



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

www.kwoa.net

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2018

Plan to attend the KWOA/F 2019 Annual Meeting!

Plans are underway for the KWOA/F annual meeting March 26-27 at Pennyrile Forest State Park. The tentative agenda calls for educational programs to be held from 10 am – 4 pm on Tuesday led by the Kentucky Division of Forestry on topics of ecosystem management and prescribed fire. There will be a hospitality hour preceding the banquet and evening program at 6 pm. The meeting would resume Wednesday morning with presentations from cooperators and the annual business meeting.



Newsletter Transition to e-Delivery

KWOA strives to utilize membership dues in an effective and efficient manner. Printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter is a significant budget item for the association. KWOA foresees going to an electronic version in the near future. By providing an email address members will receive the newsletter as a pdf in their inboxes. Some advantages of receiving an electronic version are that photos and graphics will be in full color and hot links to further resources are only a click away. All issues of the newsletter are always available on the News and Publications page at www.KWOA.net.

Members who do not have access to the internet or would prefer to continue receiving a paper copy via USPS will be able to do so for the near future. More details will be available with membership renewals for 2019.



Interior view of Pennyrile Lodge at Pennyrile Forest State Park.

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A Message From Your President

KWOA versus the Thumb Drive

Congratulations to KWOA and its array of summer events. By looking at the mission statements of KWOA and KWOF quickly you will see education as a main focal point. The summer of 2018 certainly has proven the statement to be well founded.



2018 Kentucky Forestry Leadership Program participants.

In the early weeks of summer, two high school students attended the week long residential Kentucky Forestry Leadership Program held near Somerset, Kentucky. KWOF funds provided two partial scholarships to individuals from western Kentucky. The students attended this program because of their interest in forestry and natural resources as well as a glowing letter of support from a leader in each of their communities. During KWOA's board meeting in August the board was shown a video in which each of the students explained their future hopes in following a career in forestry and natural resources as well as the "thanks" of KWOA for giving them the opportunity to attend.

Later in the summer, adults had the opportunity to learn varied aspects of managing their woodlands by attending one of the three one day short courses. The short courses were located across the state making attendance to at least one easy for any woodland owner in Kentucky. The program was facilitated by the University of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resources Department and its many cooperators of natural resources. KWOA is one of the financial contributors to the annual program. Nearly 200 individuals attended providing programs with a balance of topics relating to woodland management.

The last event of the summer sponsored and financed by KWOF is the annual scholarship to a senior attending the University of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resources program. This is the only accredited forestry program in the state of Kentucky and allows seniors to compete in a

\$1,000 scholarship. A forestry related reflection question is stated and students respond. This year's question is, "It's More Than Wood That We Manage For". Many woodland owners are doing more activities to promote harvesting and management for wood production. Student reflections should be interesting.

Now, to explain the meaning of "the thumb drive" that appears in the title of this article. During the three short courses this summer the woodland management information came fast and furious. By day's end the information was in many cases over whelming. Much credit to the "thumb drive" that was provided which includes a great deal of natural resource and forestry material.

During each short course, KWOA was given a few minutes to promote the organization. One of the first benefits belonging to KWOA is that you can come in contact with other woodland owners across that state helping you, on a peer to peer level, helping explain all the information that was provided. These contacts can be made by emails and newsletters throughout the year. By being a member you can take the materials slow and methodically. All of us have been there and talking to your woodland peers makes the process easier to absorb.



2018 WOSC site visit at Portia and Jerry Brown Farm in Shelbyville, KY. Photo by Reneé Williams, UK Forestry Extension.

Join the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association and find the benefits of collaboration with others. Your membership fee will help support the programs described above as well as putting you in touch with many new folks involved in woodland management throughout the state of Kentucky. Please consider joining KWOA - you will enjoy the information on the thumb drive in a more casual manner - with professional and peers of woodland management.

-- Doug McLaren, KWOA/KWOF President

August Board Meeting Highlights

Change in **board meeting dates in 2019**. In 2019 board meetings will meet the SECOND Thursday of the month – Feb. 14, May 9, Aug. 8 and Nov. 14. This change will avoid conflicts with the Kentucky Agriculture Council’s meetings which convene on third Thursdays.

2019 Annual Meeting. Plans are underway for the KWOA annual meeting March 26-27 at Pennyriple Forest State Park. The tentative agenda calls for educational programs to be held from 10 am – 4 pm on Tuesday led by the Kentucky Division of Forestry on topics of ecosystem management and prescribed fire. KDF had done extensive forestry management in the park for several years. There will be a hospitality hour preceding the banquet and evening program at 6 pm. The meeting would resume Wednesday morning with presentations from cooperators and the annual business meeting. A meeting of the Kentucky Woodland Stewards is tentatively planned for the afternoon.

Mail Chimp has launched its first communications to more than 600 parties, both members and others with whom we want to stay in touch.

Health Task Force. The national Farm Service Agency’s Emergency Forest Restoration program may have some potential for financial compensation for trees lost to emerald ash

borer. It would require submission of extensive data on wooded acres, ash trees, timeframe and projected loss by county. A key question is whether landowners can be compensated for non-timber losses such as water quality, habitat and soil quality degradation.

Strategic Plan. A new operational statement was approved by the board as well as a mission statement. A new logo is in the works.

Woodland owners with fewer than ten acres. Board members are developing program options geared to smaller land owners.

Kentucky Tree Farm System. ATF has decided NOT to charge fees to tree farms to maintain certification.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. Revisions to ranking criteria for EQIP applications will give additional points to landowners working to restore shortleaf pine forest communities as well as other rare and declining ecosystems. Additional ranking points in SEKESH (Southeast Kentucky Early Successional Habitat Initiative) will be given to those doing Forest Stand Improvement practices including mid-story removal and crop tree release as well as for prescribed burning.

Cooperator Profile: KCC



KWOA cooperates with state/federal agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and industry associations to bring the best forestry management policies and practices to woodland owners. KWOA/F also supports several of these entities with annual sponsorships. This issue profiles one of

our cooperators - the Kentucky Conservation Committee.

The Kentucky Conservation Committee has been a trusted voice of the public in Kentucky’s capital for over forty years, effectively advocating for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Kentucky’s natural resources. KCC monitors Kentucky’s legislature year-round as a responsible steward of the Commonwealth’s land, air, water and biota. KCC’s priority campaigns target land and water, energy and biodiversity. It scrutinizes legislation and informs voters of the choices their elected officials are making.

Lane Boldman, KCC Executive Director, regularly attends KWOA board meetings and updates members on woodlands-related pending legislation. For more information go to www.kyconservation.org.

A Case of Timber Theft

Editor's note: The following article is submitted by a KWOA member Ed Sheehan. Although the owner's do not live on the property in western Kentucky where the timber theft occurred, they had a boundary survey on file and immediately gathered extensive documentation regarding the theft that expedited prosecution of the thief. However, an unexpected action on the defendant's part may have extended the prosecution for quite some time. Updates on this situation will be added to the article that is posted on the KWOA website.

Further information on Timber Theft and Trespass is available from the Kentucky Division of Forestry: <http://forestry.ky.gov/LandownerServices/Pages/TimberTheftandTrespass.aspx>

UK Forestry Extension: http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/trespass_theft

My wife and I have owned 20+ acres in Kentucky since 2010. The property was surveyed in 2010 and was only partially fenced. In January, 2018 we found a freshly cut area on the back side of the property. Someone had stolen multiple trees and damaged several more. The damage trail led all the way to a neighbor's property and we could see a logging truck loaded with fresh timber. Aha, caught red-handed!

I immediately contacted the Kentucky Division of Forestry who informed me they could not help me and suggested I call the county sheriff. I called the county sheriff and he told me to call the police department, which I did. The police officer informed me that it was a civil matter and I would have to hire a lawyer. So, no one would come out to file a report!

I then contacted two lawyers. The first lawyer said he was too busy and gave me the name of another lawyer.

I was determined to fight for my property and this is the process I followed.

In February 2018 I hired a surveyor, at a cost of \$1,100, to survey the unfenced area of my property and stake it for fencing.

In March 2018 I hired a forestry consultant for an estimate of damages. I was also given a restitution estimate of \$10,332 and \$450 for erosion

control cost. The cost for the estimate, documentation and photos was \$250.

I contacted the second lawyer and was told he charged 1/3 of the settlement and 1/3 of \$10,332 was not worth his time. So, I wasn't getting any help anywhere!

When I compiled all my information concerning the timber theft, I visited the county attorney's office and completed a COMPLAINT INFORMATION FORM. I presented the completed form and my folder of documentation to the county attorney. I was informed that they did not have much luck in winning these cases. So, it looked like another turn down!

Then she looked at my documentation. I believe my thorough file (containing the property survey, loss and damage estimates, and photos of tree stumps, damaged trees, and trails of the loggers) helped to change her mind rather quickly as it only took about 15 to 20 minutes for them to decide to take action.

I was informed that the penalty of three times the value of the timber could not be applied in this situation or any damages to property because that would require a civil suit. I was just relieved that the prosecutor was going to prosecute the thief and bring attention to the situation. We were on our way!

When we went to court in

June 2018, I was surprised to be informed before the hearing began that the defendant had agreed to reimburse me \$3,000 (this was the cost of the stolen trees per the forestry consultant) per an agreement between the defendant and the prosecutor. The defendant agreed to this in order to keep from being charged with a felony and the money would be paid in three monthly payments. After to agreeing to the settlement, the Defendant paid \$1,000 to me and then changed his mind and decided not to pay the remaining \$2,000. He has been indicted by the county prosecutor and we are awaiting a court date.

Things must change.

Timber theft is a big problem in Kentucky and counties do not have the resources to investigate these thefts. I believe we landowners need a process to follow and I have some suggestions.

1) The police should be required to come out and complete a written report to the land owner. The officer does not need to know the value of the timber or be certain of the boundary lines. The report only needs to list the number of trees or the approximate acreage involved. This is to be included in the folder of documentation.

2) The landowner can then contact a surveyor to confirm the boundary lines if the

landowner needs an updated survey. The original or updated survey is to be included in the folder of documentation.

3) The land owner could then hire a forestry consultant for an estimate of the stolen and damaged trees along with any damages to the property which will require seeding. This is to be included in the folder of documentation.

4) Take photos of tree stumps, damaged trees, trails of the loggers and anything else that applies. This is to be included in the folder of

documentation.

5) All documentation can then be turned over to the county prosecutor for necessary action.

I believe the most important part of this process is the police report. The police report states that a crime (theft and property damage) has occurred. This report should be added to state statistics concerning timber theft. This gives a more accurate representation of timber thefts occurring in the state. Without statistics, it is not recognized as a problem

and no action will be taken. The landowner needs to work with the police department because this documentation is necessary when contacting the prosecutor.

Timber thieves must be held accountable and doing so will help to reduce the temptation of stealing others property. Landowners really need to work with county prosecutors to lessen timber thefts and reduce the financial burdens they must endure.



Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day

Hosted October 9 in Boyle/Casey counties

KWOA members are invited to a field day on the Clifton Taylor Family Tree Farm at 1495 Elk Cave Road, Gravel Switch. The event begins at 1 pm and includes a history of the farm and family development and a focus on its Elk Cave Farms forest operations. A dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

Please pre-register by October 2nd with the Boyle County (859.236.4484) or Casey County (606.787.7384) or UK Forestry (859.257.7597) Extension Offices.

New Appointments to Forestry BMP Board

Governor Bevin made three new appointments to the state Forestry Best Management Practices Board. The board updates Kentucky's forest practice guidelines for water quality management and the Division of Forestry's administrative regulations regarding timber harvesting operations (KRS 149.350).

Jack Stickney, Irvine, is a farmer, senior geologist for the Kentucky Rural Water Association and a KWOA board member. He will represent at-large woodland owners and serve for a term expiring April 22, 2022.

Dr. Jeffrey Stringer, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry Chair will serve for a term expiring April 22, 2022.

Christopher Scott, forest ranger technician with the Kentucky Division of Forestry will serve for a term expiring April 22, 2022.

Also serving on the board are Portia Brown, KWOA vice president, Harry Pelle and Lyndle Barnes, KWOA board members.

The Colors Of Autumn

By Laurie T. Thomas

As the seasons shift from summer to fall there are many changes we may notice in our environment such as cooler temperatures, less humidity and shorter days just to name a few. But one change we are sure to notice is the gradual color change in our deciduous tree leaves, from summer green to autumn orange, yellow, red and even purple.

Through the warm spring and summer months the tree leaves, the food factories for the trees, are a lovely green thanks to the constant production of chlorophyll which is vital for the process of photosynthesis. This chemical process enables the leaves to convert sunlight with carbon dioxide into sugars or food for the tree.

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer tree leaves will slow and then stop the production of chlorophyll thus causing it to break down and disappear which is when the other colors within the leaves are revealed. The yellow, orange and brown

we see in the autumn leaves are due to the pigments called carotenoids, these leaf pigments have been masked by the chlorophyll during the growing season. The red and purple colors are due to the pigments called anthocyanins which are produced in the fall when the sunlight is bright and there is an excess of sugar in leaves.

These unmasked colors will be more dominate in particular groups of trees. Oaks typically turn red to brown, hickories often turn golden yellow, and maples vary with sugar maple turning orange-yellow or orange-red and red maple turning a deep red. Kentucky's state tree, yellow-poplar also known as tulip poplar turns a golden yellow. And then there are some trees such as elms that just turn brown and drop.

If you want to predict if it will be a colorful autumn keep an eye on the weather in late summer into early fall. Both temperature and moisture play a role in determining how dramatic leaf color will be. The most intense autumn colors are

typically the result of a warm wet spring, pleasant summer weather, and warm, sunny fall days with cool crisp nights.

So get out there this autumn and enjoy Mother Nature's colorful display!

To Find Out More

For updates on Kentucky's fall color, great places to view the autumn colors; events and kid's activities check out: ColorFall in Kentucky <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/colorfall/>

For Fall Foliage Predictions check out Smoky Mountain Fall Foliage Map <https://smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map/>

For a Youth Activity to do with your 4-Hers or students check out Project Learning Tree – "Signs of Fall" below is a link to a condensed version of the activity, the complete lesson and activity are found in the PLT Guide.

<https://www.plt.org/family-activity/signs-of-fall/>

2018 Calendar of Events



October 3

Kentucky Farm Bureau Forestry Advisory Committee meeting.

October 9

Site visit to Cliff Taylor Tree Farm

November 15

KWOA/F Board Meeting

KFIA Office Frankfort

In 2019 board meetings will meet the SECOND Thursday of the month – Feb. 14, May 9, Aug. 8 and Nov. 14.

November 29

Kentucky Farm Bureau Commodity Day at its annual meeting. Galt House, Louisville.

December 12-14

Innovations in Invasive Species Management Training

Gaylord Opryland Hotel - Nashville, TN

<https://www.invasiveplantcontrol.com/conference18>

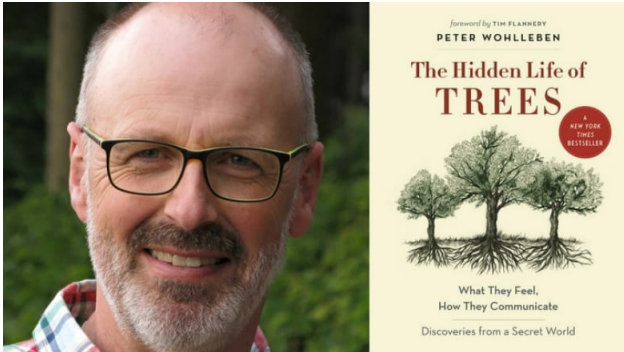
March 26-27

KWOA/F 2019 Annual Meeting

Pennyrile Forest State Park

Suggested Reading: The Hidden Life of Trees

KWOA is starting a series of book reviews for fiction and non-fiction books that may be of interest to members. If you have a favorite book related to forestry please send the title to editor@kwoa.net. If you have read this issue's book choice, we'd love to hear what you thought about it. Send comments to editor@kwoa.net.



The Hidden Life of Trees
What They Feel, How They Communicate
By Peter Wohlleben
English translation 2016, Greystone Books Ltd.,
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Peter Wohlleben is a German forester who gave up his position with the forestry commission in Germany to manage a forest as a nature preserve for the community of Hummel. He switched to horse-logging, eliminated insecticides and began letting the woods grow wilder.

The Hidden Life of Trees busts many long accepted premises about forests such as:
- *Spacing out trees on plantation forests ensures that they get more sunlight and grow faster.* Wohlleben asserts that light depredation for younger trees due to the crowns of more mature trees slows their growth which is a prerequisite if a tree is to live to a ripe old age (page 33). In addition, trees such as beeches are more productive when they are packed together where the fungi network can act as a redistribution mechanism (page 16).

- *As trees mature their growth rate slows.* On the contrary, the older the tree, the more quickly it grows. If we want to use forests as a weapon in the fight against climate change, then we must allow them to grow old (pages 97-98).

- *When trees begin to sicken, it is the beginning of the end.* Even strong trees get sick a lot over

the course of their lives and may depend on weaker neighbors for support (page 17).

- *The thousands of nuts produced by a single tree will ensure a future generation.* A mature beech tree can produce about 1.8 million beechnuts in an average lifetime. From these, exactly one will develop into a full-grown tree (page 29).

Trees are connected through their root systems in what Wohlleben terms the "wood wide web" of soil fungi that exchange nutrients and help sickly neighbors.

Although Wohlleben is criticized by some as anthropomorphizing nature, he makes the complex biological aspects of forestry understandable and interesting to non-scientists while backing his ideas with scientific research and data. A review of Wohlleben's book in the March 2018 issue of *The Smithsonian* notes that Wohlleben "has a rare understanding of the inner life of trees, and is able to describe it in accessible, evocative language." ("The Whispering of the Trees" by Richard Grant, pp. 48-57.

With the current decimation by fire of forests in the west, I find Wohlleben's findings in his chapter on the forest as water pump to be one of the most disturbing tenets of his book. Through transpiration coastal forests release water vapor that travels inland to be released as rain for inland forests. He posits that coastal forests are the foundation for this system and without it the system falls apart. On a related point, he refutes the idea that old growth forests are taken over by shrubby growth and brambles. Instead, he finds that old leaves predominate on the forest floor because of the deep shade, keeping it cool, damp and evenly regulated.

Watch a TV interview with Wohlleben at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/12/peter-wohlleben-man-who-believes-trees-talk-to-each-other>

Listen to a TED talk, "How Trees Talk to Each Other," by another forest ecologist referenced extensively in Wohlleben's book - Suzanne Simard, University of British Columbia - whose new discoveries are challenging the Western scientific method: https://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne_simard_how_trees_talk_to_each_other/up-next

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Next Board Meeting: November 15, 2018 - KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

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.

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