

"BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER"



www.kwoa.net

vol. 32 no. 1

Winter 2023

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: Leslie Sizemore

Annual Meeting: March 27-29, 2023

The 2023 annual meeting will hopefully enlighten everyone to the recreational aspects of your woodlands. For those who will be coming in on Monday, we will be touring the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery starting at 1:00 pm Central time. Later that evening we will be having a round table discussion about the state of the carbon credit market. Our keynote speaker for Tuesday evening's banquet is Jon Shultz, NRCS Kentucky Forester.

Please see the agenda on the KWOA website for all the other program offerings. If you have not made your room reservations you may do so by calling Lake Cumberland State Resort Park at 270-343-3111. Be sure to tell them you are with KWOA. We look forward to seeing you in March.

Wood Not You Know It?

Now that we've explored the roots and trunks of trees, it's time in the next round of riddles to - you guessed it - go to the treetops. Often viewed by loggers and timber companies as debris and low-grade lumber, tree canopies take on a whole different character when viewed from above. So put on your climbing gear and let's go to the canopy with Meg Lowman, author of our newest Suggested Reading title - *The Arbornaut - A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us*.

Riddle #10 - November 2022

What fraction of all terrestrial creatures live about one hundred feet or more above our heads in the tree canopy?

IN THIS ISSUE

1. President's Message
2. Calendar of Events
3. 2022 Forestry Field Day
4. New Board Member -

- Preston Lacy
5. KWOA Membership Form
6. Annual Meeting Registration Form

7. New Board Member - Gail Lincoln
8. Suggested Reading - The Arbornaut

A Message From Your President

Looking in the (KWOA) Rear View Mirror

Inevitably in the month of December, I will take a few minutes to go back through my calendar and quickly review my year. Inevitably events such as folks' birthdates, vacation dates and events of importance are noted. Countless opportunities prevailed.

KWOA events found on my calendar made the "Top 10 Listings of 2022". Always, it seems, successful accomplishments for the organization. Before looking back on 2022 we must make note of the tragic event that happened as 2021 ended, that being the horrific tornado that swept through the Midwest including western Kentucky. Lives and homes were lost and timber resources affected. The entire forestry community, through the efforts of folks from the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Kentucky Forest Industry Association (KFIA), helped in the event.

The beginning of 2022 brought with it the state legislative session. The Timber Tax Assessment that has been shepherded by KWOA board member Dr. Jim Corum was finally, after nearly 20 years, recognized and acted upon by those in the state legislature. Meaningful meetings were designed for 2022 to better evaluate woodland

owners' assessments connected to sustainable woodland management.

KWOA held its first face-to-face annual meeting in Frankfort since COVID began. Numerous other meetings throughout the year were either sponsored or organized by KWOA and partners in the forestry community. *The Wood Post*, a vital communications resource for KWOA, kept members apprised of dates and locations of vital programs for members to attend either virtually or in person.

The White Oak Initiative offerings has been a successful tool bringing our membership together to better understand the extreme value of white oak. White oak has always been a valuable resource, but recent information has guided owners to the best management techniques of the species.

Thanks to KWOA board members Greg Kuhns, Steve Perry and KWOA member Dr. Amanda Gumbert, water quality specialist, a very successful educational day was held in late summer concerning forest management BMPs and related water quality issues. The entire day began with conversations at a historic iron furnace, one of many found throughout the hardwood forest area. Discussion centered on the important role furnaces played in developing Kentucky's present

woodlands and past water quality issues.

Educational opportunities of KWOA extend beyond adult audiences. Sponsorship of high school students provided attendance at the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program, a weeklong residential program where students and professionals of natural resources come together and discuss issues associated with woodland owners. Students attending hopefully will find future opportunities in natural resource management education.

Midsummer again saw a resource calamity that affected the eastern section of the state. The flood of historic proportions affected the area. Again, lives and homes were lost and again partners of the forest community rallied to help the forest community folks in that section of the state.

KWOA membership has continued to grow over the past several years. Folks finding KWOA have also found the benefit programs and member contributions for sustained management of their woodlands. Reflecting on 2022 gives the KWOA board much encouragement for the future and the continued need for KWOA to bring people and woodland sustainability together.

-- **Doug McLaren,**
KWOA/KWOF President

2023 Calendar of Events



Introduction to Forest Farming

January 26 | 8:30am - 12pm EST
Kentucky State University
Benson Research & Demonstration Farm
<https://www.oak-ky.org/annual-conference>

Kentucky Forest Health Conference

February 8 | 9am - 3pm EST
Kroger Stadium, Lexington
<https://www.kwoa.net/events>

Kentucky Agricultural Council Annual Meeting

February 16 | 10am
National Farm Machinery Show in
Louisville
www.kyagcouncil.org

KWOA Annual Meeting

March 27-29
Lake Cumberland State Park
<https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings>

Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting

March 28-30
Embassy Suites, Lexington
<https://www.kfia.org>

TACF Documentary Film Debut

Earth Day Apr. 22
American Chestnut: The Optimist of the Forest

Forestry Field Day - October 14, 2022

Crooked Creek Farm (Dr. Greg Kuhns), Maple Gate Farm (Larry Kitterman), and Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area

By Amanda Gumbert, PhD and Portia Brown, KWOA Director

On a crisp sunny day in October University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension partnered with landowner Greg Kuhns, KWOA/F founding member, the KY Division of Forestry, and Salt River Watershed Watch to offer a half-day forest stewardship field day. Amanda Gumbert began the half-day event by explaining that Kentucky's landscape is 48% forested, with the vast majority (88%) owned by private landowners. Forests are an important part of the landscape and provide essential ecosystem services such as carbon dioxide uptake, oxygen production, soil nutrient cycling and wildlife habitat. Further, they play a key role in watershed protection by providing high infiltration rates, reducing precipitation runoff and regulating surface water temperatures.

Dr. Greg Kuhns began the program with a photographic display and detailed explanation of the historic iron furnace at Crooked Creek Farm. Dr. Kuhns explained how the furnace worked and shared historic photographs from the 1800's when his grandfather owned the land and furnace operation. Have you heard the term "Pig Iron"? We saw an illustration showing how part of the process of extracting the iron looked like suckling piglets! We also saw a picture of the woods after clear cutting to make wood piles to burn in the furnace. From his research Dr. Kuhns found that iron furnace operations could have harvested as much as 1-2 acres of woodlands per day as part of their charcoal making process that fed the iron production, a practice that had a dramatic impact on the land and water.

In subsequent years the furnace was shut down. The Kuhns family has worked diligently to restore woodlands using sustainable management practices. See the owner sketch on our website here: <https://www.kwoa.net/maple-gate-crooked-creek-farms-ensure-preservation-through-youth-state-forest-and-educational-programs.html>. This presentation was a thoughtful introduction to the day as attendees considered the impact this intense tree harvest might have made on the surrounding landscape at the time of operation, and how it has continued to influence land uses and current tree stands in the area.

From the site of the iron furnace, we moved on to the Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area, a property formerly owned and managed by Dr. Kuhns, where we saw sustainable management practices firsthand. Chase Terry and Robert Bean of the KY Division of Forestry shared information on best management practices (BMP) required during logging operations, including streamside management zones (SMZ) and water bars. We went over a 2019 Timber Harvest Inspection Report citing 3 violations and learned how the issues were corrected immediately. We walked up the skid trail/logging road and could easily see how effective the 2019

water bars have been. A further examination of 20+ year old water bars showed participants the value of diverting water from closed logging roads to reduce erosion and protect water quality, as well as the value of ongoing woodland management practices.

During lunch KY Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) president Doug McLaren reminded participants of the value of being a KWOA member and encouraged all to join. Being part of KWOA provides a wealth of benefits including access to forestry resource agencies, program information and peer learning from other woodland owners.

After a lunch at the family cabin on Crooked Creek Farm, Dr. Amanda Gumbert explained Kentucky's influence on water quality in the Mississippi River basin and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. The discussion included establishing and maintaining riparian or streamside buffer zones, the importance of protecting streams from adjacent land uses and the challenges of invasive plants in buffer zones. We looked at areas benefited by ongoing invasive species management practices. The value of woodland edge buffer zones in providing wildlife habitat was noted.

Moving over to the creek for the last segment of the day, we again saw buffer zones that provide habitat and additional value holding the soil to prevent erosion. Crooked Creek itself was nearly dry because of recent drought. Becca Trueman of Salt River Watershed Watch explained how stream habitat is a vital component of overall stream health and connected all of the pieces of the day into the larger picture of stewardship. We went over water quality factors covered in the handout Kentucky Simplified Stream Habitat Assessment Procedures and Form - available as a pdf at Habitat & Biology (kywater.org) or the Watershed Watch website at <https://www.kywater.org/sampling-programs/habitat-biology>.

Visual indicators of water quality include odor, color and floatable on the surface. Problems can reflect a variety of factors. We specifically noted potential soil erosion from improper logging operations and inappropriate stream side management practices. Assessment factors include:

- Streamside vegetation: plants along the bank, as opposed to mowed or grazed bank
- Stream channel alteration: natural bends and curves as opposed to alteration to straighten the channel
- Embeddedness: exposed rocks should not be covered or buried in sand or silt
- Erosion: exposed tree roots and bare soil are signs of erosion
- Shelter for macroinvertebrates: cover provided by lots of different sized rocks, submerged wood and plenty of leaf pack
- Shelter for fish: provided by multiple deep pools,

undercut banks and submerged wood

- Riparian buffer vegetation: 50-foot width on each side of the waterway is good
- Streambank stability: the more vertical the stream bank the less stable it is
- Velocity and depth combinations: it is good to have a variety of water depth and flow speeds, so there are both shallow and deep as well as water flow speeds that vary from fast to slow.

Dr. Gumbert emphasized the value of water quality monitoring and the importance of a strong network of volunteer monitors. She shared new protocols for conducting a stream habitat assessment. We got to see a water sampling kit and learn how Watershed Watch does sampling. Participants were encouraged to get involved with Watershed Watch to monitor the health of their watershed.

Not only was it a picture-perfect day to be in the woods, but attendees took away valuable information. Participants reported becoming more knowledgeable about forested stream buffers and connecting with others who are implementing or can advise them. The

vast majority reported becoming familiar with or learning more about a forestry/conservation practice they will recommend to another farmer/landowner. While some attendees had likely been exposed to similar information previously, discussing stewardship ideas from the perspective of historic land use drove home the points in a new way. Crooked Creek & Maple Gate Farm and adjacent Knobs State Forest are now a vibrant example of the practices KWOA promotes.

If you missed this day of learning, please check out Better Buffers for Cleaner Water, a five-part video series highlighting Crooked Creek Farm, stream buffers, volunteer water monitoring and more. Videos can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3Dnfl6F>.

If you'd like to know more about volunteer monitoring or to access stream habitat assessment forms, visit the Watershed Watch in Kentucky website: <https://www.kywater.org/home>.

This field day was sponsored in part by a grant from USEPA under cooperative agreement MX - 00D87719 and §319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

New Board Member Introduction - Preston Lacy

I was born and raised in Scott County where I grew up working on our family's farm. While we have nearly 30 acres of woods protecting headwater streams, sinkholes and ephemeral drainages, our revenue focus was not forestry but grain crops, hay, tobacco and beef cattle. 4-H was where I began gaining a greater knowledge of forestry including a forestry field day event that opened my eyes to a future of possibilities.

As I saw other farms we leased around the county being developed my interests in land use, farm and forestland preservation began at an early age. This led me to the University of Kentucky where I completed a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation & Management and then to the University of Louisville where I received two masters degrees in Urban Planning (concentration in environmental land use planning) and Public Administration.

After college, I moved out of state for 5 years working for two nonprofit land trusts in Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas before moving back to Kentucky in 2013 to begin working for Kentucky Natural Lands Trust. I manage the stewardship program at KNLTr which includes 10,000 acres of forest land mostly on Pine Mountain in southeastern Kentucky but also has preserves and conservation easements elsewhere including Bullitt County between the large forest blocks at Bernheim Forest and Fort Knox military base. I also assist with land conservation projects to acquire additional connecting forested land in these focus areas and beyond to connect wildland corridors with exceptionally high biodiversity.

Personally, I have recently moved back near my family's farm and am looking forward to implementing more forestry practices to improve the health of our woods and



Preston Lacy poses with one of the larger burls he's ever seen when visiting a KNLTr preserve on Pine Mountain.

expanding them over time. I look forward to serving on the KWOA board and deeply respect the mission and multifaceted conservation expertise that this organization provides to landowners statewide.

RIDDLE ANSWERS

#10 - November 2022
Upward of half.

"...treetop exploration would lead to the discovery that upward of *half* of all terrestrial creatures live about one hundred feet or more above our heads..."
(The Arbonaut, p. 5)



Yes, I want to join KWOA!

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1201, Frankfort, KY 40602 |

info@KWOA.net | www.kwoa.net

Date Paid: _____ Membership: ___New ___Renewal

Check one: ___Forest/Woodland Owner ___Non-owner Supporter ___Business or Organization

Woodland Acreage by County: ___acres _____county, ___acres _____county

Name(s) Primary: _____

Spouse/ co-owner, contact person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary - E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Second - E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

| Annual Membership and Donation Options | Dues | Amount Enclosed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| KWOA Basic 1-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color PDF <i>Kentucky Woodlands</i> Newsletter | \$35.00 | \$ _____ |
| KWOA & NWOA (National Woodland Owners Association) 1-year Membership (optional add on). By adding NWOA you will receive the <i>National Woodland</i> quarterly newsletter & woodland report in addition to the Basic KWOA membership | \$65.00 | \$ _____ |
| KWOA Basic 3-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color PDF <i>Kentucky Woodlands</i> Newsletter | \$100.00 | \$ _____ |
| KWOA & NWOA Basic 3-year \$190.00: Includes the optional NWOA membership in addition to the Basic KWOA membership | \$190.00 | \$ _____ |
| KWOF Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation deductible as a charitable donation. KWOF provides scholarships, service forestry awards, and contributes to other related charitable / educational work. | Any Amount | \$ _____ |
| KWOA Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to help with operating expenses, such as bookkeeping, communication, programming, advocacy, and educational expenses. | Any Amount | \$ _____ |
| Add On Black & White Hard-copy Newsletter: Upcharge to cover expenses. \$10.00 for one year or \$30.00 for 3 years. | \$10.00 or \$30.00 | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL (Make your check payable to KWOA) | | \$ _____ |

PLEASE REVIEW GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK

You can join online at www.kwoa.net, in person at an event, or may mail this form with your check.



Recreation is the theme for KWOA/KWOF 2023 Annual Meeting

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park March 28 - 29, 2023 and optional Free March 27 tour

Registration – PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Tree Farm Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Woodland acres owned/managed: _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL PROGRAMS, LUNCH and DINNER on March 28

MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID or RENEWED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

| | FEE | x | # of People | Total Amount |
|---------------------|------|---|-------------|--------------|
| Member Registration | \$70 | x | _____ | \$_____ |

| | FEE | x | # of People | Total Amount |
|-------------------------|------|---|-------------|--------------|
| Non-Member Registration | \$90 | x | _____ | \$_____ |

Registration and payment can be made by: Credit Card on KWOA website: WWW.KWOA.NET or mail registration and check for payment to: KWOA - PO BOX 1201 – Frankfort, KY 40602

Please make your room reservations at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park separately by calling the park at 270-343-3111. A block of rooms has been reserved for KWOA. Please remember to mention that you are attending the KWOA Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Conference.



Gail Lincoln by a large cherry tree in spring 2022 on her Carter County property.

As a high school student in western Pennsylvania, I spent days placing seedlings in a tree planter as my Dad drove the tractor. Dad had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and decided to convert the family farm to a certified tree farm. My two younger

New Board Member Introduction - Gail Lincoln

brothers have continued to live on and preserve this beautiful tree farm overlooking Lake Erie as massive subdivisions have grown up around it.

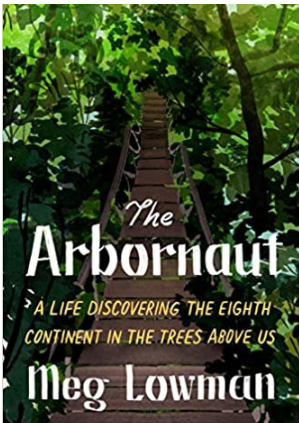
In the 1970's I purchased 305 acres in Greenup County, most of it in woodlands. I gradually obtained adjacent properties (some of it in Carter County) that came up for sale with the goal of eventually preserving 1,000 acres as a woodland and wildlife preserve. At present it looks like I'll have to settle for preserving just over 800 acres.

In 1978 my daughter was born with severe disabilities and I became involved with trying to improve

special education services in Kentucky. I was employed by the University of Kentucky as the director of a statewide coalition of disability-related groups for many years and later I worked for The Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence. I also owned a small pallet mill in Fleming County on approximately 100 acres, half of which is a certified tree farm. This property is currently for sale.

I live in Rowan County on 17 acres which, like all my property, has an active management plan. My primary interest as a new KWOA Board Member is legacy planning for woodland and wildlife preservation.

The Arbornaut: A Life Discovering The Eighth Continent In The Trees Above Us



Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2021, 350 pages

Book review submitted by Karen Marshall, KWOA newsletter editor and KWOF board member

Many of us examine a tree with one hand on the trunk and at eye level. It is often assessed for the stem's breadth, height and potential as timber. Meg Lowman sees them from the top down, studying the whole tree, not just its big toe. That's

where the action is. In her recently released book, *The Arbornaut*, she acknowledges that "...upward of half of all terrestrial creatures live about one hundred feet or more above our heads..." (p.5). Known in educational settings as "Canopy Meg", she calls this the eighth continent.

Getting up into a canopy is no easy task. Readers can relate to their or their children's first attempt to climb a tree and, if it went well, their exuberance at having achieved that unique view from within the branches. No less determined as a youth, Lowman engineered a sling shot over the highest branch it would reach and then used homemade climbing gear to begin her lifelong journey among the treetops. Forty years later, *The Arbornaut* is her fourth book on canopy ecology.

The book chronicles Lowman's impeccable field methodology to sample canopies of various species in several different countries for long term defoliation over entire leaf lifespans. She contrasts this to lab studies "using one or two species in a cocoon of controlled substances" (p. 68). Central to Lowman's career trajectory was not just amassing technical data for academic

publications but measuring success by acreage of forest saved. Early in her graduate studies Lowman was exposed to a hypothesis regarding rain forest floors in Australia that ascertained from long-term plot information that "...competition in higher diversity ecosystems actually sustains the system, rather than driving it toward single-species dominance" (p.69).

Her unswerving commitment was not just to forests but to widely varying communities impacted or threatened by the loss of indigenous forests. Along the way Lowman mentored numerous grad students, activists and community organizers. She especially supported women who were experiencing the "glass canopy" in their career development.

In a similar vein she observes that citizen science actions "all too often report on the presence or absence of endangered species but do not save them. The scientific community, both volunteer- and professional-driven, still struggles to create actionable pathways to prevent the loss of species and habitat, rather than simply reporting" (pp. 265-6). Thus, her cultivation of citizen science as an informed and participatory public. "Planetary scientists must seek to balance cellular versus organismal biology, virtual models versus real-time data, and science blended with policy" (p. 215). She also sees potential in citizen science training of the next generation of practitioners to integrate the virtual technologies with which they are familiar through gaming, networking and computer models with *in situ* fieldwork.

Lowman planned North America's first canopy walkway in a college research forest in Massachusetts. It allows for observations at a height of 75 feet.

For more information go to <https://treefoundation.org/>, Dr. Meg Lowman, TREE Foundation Executive Director.

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602

DIRECTORS - By County

NORTH ZONE

Jerry Schneider, Kenton
Preston Lacy, Scott
C. Michael Rich, Scott

EAST ZONE

Rodney Bruce, Greenup
Jack Stickney, Estill
Jimmie Sizemore, Clay

CENTRAL ZONE

Harry Pelle, Taylor
Henry Duncan, Logan
Scott Taylor, Casey

WEST ZONE

Dr. Lanny Copeland, Warren
James Vincent, Henderson
Mike Smith, Ohio

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns, Bullitt
Dr. Jim Corum, Harlan
Steve Perry, Henry

OFFICERS

President - Doug McLaren, Breathitt
Vice President - Portia Brown, Shelby
Secretary - Jack Rentz, Lewis
Treasurer - Jerry Brown, Grayson
Past President - Frank Hicks, Greenup

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome submission of articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter subject to review and approval by the executive committee. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Karen Marshall, info@kwoa.net
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602