

# KWOA 2024

## Annual Meeting Presenters

March 25 - March 27, 2024

Berea College Forestry Outreach Center | Berea, KY



### | Monday, March 25



**Wendy Z. Warren**, Forestry Outreach Center Director, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, 859-756-6094 | [wendy\\_warren@berea.edu](mailto:wendy_warren@berea.edu)

Wendy Warren has been an interdisciplinary educator for over thirty years, working with kindergartners through graduate students. Wendy holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership and currently serves as Director of the Forestry Outreach Center. She also works as Regional Seminar Coordinator for The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Education and Human Rights (TOLI). As a writer and educator for social and environmental justice, Wendy has published articles, book chapters, and is currently writing a book for publication by UK Press. Wendy notes the importance of a creative approach to education that creates conditions through which students might learn and practice empathy. Her dual focus on human diversity and biodiversity is a continual reminder that the world operates as an interconnected whole.



**John Abrams**, Ecologist, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center  
[john\\_abrams@berea.edu](mailto:john_abrams@berea.edu)

John Abrams is a Berea native working at the Forestry Outreach Center as an ecologist. He attended Eastern Kentucky University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management. John has worked professionally on research involving bats, birds, and reptiles. In his free time, John enjoys hiking, birding, kayaking and just being outdoors. If you have any questions involving the wildlife or plant life of the forest, feel free to email him.



**Clint Patterson**, Head Forester, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center  
859-985-3587 | [clint\\_patterson@berea.edu](mailto:clint_patterson@berea.edu)

Clint grew up in Illinois in the small towns of Brownstown and St. Elmo where he spent most of his time outdoors, exploring the land around him with his grandpa and stepdad. This time is what originally made Clint interested in forestry work. Appropriately, when Clint entered college, he decided to get his B.S. in Forestry at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and then his master's degree in forestry at the University of Kentucky. He was a District Forester for 9 years and has been with Berea College's Forestry Department now for 7 years. A creative, big-picture thinker, Clint likes to draw and write, and finds an appreciation for the enchantment of forests, knowing that an open-minded approach to learning can break barriers and make new strides in fields of science such as forestry. Here at Berea, Clint loves working in the College Forest because of the beauty and history of this land and the enjoyment that other people can take from this place because of his work.



**Billy Thomas**, Extension Forester, University of Kentucky  
(859) 257-9153 | [billy.thomas@uky.edu](mailto:billy.thomas@uky.edu)

Billy Thomas is an Extension Forester at the University of KY Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. Before re-joining UK, he served as the landowner outreach specialist with KDF, project manager in the private sector, KY county extension agent, and as a Security Policeman in the U.S. Air Force. His current responsibilities include supporting and developing woodland owner educational programming including field days, workshops, and extension publications/videos. Another major focus is supporting county extension agents in KY on forestry and natural resource-related issues and working with partners across the Commonwealth on the health, productivity, and sustainability of KY's woodlands. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Forestry from the University.

## | Panelists



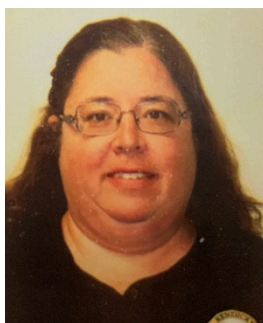
**Chris Will**

Chris Will is President of Central KY Forest Management established in 1999. Chris graduated from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. Before starting his consulting forestry business, he worked in log and timber procurement for 13 years. Central KY Forest Management was started to provide forest landowners with science-based knowledge of forest management practices. The projects he enjoys most involve long-term forest management with multi-generational family ownerships, working to maintain the oak/hickory forest types, and applying practical silvicultural treatments on family farms. He is an American Tree Farm System Inspector and a past KY Committee Chairperson. Chris is an NRCS Technical Service Provider and a KY-licensed pesticide applicator.



**Jon Schultz**, Kentucky State Forester, National Resources Conservation Service

Jon Shultz is the NRCS State Forester for KY. Based in Lexington, Jon provides guidance to State, Area, and local NRCS field offices on implementing forestland conservation on private lands through planning and USDA programs. Jon is involved with partnership-building efforts across the state to amplify NRCS's role in forestland conservation efforts. Jon has been with NRCS for 16 years and graduated from Humboldt State University with degrees in Forestry and Rangeland Management. He resides in Harrison County where he raises beef cattle and manages the woodlands on his farm for timber and wildlife.



**Pam Snyder**, Forest Management Chief, Kentucky Division of Forestry  
502-782-7184 | [pamela.snyder@ky.gov](mailto:pamela.snyder@ky.gov)

Pam Snyder is the Forest Management Chief with the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) working with the Forest Stewardship Program, Urban and Community Forestry, and Forest Inventory and Analysis. Before joining KDF in 1998, Pam was a Forest Ecologist with the KY State Nature Preserves and a Forestry Apprentice with the TN Valley Authority. She earned her Masters Degree in Forestry at Southern Illinois University. She writes grants and Memorandum of Agreements between partners to organize and assist with the KY Woodland Owners Short Courses and other landowner field days. Additionally, she is an author and editor for the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

## | Tuesday, March 26



**Amanda Gumbert**, Extension Water Quality Specialist, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food & Environment, [amanda.gumbert@uky.edu](mailto:amanda.gumbert@uky.edu)

Dr. Amanda Gumbert serves as an Extension Water Quality Specialist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food & Environment. The majority of her programs focus on the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and implementation of conservation practices, but she also has special interest in stream-side buffer zones in urban and rural areas. She has experience with programs that address water quality, solid waste, air quality, and soil concerns for youth and adult audiences. In addition to her Extension appointment, Dr. Gumbert teaches an introductory course on issues in agriculture, food systems, and the environment. The overall goal of her work is to improve water quality in Kentucky by providing education and technical information to those whose decisions impact our natural resources. She holds BS and MS degrees in Plant and Soil Science and a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Kentucky. Amanda attributes her passion for agriculture and natural resources to growing up on a farm in rural Kentucky.



**Glen Dandeneau**, Assistant Forester, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center 859-985-3587 | [glen\\_dandeneau@berea.edu](mailto:glen_dandeneau@berea.edu)

Glen Dandeneau is the Assistant Forester at Berea College. Born into a military family in Manchester, New Hampshire, Glen moved around a lot before settling in Berea, where he has lived for the past 34 years. Glen graduated from Berea College in 1987 with a B.A. in Agriculture. Glen loves reading, playing sports, and music. He's been in three separate bands, and even released two CDs! However, his love for the outdoors is what drew him to his eventual career in forestry. Glen says he is passionate about life, and he loves the work he does in the natural environment, getting to learn about the dynamic and complex biological world around him. Glen loves that his work in forestry allows him to work with so many people. As the department's labor supervisor, Glen works closely with labor students and enjoys learning from them and sharing his knowledge. Glen is a joyful, upbeat person and shares his joy wherever he goes!



**Laura E. DeWald, Ph.D.**, Tree Improvement Specialist, University of Kentucky (859) 562-2282 | [Laura.DeWald@uky.edu](mailto:Laura.DeWald@uky.edu)

**Research:** [White Oak Genetics](http://white-oak-genetics.ca.uky.edu/) - Visit the White Oak Genetics website to learn more about our project and how to get involved. <http://white-oak-genetics.ca.uky.edu/>. Forestry Research and Faculty 1986-2019; Univ MN (2 yrs) to Univ FL (2 yrs) to Warren Wilson College (3 yrs) to Green River Community College (2 yrs) to Northern Arizona University (10 yrs) to Western Carolina University (15 yrs) then to UK for current position. She holds a Ph.D. Forestry 1986, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, M.S. Forestry 1982, Pennsylvania State University; & B.S. Forest Management 1980, Michigan Technological University

**Jacob Stewart**, Private Lands Program Coordinator, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources | (o) 502-892-4412 (c) (606) 595-3258 | [Jacob.Stewart@ky.gov](mailto:Jacob.Stewart@ky.gov)



## | Keynote Speaker



**Eric Allness, Kentucky State Conservationist**  
National Resources Conservation Service

Eric Allness is the NRCS Kentucky State Conservationist, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, and has worked with the agency for 18 years. A native of Wisconsin, Allness graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point with degrees in Biology and Wildlife Management. During his youth, Allness enjoyed working on his family small farm that raised beef cattle, pigs, hay, and tobacco. Allness began his career with NRCS starting as a Soil Conservation Technician. He has held positions at the field, area, and state level, including serving as a Soil Conservationist, Area Program Specialist, CSP Program Manager, and Management Analyst. Additionally, he has served as acting great lakes restoration initiative coordinator and Acting State Conservationist for Kansas and Wisconsin. Prior to his current position, Allness served as the Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships in Madison, Wisconsin where he developed and managed state-level grants and agreements. Allness enjoys outdoor pursuits including hunting and fishing, gardening, competing in ironman triathlons, and travel adventures with his wife Shelly.

## | Wednesday, March 27



**Kasia Bradley, Extension Associate Forestry and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Academic Affairs | Cooperative Extension**  
[Kasia.Bradley@kysu.edu](mailto:Kasia.Bradley@kysu.edu)

Research and Extension Associate in the Forestry and Natural Resources program at Kentucky State University. Her background is in Wildlife Biology and Avian Research and her current focus is on Invasive Species Management, Agroforestry and Wildlife Management. She is presently engaged in a diverse array of outreach and extension initiatives aimed at disseminating advanced forest management techniques to the public and fellow land managers. She is also involved in several research projects that utilize drones to map invasive plant cover, as well as the use of multi-spectral imaging to better access forest health. Kasia is currently working on innovative initiatives centered around forest farming and sustainable methodologies in agroforestry, exploring the advantages to native wildlife.



**Matthew T. Springer, Ph.D., Assistant Extension Professor of Wildlife Management**  
University of Kentucky  
(859) 257-8633 | [mattspringer@uky.edu](mailto:mattspringer@uky.edu)

Ph.D. Agricultural Sciences 2016, Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
M.S. Wildlife Ecology 2010, University of Delaware  
B.S. Environmental Science 2006, Juniata College  
[Curriculum Vitae](#)  
[Research Publications](#)  
[ResearchGate](#)

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**Ellen V. Crocker, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Forest Health Extension  
University of Kentucky  
(859) 257-3040 | [e.crocker@uky.edu](mailto:e.crocker@uky.edu)

Ellen Crocker is a forest health specialist, focusing on invasive pathogens, insects, and plants affecting eastern hardwood forests. She holds a Ph.D. Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, 2015, Cornell University and a B.A. Biology and History, 2006, Williams College. Her primary focus is education and outreach; see links for more details:

[Curriculum Vitae](#)  
[Research Publications](#)  
[ResearchGate](#)



**Jacob J. Muller, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations Extension, University of Kentucky  
(859) 257-5666 | [jacob.muller@uky.edu](mailto:jacob.muller@uky.edu)

Dr. Muller specializes in hardwood silviculture and forest operations. His extension interests include the development of continuing education programs for woodland owners and natural resource professionals. His work includes the development and advancement of educational tools to better inform landowners of current and future management challenges. His teaching interests include forest measurements and statistics, adaptive silviculture, and regeneration forestry. His research focuses on long-term forest stand dynamics and testing the efficacy of classical and novel management approaches aimed at forest adaptation to future environmental change.



**Phil Vogel**, College Forester, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center  
[vogelp@berea.edu](mailto:vogelp@berea.edu)

Phil and his wife Olivia live in Jessamine County. He studied Forestry at the University of Kentucky and went on to work for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Natural Resources Program as a nurseryman before coming to work with us as a Forestry Technician. Phil currently volunteers as a groundskeeper for a church camp and enjoys music, songwriting, art, and American literature.