



KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

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Summer 2023

Photo Credit: Portia Brown

KWOA 2023 Annual Meeting re-cap

The 2023 KWOA Annual Meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park opened with a Monday afternoon tour of the Wolf Creek Fish Hatchery and surrounding trails. The adjacent museum is chock full of interesting educational displays.

On Monday evening a Carbon Credit Panel with members discussed their personal experiences with KWOA Carbon Credit committee members Jack Rentz, Harry Pelle and Jimmie Sizemore and shared the latest information available on the rapidly changing options.

Doug McLaren opened the formal meeting on Tuesday by presenting a map of Kentucky counties with dots showing the information KWOA has on the counties where members have woodlands. The data is incomplete because many people join without completing the information on county of ownership and number of acres. Even so, analysis of existing data shows that KWOA members own woodlands in 64 of the state's 120 counties. That amounts to 80,000 acres (125 square miles).

KWOA also has woodland owners residing in ten states. Attendees were asked to add stickers to the map for their woodlands and to complete the information on the form when they renew or by emailing us at info@kwoa.net.

Following Doug's introduction, with recreation as the theme for the meeting, Laurie Thomas, UK forestry extension instructor, spoke about the joys of **Bird Watching** and recommended reading *Kingbird Highway* by Kenn Kaufman.

Thomas suggested using newer, easier to use roof prism binoculars and the Merlin app for cell phones that can identify a bird by recording its sounds.

Jennifer Caudill, Nature Reliance School instructor, conducted an outdoor on-the-fly foray of **Medicinal & Edible Plants**. She recommended www.NatureReliance.org for further info.

Continued on page 3...

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| » President's Message | » Calendar of Events | – Vincent Family Farms |
| » NWOA In The News | » Suggested Reading – Rare Tree | » Partner Profile – Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| » Wood You Not Know It Riddle – it's back! | » Pete Kovalic Scholarship | » Spotlight – Wood Expo |
| » In Memory – Clifton Taylor | » In Their Own Woods Sketch | |

A Message From Your President

Sitting down to write to you for the first time as president of KWOA on Mother's Day, is both ironic and fitting because my mother began planting pine trees in 1946-47 on a plot of the most highly erodible soil in the state. She may well have been the first certified Tree Farm in the state. We didn't live on the land, and although I remember visiting the land as a child, I was pretty oblivious until 1989 when she asked me help manage the tree farm. At first, I just co-signed a few documents and when she decided to convert the last 13-acre field to trees I made a sort of flippant comment along the lines of "Why are you planting pines, when you could be planting hardwoods?" She thought that was a good idea and proceeded to plant that field in a mix of walnut, ash, and poplar. She also began harvesting an adjacent tract of Loblolly pine with a plan to replant with hardwoods. Then one hot dry August day I got a call at my office telling me mother's farm was on fire! The harvest site was burning, and you all know how fast fire can spread in pine plantations. Mother was in Florida and I had no idea what to do. Thank goodness the Kentucky Department (now Division) of Forestry jumped in and saved the day. I like to say I began my journey into sustainable forestry with a "trial by fire." Today I am filled with gratitude for those who taught me so much along the way from my mother to the forestry professionals and fellow woodland owners I met through KWOA. I have so much more to learn, and I am inspired by hope for the future.

It is an honor to serve an organization with the mission of bringing people and woodland sustainability together. As I begin my term as president of KWOA I am thankful for the leaders who came before me and brought us so far. KWOA began nearly 30 years ago, as a small group

of landowners interested in managing woodlands to preserve and enhance both economic and environmental value. Over the years we have partnered with a wide array of professional resources in providing opportunities for landowners to learn about the many aspects of sustainable management. In recent years we have begun utilizing new tools to bring information to our members and the larger woodland community through an enhanced website, online full-color newsletter, and monthly email news. As woodland owners we are charged with managing an increasingly endangered resource: trees. Healthy woodlands face challenges from invasive species, market fluctuations, legal and taxation factors, development pressures, owners who are not aware of the valuable resource they have, and a shortage of technical service providers to help us do the work on the ground.

Since the annual meeting in March, I have been working with our board of directors to develop an organizational structure that expands the use of member committees to address the multitude of tasks at hand. In addition to providing a niche for every member of the board to contribute, we have already engaged a few members-at-large (non-board members). We now have five standing committees and expect to add more in the future. The current committees are Finance and Long-Range Planning, Programs/Events (including the "better every year" Annual Meeting), Communications (newsletter, website, and e-news), Nominations and Awards, and Member Benefits.

A sub-group of the Member Benefits committee led by Harry Pelle and Mike Smith has already begun planning our first KWOA Regional Meeting in Ohio County. I am very excited about the concept of KWOA regional meetings (originally put

forth by past president, Joe Ball) to allow woodland owners to come together in focusing on the challenges they face locally. I remember Joe Ball encouraging us to get to know the staff of both our county extension offices and local conservation districts. We think regional meetings can help connect us with the available resources and each other.

Your participation in KWOA through committees and during events is important; we believe your active engagement with KWOA will benefit you personally and our long-term mission to sustain our woodland resources.

In the coming years I see KWOA making strides to improve our operational efficiencies, grow our membership, and engage our members on a more local level to help us collectively meet the challenges we face and provide healthier woodlands across Kentucky. Your participation is crucial to our success. Please contact us through our public contact email address: info@kwoa.net to see how you can fit into the picture.

-Portia Brown



News From National Woodland Owners Association

National Woodlands magazine is starting a new series profiling emerging invasive threats.

Dr. Ellen Crocker, UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, is now a regular contributor to the magazine. She will produce Pest Alerts with updates on invasive species and efforts to control or eradicate them.

Dr. Jeff Stringer and Darren Morris, also with the UK department, have a new installment in the second quarter 2023 Magazine from the White Oak Initiative Series: "Challenges of Upland Oak Regeneration".

Read more about the Landowner for Oaks series on the Resources page at www.whiteoakinitiative.org.

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

Officers

President - Portia Brown, Shelby
Vice President - Scott Taylor, Casey
Secretary - Jack Rentz, Lewis
Treasurer - Jerry Brown, Grayson
Past President - Doug McLaren, Breathitt

Board of Directors (by region and county)

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Jerry Schneider, Kenton
Preston Lacy, Scott
C. Michael Rich, Scott

East

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

Central

Harry Pelle, Taylor
Henry Duncan, Logan
Will Bowling, Clay

West

Lanny Copeland, Warren
James Vincent, Henderson
Mike Smith, Ohio

Board Members at Large

James "Greg" Kuhns, Bullitt
Jim Corum, Harlan
Steve Perry, Henry

Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation

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

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
or
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602

Annual Meeting re-cap Continued...

Next up was how to build and manage a Farm Pond with Marcy Anderson, KDFWR. Fish stocking choices, rates and population management can be found with a "farm pond" search at <https://fw.ky.gov>.

Craig Caudill, Nature Reliance School director, conducted a sobering program on **Wilderness Safety & Survival**. He advised on what to carry, what to wear, being proficient in stopping bleeding should you be wounded, letting someone know where and when you plan to be outdoors. Check out his Nature Reliance School at <https://naturereliance.org/>. "You will not rise to the occasion; you will default to your level of training."

The afternoon commenced with Matt Able, USFS, presenting on **Trail Construction & Maintenance**. This in-depth program covered every aspect of the process. The foremost goal of all trail design is to avoid soil erosion and efficiently meet all the usage needs (walking /trail biking versus ATV or horse or full-blown logging operations). Rather than going straight up and down a slope, use rolling contour trails with frequent grade reversals to avoid erosion. He introduced tools like the Clinometer and emphasized using features to provide drainage and easier long-term trail maintenance. Email Matt at mable@fs.fed.us for a list of books on the subject. It is critical to remember that trail building takes patience and planning. Before bringing in equipment or final cutting in your trail, consider flagging your plan in the winter, ride/walk it in the spring, then adjust and retry.

The afternoon sessions closed with **Carbon Credit Updates** from KWOA Secretary Jack Rentz. Carbon Credits were addressed with open-ended discussions. The consensus is that it is too early to tell how this will play out. Only one company is active in Kentucky at this time; we expect more programs to be offered this Fall. In the meantime, we continue to gather information. *If you have worked with any of the carbon credit programs, we would love to hear about your experience.* You can share your reactions, by emailing info@kwoa.net attention to Jack Rentz.

Jon Schultz, NRCS State Forester, delivered the evening's **Keynote Address**. He urged woodland owners to take advantage of smaller-size tree logging with natural regeneration, have a water quality plan, consider EQIP funding and consider carbon sequestration opportunities. Finally, he recommended a CSP five-year contract for enhancement work such as crop tree and mid-story release, brush management and maple syrup start-up.

Brian Storz, Kentucky Division of Water, opened Wednesday's programs with **What's Happening in Your Basin**. Storz is looking at carbon credits/offsets for wetlands. He listed the state's seven basins and their coordinators as well as the volunteer watershed watch groups. He stressed that non-point source runoff is the biggest factor affecting Kentucky water quality and it lowers the oxygen level that fish need to survive.

Billy Thomas, UK Extension, focused the **Forest Health Update** on the Spotted Lanternfly that "loves almost all our trees". Early detection is the best defense. New forest health updates are in the UK [Kentucky Woodlands Magazine](#).

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and make this long-awaited annual meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park a huge success!

WOOD YOU NOT KNOW IT ?

How many tree species are there in the world?

- a. 17,500 b. 40,500 c. 58,000

Of these, how many are threatened with extinction?

- a. 33% b. 45% c. 75%

Hint: the answer can be found in this issue's Suggested Reading selection



In Memory - Clifton Taylor

Dr. Clifton L. Taylor, long-time member, mentor, and former KWOA & KWOA director, has passed away at the age of 92, leaving a legacy of sustainable forestry. Clifton and his late wife Barbara along with their sons Scott and Steve were dedicated tree farmers on their beloved Elk Cave Farm.

Clifton was recognized as the 2017 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year and as one of four nationally recognized Regional Tree Farmers of the Year in 2022. His professional career was dedicated to educating agricultural and forestry producers through various positions in the cooperative extension systems at the University of Kentucky and the University of Florida. He served as county 4-H and agricultural agents in Monroe and Simpson counties in Kentucky, and then later served as a professor and extension specialist at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences where he held leadership roles as Associate Dean and Interim Dean for Extension.



2023 Calendar of Events

Woodland Owners Short Course

<https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/>

Online Sessions (7–8:30 PM Eastern):

- June 20, June 22, June 27, June 29

Field Sessions (9:30-3:00 PM Local)

- July 15 - Pennyrile State Forest
- July 29 - Elk Cave Farm in Boyle County

Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award

July 11

Reddick Farms, Bowling Green

KWOA Regional Meeting & Dinner

Ohio County Extension Office

August 1 (6-8 PM CST)

Open to all woodland owners

Free but Reservation Required by July 25:

RSVP to 270-298-7441 or ohio.ext@uky.edu

KWOA Quarterly Board Meeting

August 10 - Zoom

November 9 - Kentucky Forest Industries Association, Frankfort

The American Chestnut Foundation - Kentucky Chapter Meeting

August 26 - Forestry Outreach Center, Berea

Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut screening

Watch the trailer at: <https://www.rescuingtheamericanchestnut.com/>

Kentucky Wood Expo

September 15 & 16

Masterson Station Park, Lexington

kywoodexpo.com

Suggested Reading: Rare Trees

Rare Trees - The Fascinating Stories of the World's Most Threatened Species

Sara Oldfield & Malin Rivers
2023 Timber Press, Inc. 383 pages

Submitted by Karen Marshall, Kentucky Woodlands
Newsletter Editor

Many KWOA members vacation out-of-state, across the pond and to other locations for tourism, family get togethers and, yes, educational site visits. As you plan your next trip, consider a 'destination forest' from the many options in this beautifully illustrated 'coffee table' book.

Travel through this book will not be just a joy ride. Its main function is to profile conservation initiatives for endangered tree species and their status around the world.

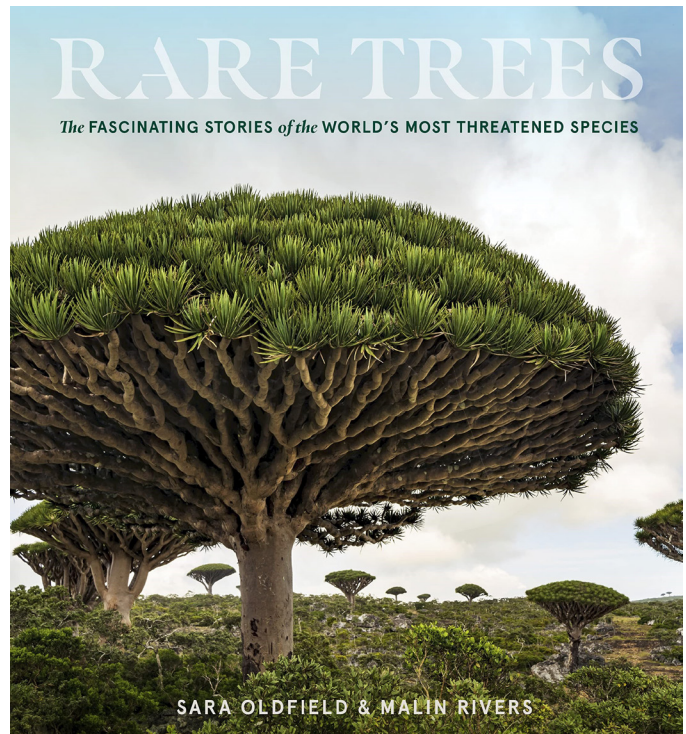
**"Taxonomy gives species their names;
conservation assessments give them a voice."**

- Peter Wilke, Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh,
Introduction, p. 6

The Global Tree Assessment, begun in 2015, depends on fundamental knowledge of what is happening to trees in the wild. Its first step, which took two years, was to compile a baseline of all tree species. Threat categories - Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable - were then assigned for each species using the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.

The book organizes various conservation methodologies into three sets of approaches:

1. In Situ Conservation: Reserves, Reintroductions, Sustainable Use
2. Ex Situ Conservation: Botanical Gardens, Seed Collections
3. Ecological Restoration: Reinstating Tree Species, Diversity, Functional Ecosystems



On the last approach the authors caution that there needs to be a distinction between monoculture tree planting as a panacea for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation both of which have been a major threat to natural forests. "... it is very important to plant the right tree in the right space – and ideally with the right mix of species." p. 22

Now for those place-based community efforts in restoration. The book highlights action stories under the Global Trees Campaign since its instigation 20 years ago. The Campaign has acted to conserve over 400 tree species in more than 50 countries.

On the local front, the book's section on Temperate and Boreal Forests includes the Appalachian forests - among the most diverse temperate forests in the world. The Special Tree Groups in the Oaks chapter covers Georgia Oak (*Quercus georgiana*) in AL and GA, and Oglethorpe (*Quercus oglethorpensis*) in SC, MS, GA, AL and LA.

Pete Kovalic Forest Leadership Program Scholarship



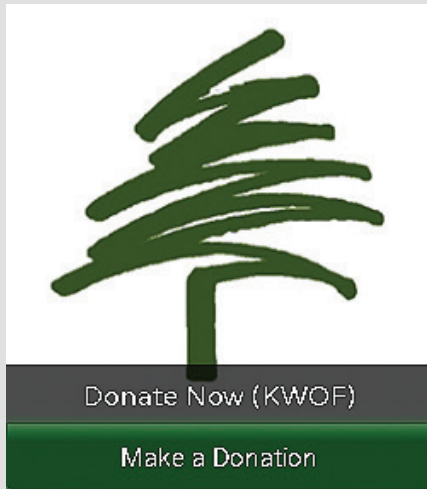
Long-time friend and supporter of KWOA, Pete Kovalic, has passed at the age of 93 after living a full and meaningful life.

The family has generously included KWOA for memorial donations. The KWOA directors established the Pete Kovalic Forest Leadership Program Scholarship (youth program) through the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation.

To learn more about Pete's life, all the ways he contributed to sustainable forestry and to donate to the scholarship go to <https://www.kwoa.net/news/peter-p-kovalic-in-memory>.

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>



In Their Own Woods - Jim & Holly Vincent Family Farms

Submitted by Jim Vincent

I was born in 1943 and grew up in Robards, KY with my grandparents. My grandfather was a retired physician and actively worked two family farms, one 86 acres at Robards and the other 127 acres on the Green River. We raised corn, soybeans and tobacco.

I planted a crop of corn with a 1953 Allis Chalmers tractor and a 2-row drill in 1961, the same year that I enrolled in the University of Kentucky as a Mechanical Engineering student. In 1968 I bought 80 acres of timberland that I have subsequently given to my sons. In 1973 I bought 128 acres in Webster County, mostly timberland.

In 1975, after the passing of my grandparents, I inherited the 86 acres at Robards from my grandfather, Fred Eakins. It has been in my family for 212 years. It is part of the original 5,000 acres my great, great, great-grandfather, George Eakins, bought in 1811. I'm the sixth generation to own it and my grandchildren will be the 8th.

I also inherited the 127 acres on Green River. I sold it in 1981 to capitalize the start-up of my injection molding company that I operated for 30 years.

In 1998 I bought a 209-acre farm on the Green River with a little over a mile of river frontage and 85 acres of mature timber primarily in wetlands. Also, in 1998 I bought 190 acres in Webster County adjacent to my 128-acre timberland. About 100 acres was in timber giving me about 220 acres of timber in Webster County and 85 acres in Henderson County, with total acreage of all three farms at 613.

I have considerable habitat variation with river bottom wetlands and hill ground with creek bottoms resulting in much biodiversity. As an example, I have 14 species of oak trees between all three farms. The Webster County farm has certified Tree Farm status. I am preparing to do a selective timber harvest on the Webster County property with a forester marking and inventorying trees to be harvested and a Master Logger involved in the harvest.



Partner Profile: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Submitted by Jon Shultz, Kentucky NRCS State Forester

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and supports the conservation goals of farmers and forest landowners in all 50 states and territories. In Kentucky, NRCS works cooperatively with woodland owners who are committed to managing their property to further their resource conservation goals. Some of these goals are sustainably managing woodlands for wood products, improving wildlife habitat for a whole host of different species, providing clean water, improving recreational opportunities and improving woodland aesthetics.

Landowners can work with NRCS to get a Forest Management Plan completed that will guide their stewardship activities to further their goals for conserving their woodlands, as well as complete conservation projects through one of several financial incentive programs NRCS offers.

NRCS was created in the 1930's when the nation was gripped by the effects of the dust bowl. Originally named the Soil Conservation Service, by utilizing local input from farmers and Conservation Districts, large scale projects were completed that halted the soil erosion that caused the dust bowl and repaired many farms across the nation. In the 1990's the Soil Conservation Service became known as NRCS to better reflect the mission of working on many different conservation issues, not just soil erosion.

Kentucky NRCS works with a whole host of partners to help forest landowners meet their woodland conservation goals. For initial planning assistance partners include the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFW), the Roughed Grouse Society (RGS), the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and a group of registered professional consulting foresters known as Technical Service Providers. These partners work with NRCS and the woodland owner to craft a customized, property specific forest management plan. Once a landowner has a forest management plan to help guide conservation



An NRCS conservationist meets with a landowner to discuss forest management goals.

activities, NRCS programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) can provide individual project funding to complete activities outlined in the plan.

Common projects on which woodland landowners work with NRCS are invasive species control, forest stand improvement, controlling livestock access to forestland and tree planting. NRCS also supports many other conservation activities in woodlands including reducing erosion on forest roads and trails, tree pruning to improve the form of high value species, and cleanup of debris following a natural disturbance such as a storm or disease and pest outbreak. These and many other projects are available for cost assistance. Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office located at their closest USDA Service Center or one of the NRCS partners to get started.

NRCS Kentucky is pleased to be a partner with the KWOA and working through the NRCS State Forester, Jon Shultz. Outreach and education to landowners is paramount to driving the NRCS forestry program forward. Through speaking at landowner gatherings to informational articles in newsletters, Jon hopes that more landowners will learn who NRCS is and the great service the agency can provide to all woodland landowners, regardless of ownership size and landowner goals for their forest. Together we can conserve one of Kentucky's greatest resources, the woodlands that reach across the entire state and the owners who steward the land for generations to come. To learn more about NRCS and assistance that is offered please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.



2023 KENTUCKY WOOD EXPO IN PLANNING STAGES

The Kentucky Wood Expo is returning to Lexington, KY **September 15-16** at Masterson Station Park. This year marks the 35th Kentucky Wood Expo, which has been ranked as one of the top 10 events in Kentucky by the Tourism Council. We are celebrating 40 years of the Kentucky Wood Expo, also known as the Kentucky Logging Show, which began in 1983 in Morehead, KY. An expected 3,000-5,000 visitors from around the region will be on hand to see the latest in wood processing equipment for the forest products industry and enjoy all types of educational events and demonstrations.

More information and details on back cover...

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

2023 Kentucky Wood Expo

The Kentucky Wood Expo will feature over 100 inside and outside exhibits and demonstrations. Sawmill, pallet, logging, secondary and all types of wood processing machinery will be on display along with a wide range of support services. Inside and outside exhibit space is still available and it is not too late to get signed up to participate. Educational displays will also be present and a number of groups will be available to talk forest management and the promising future of the wood industry in Kentucky. Landowner and logger education classes will be conducted during the show on both days which will provide plenty of advice on how to properly manage forests and the many benefits they provide.

Along with the industry exhibits, activities will be taking place for the entire family to enjoy. They include chain saw carving demonstrations, collegiate lumberjack competitions, knuckleboom loader and log skidding contests, monster log

weight guess, craft displays and a silent auction to benefit Log a Load for Kids and the Kentucky Children's Hospital. An educational program open to all students will take place on Friday, September 15 and a woodworking class on both days will offer a chance for attendees to make their own free cutting board.

Show your support for the wood industry which is one of the largest manufacturing industries in Kentucky and stop by and enjoy the Kentucky Wood Expo. The show offers something for everyone. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$5 by calling the KFIA office at 502-695-3979. Parking is free and entry to the show costs \$7 at the gate and \$5 for children age 6-12 (children under 6 are free). The grounds will be open 9:00 - 5:00 (Eastern Time) on Friday and 8:30 - 4:30 Saturday. Don't miss fun and excitement at the Kentucky Wood Expo in Lexington, KY on September 15 & 16.