



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

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Fall 2019

Mark Your Calendar for the 2020 KWOA Annual Meeting



KWOA will continue its four-year series of American Tree Farm System themes with *Recreation* as the focus of its 2020 annual meeting.

The annual meeting will convene March 24-25, 2020 at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park in south central Kentucky.

Topics will include:

- Trail building and maintenance
- Woodland safety and survival
- Edible and medicinal plants
- Setting up and maintaining sporting clay ranges
- *Healthy Woods app*

The meeting is officially the 24th and 25th but because many of you will be coming early, we have added an event for Monday the 23rd. Also, we will again be hosting the Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards Annual Reunion on the evening of Monday, March 23rd.

Updates and registration information will be posted at <https://kwoa.net/2019/09/03/annual-meeting-update/>.

Fall Forest Fire Hazard Season Is in Effect

An abnormally wet 2018 is playing a role in why conditions could be worse for fires in 2019. The Kentucky Division of Forestry says more vegetation grew in wooded areas as a result of the increased rains, and that will increase the risk for forest fires.

The Division of Forestry is responsible for fighting wildland fires on private lands and enforcing forest fire hazard seasons and other outdoor burning regulations. During forest fire hazard season, it is illegal to burn between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland.

The Fall Forest Fire Hazard Season is Oct. 1 through Dec. 15, 2019

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A Message From Your President

Opportunities Abound(ed)

Summer came to an end - abruptly! What a summer it was! This spring we had more wet weather than we desired but all was balanced out by a very hot and dry September. All kinds of records were set for heat and lack of moisture. The summer also provided great opportunities to attend forestry related events throughout the state. The University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources ran their annual Woodland Owners Short Course. Logan County for the western section of the state, Washington County providing a central location and the eastern attendees had a chance to see true mountain woodland management concerns in Clay County. Two of the three were on properties owned and managed by KWOA board members. (See continued discussion and photos on the following pages of this newsletter.)

The Kentucky Wood Expo was held in Lexington in September, a program where forest industry and woodland management meet to see hands-on uses for the woodland crops grown in Kentucky. A few weeks later the Kentucky Tree Farm System sponsored a field day in Metcalfe County to visit this year's Tree Farmer of the Year (also a KWOA member) and see their operation dealing with extensive woodland and wildlife experiences. All in all, it was a great summer for opportunities to see woodland management in action across the state.

The next few months continues these opportunities. The Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held in December and sessions within the program allow woodland owners to hear about updates

on all the commodities of agriculture including forestry. On March 24 and 25, 2020, KWOA will be hosting its annual meeting. This year it will be at Lake Cumberland State Park near Jamestown. The theme has been chosen, Recreation, and initial details of the meeting can be found in this newsletter. Following on the heels of KWOA's meeting will be The Ohio River Valley Woodlands and Wildlife (ORVWW) Workshop which will be held at the Boone County Extension office on March 28th, 2020. It is sponsored this year by Kentucky Cooperative Extension but brings together experts from Ohio and Indiana concerning issues in forestry and wildlife - and everything in between.

You might now be asking yourself, "How can I keep abreast of all the varied news related to my woodlands?" KWOA has the answer. KWOA is now sending out to its members routine timely electronic updates of forestry news that affects us all in the form of "Wood Post". It supplements information and summaries that are found in the traditional newsletters.

There is another location to discover events that might be of interest to you in your local geographic region. Our state is divided into seven watershed basins. If you would like to be more involved in meetings and events in your local area defined by your water basin, Google "Basin Coordination Kentucky" and click on your water basin for updates of events.

If you are looking for a unique holiday gift for those folks that have everything, how about a membership to KWOA? You don't have to own woodlands to be a member, just the passion and desire to better understand

the forestry community. Check out the KWOA website for more details. Another gift giving idea for those folks that have an interest in present and historical concerns of our woodlands and forests, try referring to previous KWOA newsletters on line and find the book reviews that have been posted. There is something to be read for everyone. (My favorite is American Canopy by Rutkow which follows the historical significance of trees in US history).

Hopefully, you the readers, have taken part in one or more of the wide array of opportunities that abound in our state concerning woodland interests. Keep abreast by continuing your membership of KWOA. Spread the word by having your friends, family, and woodland neighbors become members of KWOA.

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



August Board Meeting Highlights

KWOA Board discusses strategic planning, timber theft and river basins at quarterly meeting

The KWOA/F Board of Directors convened its quarterly meeting on August 8 in Frankfort.

Several guest presenters attended the meeting:

- Aleta Botts - Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Bill McCloskey - Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP)
- Chris Osborne - Kentucky River Properties, LLC
- Perry Thomas, DOW Watershed Management Branch.

Aleta Botts, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), described the services provided by this 501(c)(3) organization which works closely with GOAP. KCARD provides planning assistance for Kentucky agricultural organizations. Representatives of KWOA will be meeting with them to help clarify and further develop goals and plans.

Bill McCloskey, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), explained the role of the Kentucky Agricultural Fund, which at the state level annually distributes about \$16 million in tobacco settlement funds. Increasing farm income is the purpose of these investments. Funding requests that require additional development are often referred to KCARD.

Strategic Planning: Jack Stickney reported on the idea of applying for funding through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in order to significantly expand the activities of KWOA. This would entail an increase in efforts to encourage woodland management, and the hiring of an executive director. After a lot of discussions, the group concluded that KWOA may not be ready to take on this level of additional activity, and as an alternative, might advocate for funding for woodland management activities through organizations with infrastructure already in place. As noted above, the intent is to review these plans in more detail with KCARD.

Chris Osborne, Forester with Kentucky River Properties LLC, outlined a need to change timber trespass laws in order to protect the interests of landowners as well as the timber industry. In order to reduce the incidence of

unauthorized logging, Chris suggested that the notification requirement to adjoining landowners should become mandatory for all logging operations. Industry groups, including KWOA and KFIA, will be asked to provide representatives to a group that will work toward this change.

Woodland Assessment: Jim Corum reported that Jeff Harper, Director, Public Affairs Division, Kentucky Farm Bureau will meet with the Governor's Office after the 2019 legislative session to discuss KWOA's proposed changes in woodland assessment. On-going discussion on fair and equitable assessment and taxation of managed woodlands will utilize a White Paper by Jeffrey Stringer, Professor and Chair, UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Extension.

2020 Annual Meeting: The meeting will be held March 24-25 at Lake Cumberland State Park. Recreation is the theme.

Health Task Force: Joe Ball and Don Girton discussed efforts to obtain woodland owner federal financial relief from the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer disease. Both believe that in light of the \$16 billion in federal aid being provided to farmers in connection with tariffs, EAB help in the near future is unlikely. Joe Ball noted that the reluctance to fund EAB disaster relief is just one example of the lack of recognition of timber as an agricultural commodity. However, Girton and Ball will continue to work on their report.

Perry Thomas and three associates from the Nonpoint Source & Basin Team Section, Watershed Management Branch, Kentucky Division of Water informed board members about their work and its connection with silviculture and watershed plans. KWOA will be working with this agency in the future on water quality issues related to woodlands management.

Funding requests approved:

- Kentucky Conservation Committee - \$200
- Sand County Foundation (Aldo Leopold Award): \$500
- UK Forestry Scholarship: \$1,000
- UK Forestry Leadership Program: \$400 for scholarships for two students.

Future board meetings will be held 11/14/19, 2/13/20, 3/25/20, 5/14/20, 8/13/20 and 11/12/20.

Thanks to All Those Who Hosted 2019 WOSC

KWOA appreciates the considerable effort provided by three woodland owners who hosted a 2019 Woodland Owner Short Course on their properties: Henry Duncan - July 20 in Logan County, Danielle and Jason Hagler - August 10 in Washington County, Jimmie Sizemore - August 24 in Clay County. The WOSC is conducted by the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Extension. KWOA is a co-sponsor of these events.



Henry Duncan introduces WOSC participants to his woodland property in Logan County. Photo by Reneé Williams.



Jimmie Sizemore points out details for WOSC participants at his tree farm in Clay County. Photo by Reneé Williams.

In Their Own Woods - Sketches of KY Woodland Owners

In KWOA's newest article series, In Their Own Woods, Kentucky's woodland owners share sketches about their properties, their experiences and their plans for the next generations of trees, wildlife and humans.

The installments endeavor to "put a face" on a family forest – the owners' aspirations and challenges, unique aspects of the property, undertakings beyond woodland management and timber harvests as well as intentions and hopes for the next generation of ownership. We hope the series will be interesting and helpful to our readership and encourage the sharing of ideas and prospects in the stewardship of our private forests. If you have a story you'd like to tell about your experience as a woodland owner, please let us know by contacting info@kwoa.net. See more on page 6.

Cooperator Profile: KDOW Basin Team

KWOA welcomes a new cooperator partnership with the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) Basin Coordinators. DOW now has a full team of Basin Coordinators excited about collaborating with KWOA members to protect and improve woodland waterways. The basin team programs – core monitoring, lakes monitoring, citizen action and youth stream team - connect organizations like KWOA with the data and resources needed to identify and address water quality challenges.

Basin Coordinators also communicate needs on the ground to the DOW, supporting the division in directing resources to where they are most needed. Kentucky is divided into 7 major river basins, each of which is staffed by a Basin Coordinator.

KWOA Participates in UK Forestry Course

KWOA members engaged with UK senior forestry students on September 23 as part of a forestry course that examines the human dimensions of the Kentucky forestry community. According to Doug McLaren, KWOA president, the student group that is responsible for looking at KWOA will consider

the association's needs, strengths, weaknesses and concerns in coming up with a "plan" for the membership to use. Billy Thomas, co-instructor for FOR 400 Human Dimension of Forestry and Natural Resources with Laura Lhotka, thinks the class will provide a service component, expose

students to real world forestry and natural resource issues with strong human elements, and help them develop into more well-rounded professionals. KWOA members will be able to attend a session at the end of the semester for results of the students' findings.



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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:** _____

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

Annual Membership and Donation Options	Dues	Amount Enclosed
KWOA Basic Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter \$35 includes full color email delivery Newsletter PDF and \$5.00 charitable contribution to KWOF	\$35.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA: (National Woodland Owners Association) Membership (optional add on). You will receive the National Woodland quarterly newsletter & woodland report.	\$65.00	\$ _____
KWOA Basic Three year \$100.00: Includes a \$15.00 charitable contribution to KWOF and Full color PDF Newsletter (email delivery)	\$100.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA Basic Three year \$190.00: Includes NWOA membership, a \$15.00 charitable contribution to KWOA, and Full color PDF Newsletter (email delivery)	\$190.00	\$ _____
KWOF Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOF) deductible as a charitable donation. KWOF provides scholarships, service forestry awards, and contributes to other related charitable / educational work.	Any Amount	\$ _____
KWOA Contribution: to help with operating expenses, such as bookkeeping, communication, programming, advocacy, and educational expenses.	Any Amount	\$ _____
Black & White Hard-copy Newsletter: Upcharge per year to cover expenses. \$5.00 for one year or \$15.00 for 3 years.	\$5.00 or \$15.00	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

GENERAL INFO

- Dues Run Jan 1 - Dec 31 and apply to the entire household or business entity.
- KWOA: Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) dues are not a charitable contribution; however, dues might be considered a business expense in some circumstances (ask your accountant). Part of your dues supports KWOF as indicated.
- KWOF: Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOF) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Support of KWOF is fully deductible as a charitable contribution. As indicated, part of your dues support KWOF
- NWOA: National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA), a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization <http://woodlandowners.org/>
- KWOA needs you and your family to be actively involved in the organization | Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee or letting us know how you can help us realize our mission. Email us at info@kwoa.net to get involved.

Dr. Lanny Copeland Continues Rural Health Care Profession – For Woods and Wildlife - on Family Farm



Dr. Lanny Copeland's trek as a family physician focusing on rural health care delivery eventually brought him and wife Mica to health care of a different sort in Warren County, KY. With a son and his family already in the county, the Copelands began purchasing farmland tracts there in 2009. Retirement from the medical profession in 2014 has not slowed the pace of their engagement on what is now 280 contiguous acres of which 260 is in woods.



In addition to various species of trees and wildlife, the property includes sinkholes, caves, several capped oil wells, a stand of Pawpaw seedlings and quite a few resident bobcats. The Copelands grow black raspberries as a hobby, some of which are sold. But most are made into jam and donated to fund raising events for auction. Competitive bidding on such a collection of their preserves at KWOA's last annual meeting attested to their attraction!

The Copeland's woodland management has focused on eradicating invasive species, a never-ending task. Their goal of leaving the property better than it was when they became the owners has included planting 1500 black walnut seedlings and 500 white oak seedlings, with plans to plant many more. They have established and marked hiking trails and aggressively improved wildlife habitat. Their property was recently designated a Certified Tree Farm by the American Tree Farm System whose guidelines they attempt to closely follow.

The Copelands have relied on many individuals and resources to get to this point, including a consultant forester, state foresters, state wildlife biologist, UK Department of Forestry, county agents and KWOA. On the other side, the local community has realized many economic benefits from the Copeland's forest stewardship. The local agriculture supplier has been a go-to for fertilizer, seed, etc. Service agencies such as equipment purchase and repair benefit as well. The Copelands donate a guided spring turkey hunt to Make-A-Wish Foundation each year, raising over \$1200 for this worthy cause.

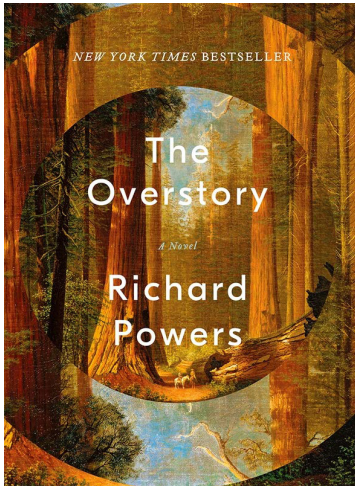
High school students are often employed to assist in planting seedlings, gathering firewood and clearing trails. The Copelands hope to increase interest in forestry in the county high schools. As a youth Lanny hiked, camped, hunted, enjoyed wildlife and conducted a 4-H forestry project on a small farm in southern Indiana. The experiences were significant factors in his journey to his present woodlands ownership.

Going forward, Lanny Copeland sees population growth and maintaining a sustainable forest as the biggest land ownership and management challenges. Even now they see tremendous expansion in housing in their area. It's as if their woodlands are quickly becoming an island among small subdivisions. He thinks that his role as a woodland steward could be expedited by more tax relief for woodland properties.

Despite the many time-intensive and pressing management challenges presented by their commitment to their woodlands, the Copelands have built a lodge on the property where they spend most of their time. They hope that their children and grandchildren continue to actively manage and enjoy the woodlands. They greatly enjoy sharing this special place with others.



Suggested Reading: The Overstory



The Overstory, a novel by Richard Powers. W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 2018

Book review by C. Michael Rich, ECU faculty and KWOA board member

This book will likely show up as a birthday or Christmas present for many of us from our family members or friends who know of our interest in and love for trees. That not many

novels foreground trees as intensely as this one will make it an easy choice for people browsing the bookstore in search of a suitable book to give their arboreally-addled friends or relatives. My mother gave me my copy, with the note, "you'll like the part about ECU!"

Intrigued, I delved into the novel some months ago, only to find myself unable to continue reading more than fifty pages into the novel. A long summer vacation finally afforded me the requisite fortitude to plow through this novel, and while I found it compelling at times, it was still a tough row to hoe.

The story spans roughly one hundred years, from before the chestnut blight to our present silicon valley dominated virtual reality. Events such as environmental protesters living in the tops of giant sequoias in attempting to prevent them from being cut down, 9/11 and the Occupy movement lends a somewhat Forest Gump-ian approach to outlining the passage of time in the novel. Geographically, the trees described span from chestnuts harvested in New York City being planted in Iowa, to mulberry trees from China representing the lost fortune in silk of an immigrant from China.

The people in the novel also span a wide range, all of whom are either figuratively or

literally "saved" by trees. An ecologist whose academic career is destroyed by others who find her findings too far out makes a final act of protest with a vial of tree essence. A Vietnam vet who is miraculously saved from a helicopter crash by a sacred fig tree discovers a new career replanting clear-cuts. A college student revived from a fatal electrocution finds a new life as an activist saving trees and defying lumberjacks who see her as a threat to their livelihood. And an adulterous actress defies her neighborhood association in order to reforest her suburban lawn she shares with her ailing lawyer husband.

The climax of the story occurs during the aftermath of a failed attempt to protect old-growth redwoods from cutting in Oregon. How the people in the novel attempt to rebuild their lives following a tragedy that occurs in the aftermath of their protest represents their resilience, gained in no small measure by the trees that have been an integral part of their lives. Yet their lives seem diminished by their failure to overcome overwhelming corporate and government oppression.

The protagonists' intimate relationships with trees are described in emotional and scientific detail. Ethnographies and mythology of forest people are embroidered into the text. A Tang dynasty poem, references to MacBeth, precious family heirlooms of jade rings carved with tiny trees, even the redbud's alternative identity as the Judas tree, show the forest derived symbols that shape our worlds of meaning.

Suicide, murder, threats and acts of violence and betrayal. This book is not a light read. The author has done a masterful job of weaving scientific and poetic insights about trees into a work of fiction. Given the current state of our political and environmental reality, it is perhaps no accident that the novel does not end on an unambiguously bright note. As one person in the novel concludes about their attempts to enlighten others about the importance of trees, "Soon we'll know if we were right or wrong."

2019 Calendar of Events



December 3-4, 2019
2019 Kentucky Habitat Management Symposium
KSU Research and Demonstration Farm, Frankfort
www.thehabitatworkshop.com

March 23, 2020
Kentucky Woodland Stewards Annual Reunion
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

March 24-25, 2020
KWOA/F Annual Meeting
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

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

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November 14, 2019

KWOA/F Board Meeting

KFIA Office, Frankfort

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, editor@kwoa.net

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P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602