



Harlan County Farm Bureau Champions Forest Management/Education

KWOA President Frank Hicks presented an outstanding service award plaque to Harlan County Farm Bureau Board of Directors at the bureau's annual picnic. The award recognized the board's work in promoting good forest management in Harlan and surrounding counties. Hicks said, "This is not an annual award that we would give away. Our association is aware of the work that the HCFB board has been doing. They have helped the local woodland owner have a better understanding about forestry development and management."



Don Miniard, president of Harlan County Farm Bureau, accepts outstanding service award from Frank Hicks, KWOA president.

Harlan County Farm Bureau was also honored as one of the five winners in the 2014 Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) County Activities of Excellence program. It was recognized for its efforts to educate junior high students about the importance of tree farming and the local forestry industry, an important commodity for the county. Volunteer leaders from Farm Bureau shared a presentation about local woodlands, timber stand management, tree identification, the value of a healthy forest, timber industry statistics and

the role honeybees play throughout it all. More than 300 seventh and eighth grade students attended the presentations. Harlan County Farm Bureau is partnering with Pine Mountain Settlement School, the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to produce 2015 Harlan County Forestry Days. During this week long endeavor, all 300 5th graders in Harlan County were introduced to the basics of forestry education first by providing them with classroom lessons about tree identification and forestry ecology. Students then experienced these concepts as well as timber management on an active tree farm and natural land trust. They also were introduced to the many careers available in forestry. In 2012 Harlan County Forestry Days began with 30 5th graders from a local elementary school. It was so successful they decided to expand the exposure to all nine elementary schools in the county.



Harlan County Farm Bureau booth at KFB Annual Meeting Tradeshow displays the importance of tree farming.

Source: Kentucky Farm Bureau. Harlan County Page - Community Focus. March 03, 2015.

At the state level, Harlan County Farm Bureau took a strong initiative to get Forestry a KFB State Priority for 2015. The State Priority Policy reads: Support Forestry initiatives that enhance the economy and create opportunities for woodland owners. Kentucky Farm Bureau lobbyists followed this priority in Frankfort and were able to influence Senate Bill 92 and HCR 56 to pass. Harlan County Farm Bureau has also strongly supported the position of the tree farmer and KWOA in their endeavor to decrease property tax on woodlands.

Source: Nathan A. Boggs. Harlan County Farm Bureau

Source: Kentucky Farm Bureau. Harlan County Page - Community Focus. August 24, 2015.

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KWOA Members Honored in Multi-state Leopold Conservation Awards Program

Charlie Williams, KWOA member and a dedicated forester in Hart County, is the winner of this year's Leopold Conservation Award. The award honors landowner achievement in voluntary stewardship and management of natural resources. Williams owns and manages West Wind Farms, 1,268 acres mainly composed of woodlands.



Charlie Williams

Charlie was the first in the state to use bottom grading as a way to reverse 200 years of top grading, which occurred when loggers removed only valuable tree species such as walnut, hard maple and white oak. Rather than removing valuable trees, bottom grading only removes dying, defective or poor quality trees. This process eventually improves the health of the remaining trees.

KWOA Board Member Harry Pelle and family were also recognized as one of the three Leopold finalists. Harry and Karen Pelle own and manage Tallow Creek Farm, a certified tree farm in Bradfordsville. The Pelle's timber

stand improvements have enhanced their forest crop, wildlife habitat and growth of forest floor vegetation. Their forest generates additional income through the sale of carbon credits to help sustain their conservation practices.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires other landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders. The Leopold Conservation Award Program is offered in the following states: California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Sand County Foundation and the Kentucky Agricultural Council presented the award at the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Convention on July 21, 2015. KWOA is a sponsor of the award. The Kentucky Award is presented in partnership with the Kentucky Agricultural Council and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. For more information on submitting an application for the award go to <http://leopoldconservationaward.org>.

KWOA Board Member Changes

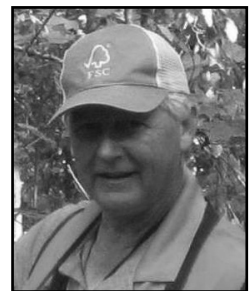
Many thanks to **Della Walls** who is leaving the board to pursue other interests. We especially appreciate her expertise in organizing the silent auctions at the annual meetings.

KWOA welcomes **Jerry Adams** to the board. Jerry is a familiar face as NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) representative to KWOA for many years. Jerry introduces himself to members below.

"I'm glad to be joining the KWOA Board as the East Region representative now that I've retired from USDA-NRCS and relocated to the Ashland area. I left NRCS after nearly 35 years of service holding positions in several KY locations including Hartford, Jackson, Louisa, Paintsville, and Mt. Sterling. My degree in Forestry from UK (Dec'80) allowed me to represent NRCS during my tenure on the Ecological Science staff in Lexington (2010-2014) as Forestry Coordinator. Through many presentations at KWOA events, UK Forestry Workshops, etc, I was able to meet many of our KWOA members and keep them aware of USDA's financial and

technical opportunities for woodland owners. Now I plan to work for KWOA members to secure increased funding for woodland improvement and technical assistance.

I own 170 acres of woodland property in Lawrence County and am proud to be an 8th generation Adams owner of the land. I have completed 10 acres of forest stand improvement with a WHIP contract, and am currently in a 3 year EQIP contract for more FSI. I expect to begin some selective timber harvesting in 5-10 years. Although I don't consider myself a "practicing" consultant forester, I love time in the woods and have been assisting a couple of consultants when needed. I'm handy with tools and built a timberframe cabin 5 years ago from white pine and sheathed it in hemlock. Now my "friends" have me busy with decks, barns, fences and other projects! Never a dull moment and I've not been bored a single day of retirement. Hope to see everyone soon!"



Jerry Adams

Herbert Davis, Casey County, Selected for 2015 Outstanding Forest Steward of the Year Award

by Jennifer Turner, Public Information Officer, Kentucky Division of Forestry

Mr. Herbert Davis, Sr. of Casey County was chosen as the 2015 Outstanding Forest Steward of the Year and was presented the award by Kentucky Division of Forestry Director Leah MacSwords during the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts' annual conference in July. Director MacSwords stated, "It is a pleasure to work with landowners like Mr. Davis. He is a leader in conservation and forest management."



Mr. Davis has been working to improve his woodlands for 40 years. While multiple tracts have been purchased over multiple years, the tract purchased in 1973 was the first to be managed. Mr. Davis owns 5 tracts of land in Casey and Taylor Counties; 748 acres of woodlands, 955 acres total.

There are many reasons that Mr. Davis won the 2015 Kentucky Forest Steward of the Year award; however, planting more than 75,000 trees for erosion control, forest regeneration and wildlife habitat was definitely one of them. "The ultimate goal for most of the tree plantings is that one day they will be stands of quality hardwood timber and valuable wildlife habitat" said Mr. Davis.

When nominating Mr. Davis for the award, KDF Forester Amy Carmicle-Rabich stated, "Mr. Davis is more interested and involved in the proper management of his property than any other landowner I have worked with. He has been actively managing his woodlands for more than 40 years and over the last 20 years has restored native grasses, wildflowers and trees to the majority of his agricultural land. Mr. Davis regularly seeks out the advice of natural resource professionals and – more importantly – takes their advice." If you ask Mr. Davis what makes him happiest about his land, he'll tell you it's seeing that his

children and grandchildren love the outdoors. When Mr. Davis started timber stand improvement on his property in 1975, he enlisted the help of his teenage son. He believes the work they did together was the spark that ignited his son's interest in conservation, ultimately leading him to a career in natural resources. That's a legacy to be proud of.



Every year the Division of Forestry (with the aid of The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources) honors an outstanding individual or group of individuals as Outstanding Forest Steward of the Year. This award recognizes the forestland owner who has promoted the forest stewardship program, understands the importance of Kentucky's forest resources, and works to sustainably manage his or her forest.

To be eligible to receive the Outstanding Forest Steward Award, a landowner must

1) have been a certified Kentucky Forest Steward for a period of 3 years prior to nomination, 2) be actively implementing his or her forest stewardship plan and 3) be nominated for the award by a natural resource professional.



Left to right: Forester Amy Carmicle-Rabich, Lou Wanda Davis, Herbert Davis, KDF Director Leah MacSwords, Chris Mason, Private Lands Biologist, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Photo by Jennifer Turner, KDF Public Information officer

Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course Continues to Serve Kentucky's Woodland Owners

by Billy Thomas

The 2015 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course recently wrapped up and UK Forestry Extension would like to thank the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (among others)

for their continued support of this educational programming effort that targets Kentucky's woodland owners and those with an interest in sustainable woodland management. While UK Forestry Extension takes the lead on this program it is a true partnership that we could not do without the strong support of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Ken-

tucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, local County Extension Offices, Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, Kentucky Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, and of course the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association.

This year we had 183 participants that owned 61,250 woodland acres in 60 out of 120 Kentucky counties. The series kicked off on August 15th in Woodford and Franklin Counties where the indoor portion was held at the Woodford County Extension Office and the field portion was conducted at the Buckley Wildlife Nature Sanctuary in Franklin County (a big thanks to the staff at Buckley for being amazing hosts—check it out if you are in the area). From there the program moved to Christian County on August 29th where the Christian County Extension Office hosted the indoor portion and the field portion was held at the James Hale farm. The final offering of the program was held in Rowan and Carter counties on September 26th with the Hayes Crossing Volunteer Fire Department in Rowan County hosting the indoor portion (a big thanks to the staff that helped make the program a success) and the Lynn Johnson Tree Farm in Carter County. We would also like to especially thank all the participating County Extension Offices who worked so hard to help put together a great program along with numerous service foresters with the Kentucky Di-

vision of Forestry, private lands biologists with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, faculty and staff from the UK Department of Forestry, and all *Photo courtesy: Renee Williams*



the other presenters for giving their time and expertise to support Kentucky's woodland owners.

If you attended the 2015 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course—THANK YOU! If you have never attended one of the offerings then please make plans to do so in the future. We will be setting the dates and locations for the 2016 Woodland Owners Short Course in the spring of 2016 so be sure to bookmark www2.ca.uky.edu/forestryextension/WOSC.php for details.

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

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

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Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association

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KWOA Basic Membership	\$30.00	
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National Woodland Owners Assoc.



www.kwoa.net

Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards Program

by Billy Thomas

Neighbors helping neighbors is a great way to explain the Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards Program recently launched by UK Forestry Extension in close partnership with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The goals of this new program are focused on cultivating a group of people who embrace woodland stewardship, want to learn more about sustainable woodland management, and are willing to share what they learn with others. The rationale behind this program is that too few woodland owners are managing their woodlands and most are unaware of the wide variety of support available to them. In addition, a very limited number of foresters and other natural resource professionals are available to serve the es-



timated 450,000+ Kentucky woodland owners, and peer-to-peer learning has proven effective especially with a group of highly motivated individuals who want to make an impact. The Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards program teaches woodland management practices and skills and in return participants agree to apply these principles to property they own or manage and to actively encourage others to practice sustainable woodland management.

In June, more than 20 woodland enthusiasts descended on UK's Robinson Forest in eastern Kentucky for a multi-day intensive training on a wide variety of forestry practices that can be implemented in Kentucky's woodlands. The training workshop emphasized woodland management practices that have proven successful. In addition to visiting several woodland

management demonstration areas, the Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards attended lectures, contributed to team activities, and participated in hands-on learning opportunities. Equally as important as the technical woodland management practices covered during the workshop is knowing who can help, what they can do, and how to work with them to get additional assistance. To facilitate these connections Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards were introduced to the more than twenty forestry and natural resources organizations and programs that are available to assist Ken-

tucky's woodland owners. Not only do we want Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards to have a firm technical understanding of woodland management practices, we also want to empower them so they can return to their local communities to serve as ambassadors for sustainable wood-

land management across the Commonwealth. The program will help Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards see the potential in their woodland and others' and prepare them to recommend appropriate professional assistance and resources available to Kentucky's woodland owners so they can better manage their properties.

The Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards have already begun seeking opportunities to make a positive difference on woodland management in their communities. We are planning to host another training workshop next year and look forward to meeting and working with the Class of 2016 Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards. For information about the program and to connect with some of the Class of 2015 Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards please visit

www.kentuckywoodlandstewards.org.

KWOA Members Give Experiences with Stewards Program

by Walt Rybka, KWOA member

As the owner of 200+ acres of woodlands I have always wanted to know more about how to manage and care for it. So when the Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards School was advertised, I applied and was accepted into the inaugural class. There were 24 of us from all over the state. We all came to the school which was held at the UK Research Forest,

14,800 acre Robinson Forest. We arrived on June 12, 2015 and were assigned to a cabin on site, (the same ones UK Forestry students use). The cabins were built by the CCC and are Spartan but functional. Cell phone service is nonexistent at the cabins, but if you go up onto the ridge line, you can find a connection. The cabins, mess hall, classroom and adminis-

KWOA Experiences (continued)

tration buildings all have Wi-Fi.

After lunch, school began: woodland measurement; stand, tree and regeneration assessment; timber, log and lumber value. Saturday continued with silvicultural practices, field tours and field work putting some of the new knowledge to use. Sunday was a continuation and wrap up of the program. The days were full and the information flow almost continuous.

The lead instructors were Dr. Jeff Stringer (UK Forestry) and Billy Thomas (Forestry Extension) as well as several foresters from the Kentucky Division of Forestry on-hand to assist with some of the fieldwork sessions.

Did I mention the food? All the meals were home cooked, all you can eat, prepared on site by Neva and Erwin Williams. No complaints there!

There was also some free time in the evenings. On Saturday I went to the elk viewing

station. No luck seeing any elk, but I met a local man and his wife there who regaled me with stories of their elk viewing. There was also a trip up to the fire tower. The view was spectacular. There is a large camp fire pit near the cabin area, where we gathered after class to talk about the day's events and get to know each other.

I left the school on Sunday with a lot of information about Kentucky forests and forest issues, a binder full of facts, information and connections, two books (Science of Forestry Management and Woodlands Management Course), and a Tree and Log Scale Stick (from Forestry Suppliers, Inc.).

So was it worth it? Definitely yes. I met a lot of woodland owners that had the same concerns that I have. I would recommend, if you have time, to enroll in the next session of the Kentucky Master Woodland Steward School.

Master Woodland Stewards Trainees Initiate Regional Meeting

by *Portia Brown, KWOA officer*

While attending the initial training at Robinson Forest, members of the "First Class" of Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards discussed forming regional groups. KWOA member Tom Grissom took the initiative to organize the first meeting for the North Central Region. In August, twelve people, including five KWOA members, came together at our farm in Shelby County. We had snacks and one couple brought fresh produce from their garden to share. The woodland stewards represented properties in Pendleton, Henry, Shelby, Grayson, and Jefferson counties. Dr. Jeff Stringer (UK Forestry) and Billy Thomas (Forestry Extension) joined the group and brought Steve Graves (Chief Forester for the Bluegrass District) and Dr. Ellen Crocker (Forest Health and Research Education Center).

The stewards began by sharing stories about their woodlands and their history with the land leading up to their current interest in managing their woodlands. We discussed the very considerable value that consulting forester can bring to the harvesting process, especially

due to their knowledge of current timber markets. We shared perspectives on hunting and recreational activities. Ultimately we recognized many issues facing woodland owners and the limited resources available.

Just among our small group we recognized many similarities and many differences in our experiences to date. As stewards we are eager to learn more about how to successfully manage our woodlands and to advocate sustainable practices among other woodland owners. This led to a discussion of what we can do to help. By talking with our neighbors and other woodland owners we can help raise awareness of the forestry programs and professional assistance that does exist. By sharing our experiences with others we can help them understand the processes and encourage them along the way.

We look forward to meeting again and to additional training with the statewide group. In the interim we agreed on our next step: asking the Agricultural Extension office in each of our counties to offer more educational programs relating to forestry/silviculture.



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Next Board Meeting: November 19, 2015 - KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

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