



"BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER"

# KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

vol. 33 no. 2

Spring 2024



## 2024 Woods and Wildlife For Your Wallet

Submitted by Rodney Bruce, KWOA Board Member

2024 Woods and Wildlife For Your Wallet was well attended for the 8th year. Approximately 200 people came out for an evening of information about how to improve your forests, find edible plants, and improve habitat to increase the number of turkeys on your property. At registration, each attendee received a ticket for door prizes. As the people chose their places in the cafeteria, each adult was handed a brochure about KWOA.

We began the evening with a prayer to bless the food prepared for us by Greenup County High School FFA. We then splint into 3 rooms to hear the

presentations. In the room dedicated to learning more about your woodland specifically, the Kentucky Division of Forestry offered the loggers present 3 hours of continuing education to meet their master logger requirements. Beth Williams of KDF provided the forms. We had about 10 independent loggers in attendance.

After the 3 sessions, we gathered again in the cafeteria to distribute door prizes. The highlight of the evening was the chain saw giveaway. Allen Hanson's handmade wooden marquetry were also sought after prizes.

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## Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

### Officers

President - Portia Brown, Shelby  
Vice President - Scott Taylor, Casey  
Secretary - Jack Rentz, Lewis  
Treasurer- Jerry Brown, Shelby & Grayson  
Assistant Secretary- Jerry Schneider,  
Kenton

### Board of Directors (by region and county)

#### North

Jerry Schneider, Kenton  
Rodney Bruce, Greenup  
Preston Lacy, Scott

#### East

Jimmie Sizemore, Clay  
Will Bowling, Clay  
Jack Stickney, Estill

#### Central

Greg Kuhns, Bullitt  
Lanny Copeland, Warren  
Harry Pelle, Taylor

#### West

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James Vincent, Henderson  
Henry Duncan, Logan

#### Board Members at Large

Steve Perry, Henry  
David Wise, Trimble  
**(Emeritus) Dr. Jim Corum - Bell & Harlan County**

#### Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation

In addition to KWOA Board:  
Karen Marshall, Owen  
Frank Hicks, Greenup  
Gail Lincoln, Fleming, Greenup, Carter and Rowan

#### Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter

Founding Editor - Don Girton 1993-2005  
Editor - Karen Marshall

*Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter* is published quarterly. We welcome submission of articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter subject to review and approval by the executive committee. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Submit copy to:  
Karen Marshall, Editor, [info@kwoa.net](mailto:info@kwoa.net)  
or  
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1201  
Frankfort, KY 40602

# A Message From Your President

It will be springtime when you receive this newsletter. We all will be rejoicing as the promise of renewal unfolds before our eyes in our beloved woodlands. For many, if not most, woodland owners, the glory of creation that is reflected in our ever-changing forests is reason enough to hold on to our land. Alas, as KWOA members we also know this appreciation does not always translate into healthy or productive woodlands. I would venture to say that most private landowners are like artists. By this I mean we make or made our living in careers outside forestry. We are not forestry professionals.

Forest lands, and working forests, are in danger from many factors but the one factor we as owners can do something about is managing our woodlands as a sustainable resource. We may manage our lands for wildlife, recreation, non-wood products (mushrooms, syrup, nuts, hunting, and more) but the demand for and value of wood products should not be ignored in the big picture.

One of Kentucky's most active working forest owners, and a KWOA Director, Harry Pelle, sent me some food for thought from a recent American Loggers Association publication. One statistic in the article caught my attention: "...Now America, with almost 780 million acres of forests, is the second leading IMPORTER of lumber in the world, only behind China. ..."

As forestry professionals focus on improving hardwood regeneration and adaptive practices to address climate change, it is important to acknowledge the vital role of wood products. Carbon sequestration programs that denigrate the sustainability and productive capacity of our forest land are counterproductive approaches. Like most everything in life and nature, healthy solutions involve maintaining a balance appropriate to the conditions at hand. The threat of extreme weather and longer-term climate changes cannot be fully predicted but must be addressed in the context of productive forestry.



I hope this message encourages you to consult forestry professionals, consider long-term impacts in making your land management decisions, and work with KWOA in being part of the voice for sustainable forestry in Kentucky.

**-Portia Brown,  
KWOA President**



## Society of American Foresters Kentucky & Tennessee Chapters Winter Meeting Highlights

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**By Portia Brown**

I was fortunate to attend the KTSAF, Society of American Foresters\* Kentucky & Tennessee Chapters, Winter Meeting on January 25-26. The theme was “Resilience, Restoration, and Revenue: A Climate Smart Forestry Approach.” Although I couldn’t attend every session and admittedly some of the topics were over my head, I came away with an appreciation of what SAF is doing in terms of developing approaches to sustainable forestry management for the long term and the certification process for foresters. The experience reinforced my belief in the importance of working with a certified forester, gave me a better understanding of the current directions in forestry management, and gave me some insights for the challenges facing all volunteer organizations like KWOA/F.

Just a review of the session titles gives you an idea of the depth of research and innovative thinking that is going on:

- “Managing Woodlands in a Changing World”
- “Soil Regeneration: Creating Resilience Through Ecosystem Regeneration”
- “Federal Funding of Urban & Community Forestry”
- “Programs and Incentives for Climate Smart Forestry: Findings from Research in the US South”
- “Variability in Microclimate and Carbon Dynamics in Hardwood Forests Managed with the Irregular Shelterwood Reproduction Method”
- “Climate Change Communications”

- “Applications for Proprietary Genetics in Land Restoration, Sustainable Biomass and Carbon Income on Marginal & Degraded Land”
- “Synopsis of Presentations & What’s Next for Climate Smart Forestry”

Terry Baker, CEO, of SAF gave updates from the National Office noting changing professional perspectives and providing insights for the many students in attendance who are embarking on their careers in forestry. [see footnote below on SAF]

The KTSAF Leadership Moment highlighted the work of individual foresters in the region including Cliff Drouet, Forester: U.S. Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation, Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI). Cliff is a very active partner with KWOA; watch our website and Wood Post E-news for opportunities to work with Cliff on some planting sites this spring. The Family Forest Carbon Program had a display table and our KWOA Carbon Credit Program team will be posting updates on our website as this program is rolling out in KY.

The meeting was attended by forestry students from University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, & Sewanee: The University of the South. Tennessee, & Sewanee: The University of the South. Our own KWOA Past President, Doug McLaren, wore his tuxedo t-shirt and conducted the Quiz Bowl competition between the three forestry schools. Billy and Laurie Thomas of UK Extension also helped. Some of the questions were drawn from the presentations listed above. The UK team won the competition.

*Continued on next page...*

# Society of American Foresters Kentucky & Tennessee Chapters Winter Meeting Highlights, Continued

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One extremely well done and informative presentation that I want to draw your attention to was given by Steve McNulty, Director of the USDA Southwest Climate Hub, and Senior ecologist with the USDA Forest Service on Climate Smart Forestry. You can get the gist of his talk on “What’s Next for Climate Smart Forestry” by pulling up the September 11, 2023 Yale Forestry Forum Speaker Series of talks on Understanding Climate-Smart Forestry in Practice: video link: What’s Next for Climate Smart Forestry <https://yff.yale.edu/speaker-series/understanding-climate-smart-forestry-practice> or PDF of his talk at [https://yff.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/mcnulty\\_presentation.pdf](https://yff.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/mcnulty_presentation.pdf)

I came away inspired by the work forestry professionals are doing and greater appreciation of our professional partners

\* Society of American Foresters: “The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology, promoting professional excellence while ensuring the continued health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity.”

**Society of American Foresters, SAF**, is “the organization that represents forestry professionals and provides leadership to ensure that all members of the profession achieve excellence in sustainable forestry and natural resource management.”

**SAF certification** is the gold standard for forest management professionals, recognized by the forest industry, government officials, and landowners. Position yourself for success whether in career advancement or employee training.

Now, in addition to offering Certified Forester® and Candidate Certified Forester® certification, SAF is excited to expand the certification program with two new specialized certifications – Urban and Community Forester and Forest Technician.



Society of American Foresters

## ANNUAL KWOA MEETING FOLLOWUP

The KWOA 2024 Annual Meeting will be in session as this newsletter issue goes to press. We will provide more coverage of the meeting in the summer newsletter. In the meantime thanks to all who contributed their time, talent and participation in the meeting.

## National Woodlands: A fresh look at KWOA's long-term partner, NWOA



As a private woodland owner or supporter, your national partners outside of Kentucky might be out of sight and mind. National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA), your national partner, has been at KWOA's side for the past four decades reporting on issues that have the potential to affect you locally. Founded in 1983, NWOA is an independent voice for effective legislation, open markets, fair taxation, and unwavering support for family forests and their legacy. As an advocate for family woodlands, we seek to be at the table on issues of national focus with local impacts. To that end, we publish the National Woodlands magazine and support multiple free educational digital media to partners and the public alike.

Recently we have leveraged new policy, legislation, and program funds for outreach for greater impact to underserved audiences. One of NWOA flagship grants has been to stand up minority mentoring to increase diversity across the forestry supply and value chain. Our staff, board, and mentees extend the reach and impact of our membership dollars to do more to sustain America's private woodland owners.

In 2024, NWOA's outreach to woodland owners now includes our new communications consultant, Amanda Murphy. Amanda will enhance the lines of communications between KWOA and the NWOA staff and board of directors. As an organization, we are so excited to embark on a new level of engagement and support for underserved communities that have not traditionally had access to our education tools. Amanda will be serving for two years on a pilot education

partnership-guided outreach effort to both increase awareness of forest/woodland opportunities to underserved landowners / farmers. She has begun outreach to the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College local area in Tifton, Georgia, and aligned partners throughout the U.S.

To better engage our busy stakeholders, we decided this year to provide a digital version of National Woodlands magazine that KWOA can distribute to you! Our weekly email newsletter, Woodland Word, continues to provide entertaining, inspiring and relevant commentary to subscribers. To receive the Woodland Word or policy emails, sign up on the form on our website, <https://nationalwoodlands.com/publications/>.



NWOA will continue to seek out and amplify the good work being done by private woodland owners and the many resources available to support their efforts on the ground. These include state and national incentive programs, tax strategies, practical woodland management strategies, and policy action opportunities.

The mission of the National Woodland Owners Association is to develop and deliver relevant, research-based, objective, actionable information to inform, educate and advocate for woodland owners, their partners, stakeholders and the public.

**By Mark Megalos, executive director, Kelley McCarter, national woodlands magazine editor, and Amanda Murphy, communications director**

### Did you know?

You can access this issue and all prior issues of your KWOA Newsletter in full color PDFs Scan the QR Code in the next box with your smart phone's camera or visit [kwoa.net/newsletter](http://kwoa.net/newsletter)

### KY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTERS





Yes, I want to join KWOA!

**KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 1201, Frankfort, KY 40602 |  
 info@KWOA.net | [www.kwoa.net](http://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  
 Include all Acres per 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](http://www.kwoa.net), or you may mail this form with your check.

Annual Membership and Donation Options	Dues	Amount Enclosed
<b>KWOA Basic 1-year Membership:</b> Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color PDF <i>Kentucky Woodlands</i> Newsletter	<b>\$35.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>KWOA &amp; NWOA 1-year Membership:</b> Includes the optional NWOA (National Woodland Owners Association) membership in addition to the Basic KWOA membership. By adding NWOA you will receive the <i>National Woodland</i> quarterly newsletter & woodland report in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	<b>\$65.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>KWOA Basic 3-year Membership:</b> Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color PDF <i>Kentucky Woodlands</i> Newsletter	<b>\$100.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>KWOA &amp; NWOA Basic 3-year \$190.00:</b> Includes the optional NWOA membership in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	<b>\$190.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>KWOF Contribution:</b> Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation deductible as a charitable donation. KWOF provides scholarships, service forestry awards, and contributes to other related charitable / educational work.	<b>Any Amount</b>	\$ _____
<b>KWOA Contribution:</b> Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to help with operating expenses, such as bookkeeping, communication, programming, advocacy, and educational expenses.	<b>Any Amount</b>	\$ _____
<b>Add On Black &amp; White Hard-copy Newsletter:</b> Upcharge to cover expenses. \$10.00 for one year or \$30.00 for 3 years.	<b>\$10.00 or \$30.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ _____

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# Society of American Foresters award Jerry and Portia Brown the Herman Baggenstoss Recognition Award

**Herman Baggenstoss Award Presented to KWOA Officers Portia and Jerry Brown**

**Submitted by Chris Will, CKFM President for KTACF**

This year the Herman Baggenstoss Award was presented to Jerry and Portia Brown of Louisville, Kentucky. The award is presented by the Kentucky-Tennessee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters to individuals or groups where their contributions to forestry have been beyond the demands of their regular employment. Jerry and Portia own two American Tree Farm certified properties in Kentucky. A 120-acre forested property in Grayson County known as Grayson Woods and a second farm of 145 acres in Shelby County comprised of woodlands and native grasses.

Conservation activities date back to the 1940's when Portia's mother acquired the Grayson County farm. At the time, the past agricultural practices had severely degraded the highly erodible soils and she began planting pine trees. The farm entered the American Tree Farm System in 1965 and became Kentucky Tree Farm # 216. Throughout the decades the Browns have worked with their local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and County Conservation District to enroll the farm in various conservation programs. These practices included hardwood tree plantings, non-native invasive species control, non-commercial thinnings and improved stream crossings. They have also completed two timber sales from the original pine Portia's mother planted.

The Shelby County farm was purchased in 1996 and enrolled in the Tree Farm System in 1997. The Browns engaged in the same intensive management on their new farm. The Shelby County farm offered a unique location and a barn that was converted into a classroom and recreational center for visitors. As they implemented their many projects, the Browns opened their farm to many conservation-minded partners, groups and organizations. They hosted prescribed fire trainings with the Nature Conservancy, Native Plant conferences with the Wild Ones, Kentucky Master Stewards Training, the Kentucky Association of Environmental Educators, and a Woodland Owners Short Course with the University of Kentucky Forestry Extension. Not only were they applying science-based conservation practices but they were sharing their knowledge and experiences with others.

In addition, the Browns have put to good use their organizational and leadership skills by directing many volunteer organizations. They're best known in the forestry community for their work with the Kentucky Woodlands Owners Association. They have 20 years of membership in the group and 10 years serving on the board of directors. Jerry is the treasurer, a position he has held since 2019 and Portia is the current President. Their efforts have seen the organization grow membership, expand educational opportunities and improve outreach. It is with great honor that the Kentucky – Tennessee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters recognizes the Browns for their contributions and tireless efforts to promote forestry.

## Help Support Us

Woodland owners join together to improve forest management science, services, education and law. Your contribution will make sure that mission has the resources it needs to be successful.



[Donate to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation](#)



[Contribute to Kentucky Woodland Owners Association](#)

<https://www.kwoa.net/donate>

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

# Woodland Owners Short Course

Do you want to learn how you can make your woodland healthier and more productive? Are you interested in attracting more wildlife to your property? Are you considering selling your timber? The Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) can help you achieve your goals for your woodland!

The WOSC consists of online and in-person educational sessions:

June - Online sessions

July 13th - Robinson Forest

August 10th - Roundstone Native Seed

Registration for in-person 2024 sessions TBD

To register for 2024 online sessions visit : [wosc.ca.uky.edu/registration](http://wosc.ca.uky.edu/registration)

Kentucky  
Woodland  
Owners  
Short Course

