



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

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Fall 2020

KWOA/F 2020 Annual Business Meeting Convenes December 9

Due to the cancelation of the 2020 annual meeting, it was suggested by the KWOA/F Executive Board to provide an opportunity for the members to “meet” virtually and carry out an abbreviated meeting format. Our business meeting agenda will be abbreviated BUT we are going to provide two speakers with some very timely forestry topics.

The program will be held virtually on December 9th from 7-8 EST. Instructions will be sent later for the virtual connection.

AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 9 KWOA ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING

(Eastern Standard Time)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00-7:05 | Welcome (Doug McLaren, KWOA President) |
| 7:05-7:10 | Financial Report (Jerry Brown, KWOA Treasurer) |
| 7:10-7:15 | Media Update (Portia Brown, KWOA Vice President) |
| 7:15-7:20 | Announcement of award recipients
Announcement of Officer & Directors
Announcement of scholarship recipient (Doug) |
| 7:20-7:30 | Meet Dr. Muller (Jacob Muller, Assistant Professor of Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations, UK Forestry Extension) |
| 7:30-7:50 | Healthy Woods (Ellen Crocker, Assistant Professor, Forest Health UK Forestry Extension) |
| 7:50-8:00 | Questions & Wrap Up |

OUR MISSION:

“Bringing people and woodland sustainability together”

Woodland Owners join together to improve forest management science, services, education and law.

To become a member go to
<https://kwoa.net/join/>

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A Message From Your President

The Virtual Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

Nearly every "opening message" of any organizational publication during 2020 has begun with the message of difficulty and transformation that we have all taken to carry on our business "as normal" due to COVID19. The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association has been doing its part providing alternative ways to provide the information required and requested by our membership. It has been a "new normal" for all of us. I thank you for your continued cooperation.

Your woodland owners association has maintained a busy life style throughout this pandemic. We continue to reflect on our internal business procedures and have made adjustments to make the association's work more efficient, and in the end, effective for the total membership through the efforts of Jerry Brown. I wish to thank both Portia Brown and Karen Marshall for their continued efforts to maintain "communications" to all the cooperators and members of KWOA. Portia has been ever timely in creating the Wood Post's for those immediate concerns and interests for the membership. Karen continues to post to the web and also creates and develops the "bones" for each of our newsletters.

One of the big issues for the past several months has been the decision concerning the annual meeting. We thought that by postponing it from March to September would be a good solution, but few of us realized how this COVID 19 would persist. You

were all contacted by email and by Wood Post that we had to again postpone/cancel until next year. Our biggest concern for doing this has always been the health and well being of the membership. My thanks to KWOA board member Steve Perry who has worked monthly and sometimes weekly to have our meeting site at Lake Cumberland secure for us whenever this virus leaves.

As chairman of KWOA I have the pleasure to work on several state committees and programs that have functioned in the same manner KWOA has been since March - virtually, mostly by way of zoom. One of those state and national committees that I am involved in is the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee which is an affiliate to the national tree farm program. During the past year the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee has worked to have Cliff Taylor's tree farm nominated for the National Tree Farmer of the Year. Again, COVID 19 has limited the process of picking the national winner. They have postponed this year's winner until next year. I am happy to announce that Dr. Cliff Taylor's tree farm is one of the eight finalists. To come this far in the stage of a national title is a true dream. Please take the time to send, call, email Cliff and applaud him on his accomplishments that he and his family had becoming a nationally recognized tree farmer.

I have known Cliff Taylor over the years as a very involved absentee tree farmer and has done a great deal to create a sustainable woodland farm as a legacy. Not only has he been involved in the Kentucky Tree

Farm Committee, he has also been involved in the work of KWOA as a board member. His work and contributions at the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources has been greatly appreciated by the students in a diverse number of ways. One is that he has been in the presence of the students in recent years encouraging them to understand that Kentucky woodland management is a difficult but rewarding process, one that pays "high dividends" in the end. Dr. Taylor has provided financial scholarships to the students as well as providing his property to use a "laboratory" for their field work. We are extremely happy to have Dr. Taylor back living in Kentucky now.

I do hope that this newsletter finds both you and your family members healthy and in good spirits.

Thanks to all,
**-- Doug McLaren,
KWOA/KWOF President**



New KDF Director

Brandon Howard has been appointed Director of Forestry upon the retirement of James Wright. Brandon holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and has spent the last 16 years of his career

with the division in the areas of fire suppression and environmental control and will be instrumental in assuring a seamless transition.

Cooperator Profile: Kentucky Forest Industries Association



The Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) was started in 1965 and has grown to over 550 members. The Association represents all segments of the forest products industry including logging, sawmill, woodland owners, wood and paper products manufacturing and a wide range of support industries for manufacturing and forestry. The Association has an office in Frankfort, KY and provides member services including assistance with regulatory issues, markets and networking opportunities. It represents the forestry community on legislative issues with the Kentucky Legislature and also at the national level in Washington DC.

KFIA provides many opportunities for members to stay informed through regular communications and a wide range of networking opportunities. Members are provided a monthly newsletter and weekly updates through our Express News Link which keeps members informed on important issues that affect their business and markets. These communications also include regular updates on legislative issues at the state and national level where the Association represents member interests through our registered lobbying activities.

Members are provided with a wide range of networking opportunities through a spring Annual Meeting that attracts over 350 attendees and 35 exhibitors. Five regional meetings are conducted around the state throughout the summer and a wide range of educational opportunities are offered in conjunction with our partners to provide information to loggers,

wood industry and woodland owners. KFIA puts on the Kentucky Wood Expo in odd numbered years. It is the largest forestry event in Kentucky which attracts exhibitors and attendees from throughout the region to see new technology and celebrate the many aspects of the wood products industry.

The national Tree Farm Program and the Sustainable Forest Initiative are operated within the Association and offer opportunities for landowners and wood industry to certify their operations as meeting national sustainable forestry standards. KFIA works hard to provide all members with the tools to sustain our renewable wood resource while protecting and improving the environment through good forestry practices. For more information on membership in the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and our many programs please visit kfia.org.

KWOA 2020 Service Forester Award: Stephen Gabbard



Each year the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association recognizes an outstanding service forester based on criteria that include demonstrated overall professionalism, volume of work, relationships with woodland owners, responsiveness to their requests and sustained excellence over a period of time. Nominations are submitted by KWOA members.

Stephen Gabbard, Service Forester for the KDF Pineville Branch, was selected for the 2020 KWOA Program Achievement Award for Service Foresters. Mr. Gabbard covers five counties: Owsley, Rockcastle, Clay, Laurel, and Jackson. His counties cover roughly 863,600 acres of forestland.

Stephen has worked as a service forester for five years. Last year he wrote 27 stewardship plans for forests that totaled 1889 acres. He administered

forestland enhancements on 240 acres that included markings for timber stand improvement and timber harvests. He conducted and assisted with 22 educational school programs in various counties.

Wildland fire suppression is a big component of a forester's job and Stephen worked 24 wildland fires in various counties within the Pineville Branch. In addition, he assisted the US Forest Service with its prescribed burns. Stephen attends training to stay current in sustainable forestry promotion, tree farm inspections and herbicide application.

Jimmy Sizemore, a woodland owner in Stephen's district, has benefited from the forester's expertise. Jimmy also comments "Though Stephen is probably most comfortable out in the woods, he's also a very capable teacher. He loves to share his passion and knowledge of the woods with landowners and students alike."





Five Generations Preserve, Improve and Enjoy Clifton Taylor Family Tree Farm

The Clifton Taylor family tree farm preserves history, improves timber, enhances wildlife habitat and provides forestry experience and recreation for family and guests. Cliff Taylor is a long-time member of KWOA and served on the Foundation board from 2010 to 2019. His son Scott now serves on the Association board. Scott and his brother Steve continue to manage the family farm.

The Taylor family tree farm is managed with an eye toward improving timber production and creating better wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

The farm totals more than 1100 acres in Casey and Boyle counties. While these tracts are nearly entirely covered with forests today, small homesteads and farms were scattered throughout the area from the mid-1800's through the 1950's.

The Taylors and their maternal ancestors have lived on Elk Cave and Minor's Branch since the late 1800's. Barbara Ellis Taylor's ancestors have lived in the Forkland area since the late 1700's. The farm has been owned by five family generations.

Clifton and Barbara both graduated from the University of Kentucky and earned PhDs from the University of Wisconsin. Both worked as cooperative extension agents for UK and as extension faculty at the University of Florida.

The property was certified as a tree farm in 1972 to maintain

the future availability of white oak. It now provides white oak logs for Irish Distillers' "American Oak Project," which uses certified Kentucky white oak for its casks.

Clifton's forest management activities have had assistance from the Kentucky Division of Forestry and extension and research faculty from the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources since the beginning of forest ownership. Current management assistance, since 2003, is also provided by consulting forester Chris Will and Central Kentucky Forest Management.

Tree plantings have included loblolly and white pine, locust and walnut from 1959-2012. Tree harvests, including salvage harvests, have been conducted on various tracts since 1964. (The salvage harvest made the mistake of letting the logs lie on the ground too long.)

Forest Stand Improvement has been conducted on various tracts from 1978 through 2017. FSI included removing undesirable/unmarketable species, mid-story control to promote advanced oak regeneration, mid-story control and cull-tree removal, and removal of invasive species. Excellent oak regeneration has resulted from these practices.

The family currently maintains 17 miles of trails that provide the ability to see more acres more quickly, conduct management activities, salvage downed/dead timber and enjoy the forest.





All is not work on the Taylor farm. Two campsites, a shelter house and picnic area are used extensively for family and guest recreation.



Cliff has spent decades managing his property with the assistance of forestry, wildlife and other natural resource professionals, many of whom consider his woodlands a great example of what can result from proper management. Jeff Stringer, UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

The family has re-surveyed tracts and boundaries, planted native grasses and conducted periodic prescribed fires for wildlife enhancement. With funding from the Casey County Soil Conservation District they have implemented water quality enhancement and best management practices by incorporating contemporary engineering techniques to reduce water quality impacts in the construction of new haul roads and ATV/skid trails, stream crossings, dips and turnouts.

Adjacent landowners have been influenced and are now working with consulting services and for oak regeneration treatments.

In 2012, the Taylor family forest land was among the first privately-owned land in Kentucky to be FSC certified.

In 2005, Clifton and Barbara funded an endowment in the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to provide support for its senior capstone course.

Clifton and Barbara established forest ownership succession trusts in 2010. (Barbara passed away in December 2012.) The trust's goals include maintaining shared ownership in the family and continued ownership through future generations. Management objectives include continuing to be good stewards of the land and providing leadership in: managing timber for long term sustainability, enhancing the watersheds and associated streams in the watersheds, promoting wildlife habitat, providing recreation opportunities and sharing family history with future generations.



The Kentucky Forest Industries Association selected Taylor as the 2017 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year. The Clifton Taylor family tree farm was the site of the Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day on Oct. 9, 2018.

Kentucky Woodland Owners for Healthy Water

Michaela Lambert –
Big Sandy River Basin
Coordinator, Kentucky
Division of Water

In today's water quality world we hear a lot about urban stormwater and agricultural best management practices. Our woodlands though, are often overlooked and left out of the discussion. If properly managed, forestland is the best land use for good water quality and a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Forests provide natural filtration for pollutants. Roots from the vegetation provide soil stability, reducing erosion and sedimentation. Runoff is

better absorbed into the soil and pollutants filtered out before reaching streams and lakes. Tree cover provides shade and organic enrichment for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

While unlogged forests provide obvious water quality benefits, properly managed forests can provide those same benefits while also producing valuable product. The pollutants that can end up in waterways due to improper forest management and timber harvest are considered nonpoint source pollutants, or runoff pollution. Some of those pollutants include sediment, logging debris, trash, fluids, and increases in water temperature. Proper management of woodlands and timber operations includes the use of best management practices (BMP), which can be found in the [Kentucky BMP Field Guide](#).

In addition to the use of BMPs, there are other options for woodland owners to improve the water quality of

the water bodies on their lands. [Watershed Watch In Kentucky](#) provides woodland owners an opportunity to get their hands wet and better understand the water quality in the waterbodies on or adjacent to their properties. The stream monitoring offers volunteers the opportunity to be trained in two different sampling protocols. The first, teaches volunteers to collect basic water quality parameters, including pH, conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, as well as collect a "grab sample" that will later be analyzed by a lab for E. coli, a potentially dangerous bacteria. The second protocol includes the sampling for aquatic insects and assessing stream habitat. This allows volunteers to get more of an overall assessment of stream health, versus the "snapshot" of water quality shown only using the first protocol.

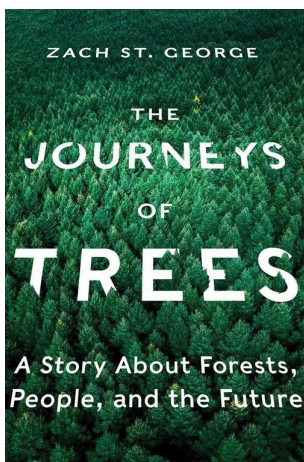
Watershed Watch In Kentucky also offers a lake monitoring program, where volunteers are trained to measure secchi depth, or the visible depth, to determine the risk of harmful algal bloom. Harmful algal blooms are blooms of blue-green algae, actually a type of bacteria, that can potentially release toxins. The toxins associated with harmful algal blooms can be dangerous if too much skin contact or accidental ingestion occurs, especially for children and pets. The deeper into a water body one can see, the lower the risk of harmful algal bloom.

Training and sampling equipment are free to all active Watershed Watch volunteers. Woodland owners who are interested in sampling their streams or lakes should contact [JoAnn Palmer](#) or [their local Basin Coordinator](#). Over half of Kentucky's land area is forest land, much of which is privately owned. By participating in proper land management and volunteering with Watershed Watch, Kentucky's woodland owners can play an important role in protecting the state's forests and water bodies.

For more information about the Big Sandy River Basin:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Outreach/BasinCoordination/Pages/BigSandyRiverBasin.aspx>

Book Review: The Journeys of Trees



Zach St. George
W. W. Norton & Company,
2020, 253 pages

The Journeys of Trees explores the concept of forest migration, the people who study it and those who are attempting to assist it. St. George explains how any time a tree dies or a new one sprouts, the forest that includes it shifts a little. When new trees sprout in the same direction, the whole forest begins to migrate. As factors such as climate change, fires and drought become increasingly influential, forests that move north either geographically or in elevation tend to become more abundant in those ranges.

Zach St. George is a science and travel writer. He explores the evolving movements of forests by focusing on five species of trees in the US: giant sequoia, black spruce, Florida torreya, Monterey pine and ash in his chapter entitled Kiss Your Ash Goodbye.

He also explores the backcrossing of the American chestnut in New Hampshire.

"Even in cases where people can repair the tree, the ecosystem that it was a part of will be gone, rearranged in its absence." (page 145)

St. George cautions that assisted migration can also bring insects and diseases with the introduced tree species who also become invasives themselves. These threats are then addressed by remedies such as biological control and CRISPR gene-editing that St. George thinks may be short-term and narrow in scope.

"There are few forests anywhere in the world that scientists have tracked for more than a century." (page 157)

Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day



Laurie Thomas, UK
Forestry and Natural
Resources Extensions

Ashley Osborne, 4-H
Youth Development,
Natural Resources

The Kentucky 4-H Forestry Field Days look a little different this year but we did not want to miss the chance to share with the youth of Kentucky the importance and enjoyment of our trees and forests so we created the Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day. The purpose of the Virtual Forestry Field Day is the same as the



in-person field days we traditionally hold across the state each September. Both are designed to develop an appreciation of trees and their roles in our environment, whether in a yard, park or forest. We also want youth to understand the need and importance of conserving woodlands as a source of products and services necessary for quality living and acquire information and knowledge of practical forestry skills that real-life foresters utilize everyday while on the job. The Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day consists of seven units with each unit providing educational information in video format.

their own pace. Upon completion of all the units and challenges the youth will submit their required materials and be given a certificate as well as a small prize.

While we miss the in-person, face to face field day we are excited about the ability to provide this opportunity that just is not possible with a 100+ youth at the field day site. In addition, this Virtual Forestry Field Day will allow us to supplement our in-person field days in the future and help youth learn more about trees and the benefits they provide which will help them grow into future decision-makers who are knowledgeable about, and appreciative of, our environment.

To participate in the Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day visit: <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/forestryfieldday>



The units include:

- Kentucky's Forests
- What is Forestry?
- History of Forestry
- Tree Identification
- Tree Measurement
- Why Trees Are Important – Their Ecosystem Services
- Careers in Forestry

Each unit has a youth challenge associated with it. For example, in the Tree Identification Challenge, 4-Hers must find five different trees, correctly identify each tree using a dichotomous key, and make a leaf print of their identified trees. The Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day can be done in a Saturday afternoon or over the course of several weeks; the 4-Hers can learn and complete the challenges at

2020 Calendar of Events



November 7

Virtual KY Maple School
ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu

December 9

KWOA/F Virtual Annual Meeting
On Zoom at 7pm - 8pm EST

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1201
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DIRECTORS

NORTH ZONE

Steve Perry, Henry
Hugh Archer, Anderson
C. Michael Rich, Madison

EAST ZONE

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

CENTRAL ZONE

Harry Pelle, Taylor
Henry Duncan, Woodford
Scott Taylor, Marion

WEST ZONE

Brian Barnes, Caldwell
James Vincent, Henderson
Dr. Lanny Copeland, Warren

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

L.D. "Joe" Ball (18) Somerset
Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns (19) Louisville
Dr. Jim Corum (20) Stony Fork

OFFICERS

President - Doug McLaren, Versailles
Vice President - Portia Brown, Louisville
Secretary - Jack Rentz, Wallingford
Treasurer - Jerry Brown Louisville
Past President - Frank Hicks, Winchester

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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