Park Service*

The KWOA/KWOF Annual Meeting will be held April 10-11 at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Informative sessions on timber and non-timber products marketing and other topics will begin at 10 a.m. (CST) on Friday, April 10, 2015 followed by field site visits in the afternoon. The evening will host the ever-popular Woodland Quiz, dinner speakers and awards.

Saturday morning, April 11, will feature cooperator reports, presentations, business meeting and elections.

See pages 4-5 for complete pullout agenda.

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## **Donate Items for the Silent Auction**

Start your spring cleaning early! Look for an item you would like to donate to the annual meeting silent auction. Donations can be anything with a monetary value. Examples: sporting event tickets, gift baskets, gift cards, handmade items such as scarves, blankets and wooden items such as toys, bowls, spoons, etc.

Last year nearly 50 items were auctioned to raise more than a thousand dollars for the association! Email a description of your item and a suggested minimum bid to Della Wall, board member, at [dwall@prtcnet.org](mailto:dwall@prtcnet.org).

# Highlights from Quarterly Board Meetings

## **August Quarterly Meeting**

**Annual meeting.** Portia Brown reported that much of the program has been explored and prepared. The theme will be Your Woodlands: Timber and Non-timber Perspectives.

**Shaping Our Appalachian Region.** Frank Hicks, KWOA's representative to the SOAR initiative's agriculture committee, reported that there have been listening sessions (agriculture committee) throughout the eastern section of the state. Two important points raised during those sessions were: 1) the shortage of local wood using industries and 2) because they lack ownership of minerals and surface rights on their properties, many woodland owners don't see the value of working in the woods.

**Kentucky Division of Forestry.** Leah MacSwords reported that a partnership with Rowan County has resulted in extra EQIP monies available in that area.

**Kentucky Farm Bureau.** KWOA supports submission of timber taxation and timber trespass resolutions to KFB for inclusion at its annual meeting.

**Kentucky Forest Industries Association.** Bob Bauer reported that the Wood Expo will be back in Lexington in 2015. The industry is noting a positive upswing in markets. KFIA is beginning legislative work for Trespass and Bad Actors. It is taking a closer look at Kentucky Proud and Appalachian branding. The Northern Long-Eared Bat could be an issue for summer logging issues in the future.

**Kentucky Forests and Drinking Water.** Jack Stickney reported that a program in the spring will discuss the value and relationship of watershed management and communities' drinking water.

**Tree Farm.** Lloyd Foe reported a program change for the American Tree Farm System. Each state tree farm committee is required to choose between three common certification pathways: a) certified program, b) recognition program and c) independently managed group.

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee has opted for the certified pathway and has solicited input from tree farmers. A final decision will be made by December 2015 as to what course of action the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee and Kentucky Tree Farmers will follow.

## **November Quarterly Meeting**

**Guest presenter.** Gary Chapman, CEO of EcoPower, spoke to the board about a proposed power plant for Hazard in Southeastern Kentucky that will be fueled by renewable woody biomass. Chapman requested that KWOA provide a position statement to support this effort. As follow-up, Jack Rentz drafted the statement for board review and comment that essentially favors a market for secondary forest products, consistent with sustainable forest practices, and the use of certified wood. The draft statement cites the KWOA Strategic Plan elements that favor the sustainable harvest and use of wood fiber as a green source for electric generation and an emphasis on third party certification to document green standards.

**Timber theft.** Board members Yancey Clark and Hugh Archer represented KWOA at a timber theft issues meeting on November 5th sponsored by KFIA and State Representative Leslie Combs. Two points addressed at the meeting to move forward were: 1) increase the personal penalty for timber theft and 2) establish a special unit to investigate timber theft. (See a more extensive account of this meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.)

**SOAR initiative.** Frank Hicks noted that the SOAR Agriculture Committee report mentions that work in forest communities can be a short term item to be addressed (3-5 years) and that KWOA was noted as a source of information for forest landowners.

**Forests and drinking water.** Jack Stickney reported that partnerships are developed to see that forest lands are managed for the sustainability of water resources. (See Jack's article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

# Scholarship Awarded to Rachel Landham

It is a great pleasure to announce the 2014 winner of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association/Foundation Scholarship, Rachel Landham. The Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation Scholarship provides an annual award to a junior or senior student enrolled in the University of Kentucky's professional undergraduate forestry degree program. The award is granted on the bases of leadership potential, connection with the forestry community and insight for the forestry profession.

Rachel is a senior in the Department of Forestry program. As a forestry student she has performed tree inventories for the city of Lexington, volunteered at the Kentucky Wood Exposition, joined tree plantings across the state, collected seeds for KDF, assisted with invasive species removal, implemented stream health assessments and attended Society of American Foresters meetings and conventions. She has assisted with research to reintroduce a disease resistant hybrid of the American chestnut. Rachel recalls that her exposure to forests started early with exploring the "mystical" and mature oak forests of Lewis County with her great grandmother. Last summer she interned with the U.S. Forest Service in the Tongass National Forest in Petersburg, Alaska – a forest system "nothing like" the mixed mesophytic ecosystems of Kentucky.

While painting and tagging miles of timber boundaries that included several grizzly bear encounters, Rachel sustained an ankle injury from a fall through the forest floor that necessitated shifting from field work to an office assignment with the sale administrator. Performing records entry for logging transactions, scaling conversions and timber accountability checks exposed her to a whole different side of the timber industry. The internship concluded with a stint in the planning department cal-



*Doug McLaren presents Rachel Landham the KWOA/F Student Scholarship Award.*

culating volumes, selecting logging systems, placing roads, prescribing best management practices, and creating maps and financial analyses. In retrospect, the experiences in addition to the field work made Rachel realize "there is more to be gained than merely wanting to play in the woods."

Rachel anticipates a forestry career that compliments not only the management of our national forests but better satisfies the increasing demand for forest products. She hopes it will reflect research, conservation practices and sustainable forest commodities.

## Highlights from Quarterly Meetings (cont.)

**Strategic planning/advocacy.** Board members met with Dean Cox of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. Items covered were more involvement from the agents throughout the state for forestry initiatives, praise for the Forestry Department towards KWOA's endeavors and the need for more economic data on the county level.

**KFIA.** Bob Bauer reported that Repeat Bad Actors legislation will be introduced in the new short session after the first of the year.

**Tree Farm.** Bauer reported that Kentucky Tree Farm Committee has the desire to attain some form of certification in the future. There will be a fee associated with the certification process for individual tree farmers.

**KWOA is dedicated to promoting economically and environmentally sound forest management.**

**Visit our new Web site...  
[www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net) to learn more.**

# **Your Woodlands: Timber and Non-Timber Perspectives**

**2015 Annual Meeting Kentucky Woodland Owners Association and  
Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation**

**———— Friday, April 10 ————**

<b>Registration</b>	Rotunda Room	9:45 AM	Register & pick up any pre-paid meal tickets and map to afternoon programs.
<b>Non Timber Products: Honey</b>	Rotunda Room	10 to 10:30 AM	Tammy Horn will be discussing her new role as the KY State Apiarist, especially her efforts to expand forest-based beekeeping across the state as a viable form of agriculture and economic development, as well as the marketing opportunities for forest-based honey.
Break	Rotunda Room	10 min	Refreshments in meeting room
<b>Timber Sale Process- Beginning to End</b>	Rotunda Room	10:40 to 11:00 AM	Kraig Moore, President, Kentucky Chapter of the American Consulting Forrester Association (KACF) will provide an overview of the entire timber sale process.
<b>Timber Marketing</b>	Rotunda Room	11:00 to Noon	Kraig Moore, KACF, and Hagan Wonn, Interstate Hardwood, will discuss timber-marketing options and answer questions submitted by our members in advance.
Lunch	On your own	Noon	Pre-paid meal tickets are for the buffet in main dining room; give the ticket to your waitress so no need to stand in check-out line.
<b>Field Trip to Burn Unit</b>	Bike Trail from the Camp Store	1:15 to 3:30 PM	This is a two to three mile round trip easy flat terrain hike along the bike trail to a woodland burn unit. The trail begins at the Camp Store (1/4 mile from the hotel). Rick Olson will guide us and tell us about the prescribed burn program for this site.
<b>Displays, Silent Auction</b>	Rotunda Room	Opens 4:30 PM	Della Wall

**———— Friday, April 10 ————**

<b>Social Time &amp; Woodland Quiz</b>	Rotunda Room	4:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Doug McLaren
<b>2015 KWOA/KWOF Banquet</b>	<b>Rotunda Room</b>	<b>6 to 9:00 PM</b>	<b>Jack Rentz, President KWOA/KWOF Presiding</b>
Dinner Buffet		6:15 – 7:00 PM	
Legislative Comments Scholarship Award Forester Award, KWOA Award		7:00 - 7:45 PM	Henry Duncan /Perry Sebaugh/Doug McLaren/ Jack Rentz
<b>NPS Prescribed Burning at Mammoth Cave</b>	Rotunda Room	7:45 – 9:00 PM	Rick Olson, Mammoth Cave National Park Ecologist
Adjourn		9 PM	

**———— Saturday, April 11 ————**

Breakfast	Hotel Dining Room	7-9 AM	Breakfast Buffet in hotel dining room. Pre-paid meal tickets for buffet main dining room; give the ticket to your waitress so no need to stand in check-out line.
<b>Cooperator Reports</b>	Rotunda Room	9 - 10:15 AM	KFB, KFI, KDF, NRCS, UK
Break time	Rotunda Room	10:15 AM	Refreshments remain in room all morning
<b>UK Forestry Students Report</b>	Rotunda Room	10:30- 11:00 AM	Red Baker, Chair and UK Forestry Department Students
<b>Non Timber Products: Hunting Leases</b>	Rotunda Room	11:00 – 11:30 AM	Stephen Ruckman, Merk Farms Hunting
<b>KWOA/KWOF Business Meeting &amp; Elections</b>	Rotunda Room	11:30 - NOON	Jack Rentz, President, Henry Duncan, Past President, & Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns, Director
<b>Meeting Adjourns &amp; SILENT AUCTION CLOSSES</b>		<i>NOON</i>	Settle up with Della Wall before leaving for lunch on your own. Hotel check out is Noon

# Property Assessment Appeal Hearing

After several postponements, the property assessment appeal for the timber property owned by Jim Corum, KWOA Director at Large, was finally heard before the Kentucky State Board of Tax Appeals on November 18th. The hearing was well-attended by KWOA board members as well as several property valuation assessors from eastern Kentucky and some property appraisers.

The Corum case was represented by Kenton Ball, a Lexington attorney and son of Joe Ball, one of KWOA's founders and past presidents. Testifying before the board were University of Kentucky Forestry Department faculty Jeff Stringer and Andrew Stainback. Members can review the Prehearing Compliance Statements for the Corum property and the Harlan County Property Valuation Administrator on the [kwoa.net](http://kwoa.net) website.

At issue was the appraisal of managed woodland property for its agricultural use value based on its income producing capability. These assessments are applied uniformly to timberlands and pasturelands. The Corum appeal posited that because timber does not produce an annual crop, it is unfair to assess man-

aged woodlands at the same annual rate as croplands or pasturelands that harvest and therefore generate income every year. Instead, timber-producing property should be assessed for its cash rent value. The University of Kentucky has developed a methodology for this assessment based on actual and predicted timber production on a 70-year harvest rotation.

By this methodology, the property at issue would be valued for tax purposes at approximately one-tenth of the current assessment. Also discussed during the hearing was the appropriateness for timberland valuation using Revenue Manual Course 90 – Real Farm Property Assessment, the standard guidance provided for property assessors that applies the cash rent model to the Corum property. Made clear during the hearing was the point that use of the Course 90 manual is not mandated by law and that PVAs can adopt alternative methodologies such as the one developed by UK Forestry.

The tax appeals board requested further briefing on the capacity of Course 90 to meet case law and the viability of PVAs using alternate methods.

# Forests and Drinking Water

*by Jack Stickney*

**[Editor's note: below is a summary of the full article]**

Forest lands that are well managed make up the best land use for the sustainability of water resources. Water quality and quantity both benefit from good healthy forest. "The more forest lands in your source watershed, the better," said Jack Stickney, Kentucky Rural Water Association, 2014.

The Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water is developing collaboration between water utilities and the forest industry. The partnership is organizing forums in five states (Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Texas) to share information about the importance of drinking water source protection in forested watersheds, available technical resources and assistance, and creative financing tools. The partnership seeks to identify

potential target watersheds and pilot projects in each state for cooperative forest conservation, sound management and restoration and creative watershed protection strategies. It is sponsored by the US Endowment for Forests and Communities with private and federal funding.

An organizational/planning meeting was held in Berea to work towards a 2015 Kentucky Forests and Drinking Water Forum. For more information contact Jack Stickney, [j.stickney@krwa.org](mailto:j.stickney@krwa.org) (270) 843-2291.

## ***Credits:***

Newsletter editor – Karen Marshall

Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association

KWOA website – Karen Marshall

# Timber Theft and Trespass Reduction

**Issues meeting –  
November 5, 2014 Frankfort**

From summaries submitted by Yancey L. Clark, KWOA board member and Robert Bauer, KFIA Executive Director

Board members Hugh Archer and Yancey Clark represented KWOA at a Timber Theft Issues Meeting held November 5, 2014 at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association office in Frankfort. The meeting was sponsored by KFIA and Representative Leslie Combs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss timber theft issues in Kentucky and to look at potential solutions to problems faced by law enforcement, forest landowners and the wood products industry. Representative Combs has proposed a resolution for a number of years in the state legislature that has failed to get senate approval. The purpose of the resolution is to create a task force to combat timber theft and timber trespass. The meeting brought representatives of the groups together that deal with timber theft on all sides of the issue. Among the eighteen attendees at the meeting were representatives from the county and commonwealth attorney associations, timber industry, woodland owners, county and local law enforcement, loggers, Kentucky Division of Forestry, University of Kentucky, timber contractors and commercial foresters. Everyone had a lot to say during the two hour meeting. A review of the current laws affecting timber theft and penalties for timber trespass across property lines was presented to the group.

Georgia was mentioned as a state that recently passed timber theft legislation with components that mirror some of Kentucky's existing laws.

There were horror stories from woodland owners about timber being stolen on the other side of the mountain and the difficulties in redressing the theft. A logger told stories about unintentional timber trespass due to vague property lines and the legal difficulties in settling with the landowner. Law enforcement officers talked about difficulties in apprehending culprits and further difficulties in prosecuting them as well as workloads that prevent them (law enforcement) from spending much time on a timber theft case. Local law enforcement is not equipped to deal with timber theft. Then there is the cost to the woodland owners. Surveys,

legal fees, forester's fees and damage to property are expensive.

Potential solutions that emerged from the discussions included:

- Access to sawmill records to acquire value of logs without a court order
- Cross-training in timber theft of Fish and Wildlife Conservation officers
- Special Investigative Unit for Timber Theft needs to be established either in the State Police or possibly the Department of Fish and Wildlife that would be devoted to apprehending and investigating timber thefts. Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina have such investigative units. Suggestions for funding: the legislature could provide two million dollars to get the units started and a portion of timber producers sales tax could be used for special investigations. A Timber Theft Hotline was also suggested.

This all boils down to:

- (1) timber theft is easy and
- (2) we need ways to combat it, such as stricter criminal penalties, including jail time, and a special investigations unit to catch the thieves.

The next Timber Theft Task Force meeting will be scheduled after the first of the year.

## *Calendar of Events*

February 19, 2015

KWOA/KWOF quarterly board meetings  
KFIA Office, 106 Progress  
Drive, Frankfort

April 10-11, 2015

KWOA Annual Meeting  
Mammoth Cave National Park

May 21, August 20, & November 19, 2015

KWOA/KWOF quarterly board meetings  
KFIA Office, 106 Progress Drive,  
Frankfort



# KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Frankfort, KY 40601

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Dr. Jim Corum (14) Stony Fork  
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## OFFICERS

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**Treasurer** - Robert 'Bob' Gossett, Flemingsburg  
**Assistant Treasurer** - Marsha McCartney, Flemingsburg  
**Past President** - J. Henry Duncan, Versailles

Next Board Meeting: February 19, 2015 - KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

*Kentucky Woodlands* is published quarterly. We welcome articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Karen Marshall, Editor  
**Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter**  
3740 Hwy 330  
Owenton, KY 40359



**2015 Annual Meeting KWOA/KWOF**  
**Your Woodlands: Timber and Non-Timber Perspectives**  
Mammoth Cave National Park  
Friday, April 10, & Saturday, April 11, 2015  
Mammoth Cave Hotel - Rotunda Room

**Registrations and reservations before March 10, 2015 receive the best discounts and services.**  
Registration includes Friday Night Awards Banquet and all programs both days.

	Base Fee	x	No. of People	=	Total \$ Amount
<b>Members:</b>	\$50	x	_____	=	_____
<b>Non-members:</b>	\$65	x	_____	=	_____
Optional Meals*					
* Friday Lunch Buffet	\$13.70	x	_____	=	_____
* Saturday Caver's Breakfast Buffet	\$11.20	x	_____	=	_____
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>			=====		=====

\* Please note Breakfast and Dinner buffet meals will be in the main hotel dining room. These additional meals are being pre-ordered to facilitate maximum programing time. It is roughly a thirty-minute drive to restaurants outside the park and in the spring the hotel restaurants are likely to be very crowded. By prepaying for these added meals you minimize these hassles. Optional meals must be reserved with registration **BEFORE** March 10, 2015

Mammoth Cave Hotel is offering a 10% Lodging Discount to Annual Meeting Registrants making reservation by **March 10, 2015**. We have a block of 25 Heritage Trail rooms reserved for the meeting. These rooms are in the same area as the Rotunda Room where our indoor programing and banquet will be held. **Make your reservation by calling the hotel at (270) 758-2225 or (270) 758-2301 and identifying yourself as KWOA.** If you are tax exempt you will need to provide your actual exemption certificate. Hotel check in time is 4 p.m. and check out is noon.

The Friday Program includes a discussion session on timber marketing. You may submit a question in advance by email to [KWOA.pb@gmail.com](mailto:KWOA.pb@gmail.com) or the website <http://kwoa.net/index.htm> "Contact Us" section.

*Mammoth Cave National Park was established to preserve the cave system, the scenic river valleys of the Green and Nolin rivers, and a section of the hilly country of south central Kentucky. This is the longest recorded cave system in the world, with more than 348 miles explored and mapped.*

*Mammoth Cave was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1981, and as an International Biosphere Reserve in 1990. We encourage you to **make a weekend of it** by exploring the park more fully before or after the meeting.*

**KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
1483 Big Run Road Wallingford, KY 41093 606-876-3432

**2015 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / APPLICATION JAN. 1 – DEC. 31, 2015**

- Forest Landowner \*  
 Business or Organization  
 Professional (trained in field related to forestry or natural resource management)  
\*Only forest landowners have voting rights.

Please type or print.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Acres Owned: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES**

- \$30 KWOA Membership  
 \$60 KWOA Membership plus National Woodland Owners Association membership  
 Voluntary additional Membership payment  
    \_\_\_ Platinum Membership (\$300 and above)  
    \_\_\_ Gold Membership (\$299 - \$200)  
    \_\_\_ Silver Membership (\$199 - \$100)

The voluntary memberships will be recognized in the newsletter.

- \_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation – a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt organization, deductible as a charitable organization.

Complete this form and mail it along with your check to:  
Kentucky Woodland Owners Association  
1483 Big Run Road  
Wallingford, KY 41093

PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE MADE VIA CREDIT CARD OR PAY PAL ON OUR WEBSITE

2015 Annual Meeting: Mammoth Cave National Park – Park City  
April 10 - 11, 2015