



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

www.kwoa.net

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KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

The Head Hickory Nut's Report...

A message from your president (that would be Henry Duncan)....

Former KWOA president, Jim Corum, saddled the KWOA president's position name with '**The Head Hickory Nut**'! so we will continue with that logo.

During this summer, KWOA board members represented woodland owners on several occasions:

Ag Development Funds Regional Forums:

Duncan and Joe Ball presented the need for woodland support to be on the level of other ag commodity financial support. This emphasis was picked up as front page news in the Farmers Pride Newspaper and was one of the main points of the Governor's talk during the Farm Bureau State fair ham breakfast. Marketing and certification seem to be the hot topics of consideration.

Ohio River Valley Woodlands and Wildlife Workshop: Karen Marshall and Doug McLaren represented KWOA at this multi-state educational meeting.

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Three Biomass Research Related Regional Meetings: Board members Duncan, Freibert, Ball, Corum, McNeill, Rentz, Taylor and Green attended and learned of potential opportunities for Biomass markets. KWOA representatives also participated in the multi-state research project hosted by UK by discussing and prioritizing multiple questionnaires on biomass, its potential and concerns.

Three KY Woodland Owners Workshops: McLaren, McNeill, Duncan and others participated in these workshops this summer. We were given the opportunity to promote KWOA membership. KWOA information and membership packets are included in each participant's folder.

USDA / State Technical Committee meeting: Joe Ball and Henry Duncan participated in the first State technical Committee meeting at Lexington hosted by the new State Conservationist. We were introduced to several NRCS/ FSA USDA 2008 Farm programs that are funded with woodland owners in mind. We had an opportunity to provide suggestions and input for future forestry program needs. A requirement for program participation that comes out loud and clear is that Woodland owners must have a current Forestry Management plan and an Agriculture Water Quality Plan in order to participate! Make arrangements ASAP to have these plans on hand...

UK Dept. of Forestry Seminar: Cliff and Barbara Taylor, Duncan and McLaren attended the September seminar on large scale Timberland Investment programs. This was presented by Kate Robie, a UK alumni. We were informed of the multi-state and world wide interest in tim-

Head Hickory Report

(continued from pg. 1)

ber investments at multi-billion dollar levels. It is most educational to learn of the world wide interest in certified timber at this level of potential....Kate Robie is a KWOA member!

KFIA annual Wood Expo in London Kentucky: Felix Taylor represented KWOA at this gala expo to promote all aspects of the woodland industry.

KY Farm Bureau Annual forestry Advisory Committee: Henry Duncan represented KWOA at the UK Robinson Forest to discuss forestry policy recommendations. These recommendations will be introduced at Farm Bureau's legislative forum during its annual meeting in December.

KY Tree Farm Field Day October 13: Greg Kuhns will represent KWOA at the Angus MacLean Tree Farm in Oldham County. KWOA membership applications will be distributed.

Membership is the name of the game...The more members the more clout we seem to have as we represent woodland owners at these various events!

Happy tree farming!

Head Hickory Nut
(Henry Duncan)

KY NRCS update on support for forest improvement

Jerry L. Adams, KY NRCS State Forestry Coordinator

The Kentucky Natural Resources and Conservation Service continues to support forest resource improvement through its Forestland Initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). KY NRCS obligated \$823K in 2011 to fund needed conservation practices identified in either a forest stewardship or forest management plan. Fiscal 2011 saw an increase in applications from woodland owners, totaling \$1.4M in requests. Eighty two contracts were awarded statewide to fund 1100 acres of Brush Management (invasive

species control), 2750 acres of Forest Stand Improvement and 92 acres of Tree & Shrub Establishment. Additionally, just over \$550K was obligated from the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for forestry related practices.

Woodland owners compete statewide among other woodland owners for EQIP funding. This change, along with the establishment of the Forestland Initiative by KY NRCS, demonstrates its commitment to addressing the resource concern issues woodland owners are experiencing. Although funding for FY2012 is still undetermined, sources indicate that there should be little reduction in program dollars. Woodland owners with stewardship and forest management plans containing recommended conservation practices eligible through EQIP should complete a 2012 funding application at any time by stopping by their local USDA Service Center.

Woodland owners with outdated stewardship/forest management plans should consider applying to EQIP for a Conservation Activity Plan -Forest Management (CAP-FM). The CAP-FM is a forest management plan developed by a private consultant forester certified as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) through NRCS. Plans older than 5 years are eligible for the CAP-FM. Woodland owners are free to choose any one of the currently eight TSPs available in KY to complete the plan. Once completed, any CAP-FM recommended practices the TSP identifies can be addressed in future EQIP contracts.

Thank YOU...

Milinda Sosby

The KWOA board expressed a special thanks to Milinda Sosby, KFIA staffer, during its August board meeting. Milinda has handled the mailing of KWOA's newsletters, on-site preparations for its board meetings at the KFIA office and scurried around Frankfort gathering the lunch fare for meeting attendees. We will miss her coming through the door with an armload of pizzas! KWOA wishes Milinda the best in her future endeavors.

KWOA/KWOF Board Meeting Highlights

August 18, 2011

NEXT REGULAR KWOA BOARD MEETING –
November 17, 2011

Forester award

KWOA will accept nominations for its second Outstanding Forester Award. The winning nominee will be presented with the award at the 2012 KWOA annual meeting. (See related article for guidelines to submit a nomination.)

Conducting interim business via the internet
At its May meeting the board discussed the option of conducting some of its business between board meetings through the internet. Suggestions were sought from Ken Cooke, KWOA website administrator, as well as input from those attending the August meeting. UK is continuing to check into listserv and other social media options. For the short term Karen Marshall, website editor, will set up an account with Doodle Polls and notify board members as to how to access it. Interim issues that require a board vote can then be decided prior to board meetings. This will both expedite association business and shorten board meeting agendas.

Position paper

Joe Ball submitted the next to final version of the association's position paper. With a couple of changes recommended by the board, the final paper will contain the following list of priorities. The full position paper will be posted to the KWOA website when available.

1. Comprehensive Forest Program for Kentucky
2. Implementing Silviculture Practices
3. Third Party Certification
4. Whole Land Practice
5. State Level Organization
6. County and Community Level Organizations
7. Health Task Force
8. Market System
9. Market Price Information
10. Ad Hock Task Force for Fire Issues

11. Electric Generation to be Powered from Green Resources
12. Fairness in Timberland Taxes
13. Scholarships
14. Youth Initiative
15. Timber Theft Property Trespass

Meetings KWOA should attend

Henry Duncan suggested that a list of priorities of meetings that KWOA should attend be developed. The initial list consisted of Woodland Owner Short Courses, NRCS Technical Committee, Farm Bureau, State Agricultural Development Foundation, and Kentucky Tree Farm Committee.



Board meeting participants pause for a photo after a lengthy but productive session.

Timber Tax

Jim Corum reported that the subcommittee met on July 18th and reviewed past legislation. It met again on August 18. Appeals by Joe Ball and Jim Corum are on hold until Dr. Andrew Stainback's studies (UKY) are completed. The Kentucky Revenue Cabinet has met with Stainback and a second meeting will be announced where KWOA will be in attendance. It was suggested that the terminology of "timber tax" be changed to "timber land assessment for agricultural purposes". The board approved a motion to provide up to \$4000 for legal issues.

Membership

Membership fees are waived for the balance of 2011 for new members who join and pay fees for 2012.

The KWOA scholarship in the amount of \$600 for the school year of 2011-2012 will be instituted and awarded in January (see related article). The award will be made annually.

Cooperators Reports:

Natural Areas – Archer discussed state tax credits for conservation easements. States are beginning to follow federal approach to credits.

Farm Bureau – The annual meeting for Farm Bureau will be November 30 – December 3 in Louisville. Forestry Committee Meeting will be at Robinson Forest September 22. Farm Bill 2012 discussions continue. Farm regulations and weight limits are issues.

KFIA – The Wood Expo would be September 16-17 in London. From now on the Expo will be every other year. The forestry license plate is still in need of support.

KDF – 1000 Canker is not in Kentucky. Asian Long Horn beetle is in Ohio. Wood production has dropped for Kentucky's wood industry.

NRCS – Applications for EQUIP will need to include an agriculture water quality plan (see related article). The new NRCS State Conservationist is Karen Woodrich.

Tree Farm – Nominations for Tree Farmer and Logger of the Year will be evaluated by committee on September 1st. October 13th will be the Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day in Oldham County.

University of Kentucky – Woodland Owner Short Courses are under way. Biomass Short Course was recently held. A new Watershed/Stream Ecologist position is being advertised.

Next Meeting – November 17, 2011

Forestry Pros Meet with Revenue Department on Woodlands Tax Assessment

Report from Leah W. MacSwords, Director/State Forester,

Kentucky Division of Forestry

On May 24 Steve Kull, Diana Olszowy, Andrew Stainback and Leah MacSwords met with Tom Crawford and David Gordon of the Department of Revenue and with the Property Value Administrators from Webster, Harlan and Boyle counties to discuss Dr. Stainback's Kentucky Woodlands Tax Assessment Project. He showed the same presentation that he used at the KWOA Annual Meeting.

The discussion was limited to how Dr. Stainback conducted his study and how he drew his conclusions. KDF and Dr. Stainback explained the differences in passive and active forest management since his study is based on passive management for 70 years. The PVA representatives explained the current recommended method for assessing forestland and the method for forest landowners to appeal their assessment if they believe it is too high. There was discussion that changing the current method could result in higher assessments for forestland, and the loss of tax revenue from reduced forestland assessments would have to be made up by increasing assessments in other land categories. The PVAs stated that their records indicate that in the last few years only three forest landowners had appealed their assessment.

There was no discussion of legal or constitutional issues.

The outcome of the meeting is that they want time to review Dr. Stainback's study and discuss it at the PVAs annual meeting in mid-June. It was a cordial meeting with a good exchange of information. They are willing to review the information they were provided, which is a positive outcome.

Editor's Note:

See the April issue of UK's Kentucky Woodlands Magazine for more information on this topic -

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/KYWoodlandsmagazine/April2010index.php>



Biomass Harvesting Workshops Introduce Woodland Owners to Potential Income

Kentucky is an ideal candidate for “energy wood” according to University of Kentucky faculty in the Department of Forestry. In a draft “Introduction to Wood Energy” white paper they define energy wood as bioenergy made specifically from trees and woody debris, such as saw and paper mill residues, urban wood waste and, most abundantly, standing forests. Wood removed from forests for energy production could create a new income source for Kentucky landowners. Energy wood can be used in power plants to produce electricity or to produce liquid biofuels.

Because the projected price for energy wood is lower than that for traditional products, only trees or parts of trees that could not be used for higher grade products would be harvested for energy wood. This typically includes limbs at the top of a tree that are less than three inches in diameter and, in areas where there are no markets for pulpwood, tree limbs.

There are additional considerations for woodland owners regarding a wood energy/whole tree harvest. Additional equipment and the increased removal of soil nutrients may

have a negative impact on soil and water quality. After-harvest appearance of the site will differ from that of a traditional harvest. Regeneration of both commercial and non-commercial species as well as invasive species may be affected.

To assist woodland owners with these many considerations regarding wood energy harvests on their properties, UK Forestry Extension held three regional workshops during July. Approximately three hundred people attended the workshops, including several board members. See comments from JR Roth, KWOA board member, below. In addition KWOA representatives participated in questionnaires and focus groups on an associated research project that discussed and prioritized the most important issues regarding benefits, disadvantages, opportunities and threats related to energy wood harvesting on family-owned/nonindustrial forestland in Kentucky.

Re-cap of Morehead Biomass Harvesting Workshop

by JR Roth, KWOA Board Member, North Zone

Hello fellow KWOA members. My reporting of the “Biomass Harvesting in Kentucky” workshop at Morehead on July 21, 2011 is as follows. I found signs of the economy present as the attendance was much heavier with loggers than owners - approximately 81 in attendance.

Dr. Bob Rummer, US Forest Service, talked about several things. Catching my eye was a green fleet by 2016 as well as BCAP (Biomass Crop Assistance Program) and REAP (Rural Energy for America Program). In Europe they expect to import 120 million tons at a price of \$170/ton.

Dr. John Lhotka, UK Department of Forestry, said Kentucky will need 25 million tons by 2025 which means 2 million acres or 15 % of the farmland. Kentucky woodland owners are assisting with the BMP regulations.

Manufacturers Morbark and Fecon were there with literature for chip production.

Several KWOA members participated in a survey to help create “Biomass harvesting guidelines.”

Forest Service Report on Sustainable Forests Offers Support for All-Lands Approach to Resource Management

USDA Office of Communications, Washington D.C.

The United States has 751 million acres of forests that have remained remarkably stable during the past 50 years, according to the U.S. Forest Service's 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests that was released today.

The report, the second edition since 2003, provides a comprehensive picture of current conditions and trends in the nation's forests, forest industries and forest communities, and also gives details on forest conditions as they relate to sustainability.

"Our nation's trees and forests preserve and protect the vitality of America's clean air and water," said U.S. Forest Service chief Tom Tidwell. "In order to ensure the sustainability of America's forests in the long term, land managers need to work across jurisdictions and land-use types, viewing forested landscapes as an integrated whole, both ecologically and socially. The data and analysis found in this report will help to contribute to the all-lands approach to resource management supported by the U.S. Forest Service."

The report includes 130 pages of detailed information organized by indicator, as well as summary analyses and policy recommendations. Over 30 Forest Service scientists, senior staff and outside collaborators contributed to this edition of the report. Information was collected using 64 indicators of forest sustainability as a quantitative baseline for measuring progress toward sustainability. The report underscores that action at all levels—national, regional and local—is vital to achieving sustainable forest management in the United States. Forests in the United States continue to face a number of threats, ranging from fragmentation and loss of forest integrity due to development and an increase in the area and severity of forest disturbances including destructive insects, development and fire. For example, the report finds that the incidence of insect induced tree mortality has increased three-fold in the last decade.

With regard to climate change, the report estimates that America's forests currently offset roughly 13 percent of the nation's industrial greenhouse gas emissions, supporting the For-

est Service's position that forests have a major role to play in helping mitigate climate change.

The economic and social environment surrounding forests is also changing rapidly. Data from the report indicates ongoing shifts in where and how wood products are made and the emergence of new markets for environmental services. Some of this social change includes the growing ecotourism industry and a return to wood as a building material in smaller scale structures.

The 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests is part of a continuing commitment by the U.S. Forest Service to increase the sustainable management of forests, both nationally and globally. Since 2009, when Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack laid out an ambitious vision for managing our forest, the U.S. Forest Service has focused on restoration and conservation efforts that reduce the likelihood of wildfires, protect watersheds, and provide jobs to local communities. The U.S. Forest Service is also extending this approach beyond our public lands by forming partnerships to help maintain the health of all forest lands, public and private, whether or not Forest Service manages them directly. The draft forest planning rule, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act and a proposal on Integrated Resource Restoration are just some of the initiatives being led by the U.S. Forest Service to give us greater flexibility to promote more collaborative restoration projects and to target resources to restoring forest landscapes.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

Credits:

Newsletter editor – Karen Marshall

Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association

KWOA website – Karen Marshall

KWOA 2012 Outstanding Forester Award

Kentucky Division of Forestry Service Foresters are stationed in the nine districts across Kentucky. These 24 service foresters are the first line of support for Kentucky woodland owners who have a desire and need to manage their woodlands. 120,000+ woodland owners have 10 acres or more located throughout the state. The service forester's workload is demanding and important to woodland owners.

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association will recognize a KDF Service Forester for his/her outstanding achievements. Nominations may be made by any KWOA member and are due no later than February 1 of each year.

KDF will review the top three applications for accuracy and notify the KWOA awards committee for the selection. This recognition will not automatically be awarded each year if applicants do not meet KWOA selection standards. The winning recipient and a guest will be invited to the KWOA annual meeting where the

recognition and a plaque will be presented.

Please take a look at the application guidelines and consider nominating your service forester for the 2012 award!

See the September 19 article about this program and a link to the application guidelines on the KWOA website News page or go directly to the guidelines at http://kwoa.net/news/?attachment_id=620

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

**Visit our new Web site...
www.kwoa.net to learn more.**



2011 Calendar of Events

October 25

Forestry Fall Webinar Series Timber Sales -

presented by Billy Thomas
Extension Office Hosting Counties:
Christian, Estill, Johnson, Letcher, Lyon,
Rowan, Trimble
INFO: 859.257.7597

November 3

Hart County Forestry and Wildlife Field Day: Charlie Williams Tree Farm Tour

Hart County
INFO: 859.257.7597 to register

November 17

KWOA/KWOF Board Meeting

KFIA Office, Frankfort
Convenes at 10 a.m.
Lunch will be served on-site

November 22

Forestry Fall Webinar Series Shiitake Mushroom Production -

presented by Deborah Hill
Extension Office Hosting Counties: Christian,
Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Lyon, Mason,
Trimble
INFO: 859.257.7597

November 29

Forestry Fall Webinar Series Wildlife Damage:

Control and Management -
presented by Tom Barnes
Extension Office Hosting Counties: Bullitt,
Christian, Elliott, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson,
Letcher, Lyon, Mason, Mercer, Ohio, Rowan,
Trimble
INFO: 859.257.7597

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Next Board Meeting: November 17, KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

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