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KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

Photo courtesy of Jimmie Sizemore

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A Message From Your President

Looking Forward by Looking Back

The calendar has again come around to the month of January. And with it comes a new year. If most of you are like me, by mid-January you have broken most of your New Year resolutions with the renewed anticipation of "recharting our course".

While flipping the calendar over to the new year, I made a quick calculation and recognized that I have been involved in forestry on a professional level for over 50 years, five decades, or, over a half of century! There is a one-word statement that I can use to summarize all this accumulated time - change. Change not only to me personally but also professionally.

Professionally I have seen a great deal of change. Early in my career I was involved in land survey work. The objective of the day in surveying was to clear a line of vision so to measure from Point A to Point B. In today's surveying techniques, you simply hold an instrument over these same two points and satellites in the sky will accomplish the calculations required, quickly!

Fifty years ago, the standard writing instrument was a typewriter, but within a few years computers began gathering our information, then manipulating it, and finally printing the results. Telephones. What a

great relief it seemed when they started selling telephone cords for land lines that let you walk, with the handset in hand, six feet or more away from the dialer which was tethered, firmly, to the wall.

There have also been changes in the basics of forestry in those same 50 years. While in forestry school, there was tremendous discussion about clear cutting. Clear cutting has always been a recognized tool for forest management, but the discussion 50 years ago was focusing on the size of those cuts. These cuts in the 60's and 70's were anywhere from 100 to 400 acres. Today we discuss management based on concerns of sustainability and multiple use opportunities. Over the years forestry concepts and uses of our woodlands have changed. Just recently a much larger discussion of our privately held woodlands has journeyed to discussing and understanding ecosystem services that our woodlands can provide. This discussion is also held in joint concert with cutting timber as an income resource.

Science seems to be the basic building block for the need or opportunity to change. Science has directed us to make changes in our personal daily routines. We also look to science for the reasons and purposes to alter our management routines for our woodlands.

One thing that we have learned and to which we have adapted

seemingly well in the past two years, is that we can still learn and adopt new procedures, again both personally as well as new technics for our woodlands, while at the same time keeping our social distance. These recent changes in learning have been frustrating, but, in the end, meaningful. Thank goodness for Zoom.

I am hoping that in the coming months of 2022, we can routinely meet face to face and be able to discuss subjects that members and partners of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association are so fond of, the wide assortment of management opportunities that benefit our woodlands.

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



One of Our Own is a Finalist for 2021 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has announced the four regional finalists for the 2021 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and our own Cliff Taylor is a finalist for the Northcentral Region. Cliff is long-standing KWOA and KWOF supporter, board member, and member-at-large. Son, Scott Taylor, is a current KWOA board member.

Read more about the family and the ATFS awards: <https://www.forestfoundation.org/why-we-do-it/family-forest-blog/announcing-the-2021-regional-outstanding-tree-farmers-of-the-year/>



Welcome to the
Salato Wildlife Education Center!

KWOA 2022 Annual Meeting March 29-30

Focus on Wildlife:

How we affect wildlife and how wildlife affect our woodlands

The events committee, the executive board, as well as the full board of directors would like to invite you to the 2022 annual meeting that has been scheduled for March 29 & 30, 2022. Again, your events committee has strived to provide you with both an educational and informative meeting.

There are some changes to the 2022 meeting. The biggest change is the location. This meeting will take place at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort, as well as the Salato Wildlife Education Center. As we look into how we affect wildlife and how wildlife affect our woodlands, we will start our morning at the Hampton Inn, then we will move to Salato Wildlife Center, where we will have lunch, continue our educational offerings and be given a tour of the facility and the wildlife that is native to the Commonwealth. The Salato Wildlife Center is located off U.S.60 at 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. After a fun and informative day, we will return to Hampton for our banquet. The following day we will stay at the Hampton for more sessions, reports from our cooperating partners, and our business meetings and election of Directors.

For those who are registered guests of the motel, breakfast will be provided by the Hampton. If you are

not staying there, but would like to have breakfast there and socialize with members and presenters, you may do so for a fee of \$10. Just stop by the front desk on your way in. We have secured a block of rooms, at a rate of \$105 per night plus taxes for a room with two double beds or if a single king size bed works better for you that rate is \$117 per night plus taxes. Reservations must be made directly with the Hampton Inn by no later than March 4, 2022. The Hampton Inn is located at 1310 U. S. 127 South, Frankfort, KY 40601. You may reach them by calling 502-223-7600.

For those of you who may wish to come in on Monday March 28, we are planning a tour of the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery. Updates to the agenda and maps to all the locations will be forthcoming in Wood Post and on the KWOA website at <https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings>.

Registration for the meeting can be done online by going to our website at www.KWOA.net. For those of you who were registered for the 2021 meeting which was canceled due to COVID and asked us to carryover your registration, you need only to make your room reservations

We hope you will join us, and we look forward to seeing you in March.

2022 Calendar of Events



Forestry Tax Webinars

<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/event/forestry-taxes-webinar>

January 25 - Basics of Timber Basis
February 1 - Timber Management Expenses and Deductions
February 8 - Income and Sales
February 15 - Coping with Loss

Kentucky Maple Day

February 5
At various maple syrup producer operations across the state
<http://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/maple-day>

2022 KFIA Annual Meeting

March 29 - 31
Embassy Suites, Lexington
<https://www.kfia.org/>

KWOA 2022 Annual Meeting

March 29-30
Various locations in Frankfort
<https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings>



Wildlife is the theme for KWOA/KWOF 2022 Annual Meeting
 March 29 - 30, 2022

Salato Wildlife Center and Hampton Inn, Frankfort, KY

Registration – PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Tree Farm Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Woodland acres owned/managed: _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL PROGRAMS, LUNCH and DINNER on March 29

MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID or RENEWED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

	FEE	x	# of People	Total Amount
Member Registration	\$70	x	_____	= \$_____

	FEE	x	# of People	Total Amount
Non-Member Registration	\$90	x	_____	= \$_____

Registration and payment can be made by: Credit Card on KWOA website: WWW.KWOA.NET or

mail registration form and check for payment to: KWOA – PO BOX 1201 – Frankfort, KY 40602

Please make your room reservations at Hampton Inn separately by calling 502-223-7600. A block of rooms has been reserved for KWOA. Please remember to mention that you are attending the KWOA Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Conference.

Partner Profile: Kentucky Resources Council

Founded in 1984, the Kentucky Resources Council is a 501(c)(3) Kentucky nonprofit corporation that combines smart policy and pro bono legal advocacy to protect the Commonwealth's natural resources and ensure environmental justice for Kentucky's most vulnerable people and communities. KRC works to ensure that individuals impacted by environmental decisions have a voice in the policy-making process. Across the Commonwealth, KRC provides consistent, thoughtful advocacy on environmental and public health issues by monitoring and educating the public on permits, regulations, and legislation; facilitating networking among environmental and citizen groups.

Tom FitzGerald, better known as "Fitz," Director of the Council for 37 years, assumed a senior staff role in October and will assist the Council in lobbying for smart environmental, energy, and public health actions during the 2022 General Assembly. Ashley Wilmes is the new Director of the Council. Wilmes has represented organizations across the country on environmental matters and has argued cases before the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits. She is Chair of the Environmental Law Section of the Kentucky Bar Association.



Contact:
Kentucky Resources Council (kyrc.org)
amy@kykrc.org
502-875-2428
P.O. Box 1070
Frankfort, KY 40602

Reflections

We are now invested into 2022, but as members and partners of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, we need to take a moment to look back on 2021.

We lost two of our KWOA Board Members that provided time and energy during their tenure on the board. Robert Gosset was our past KWOA/F Treasurer from northern Kentucky. Joe Ball from southern Kentucky was President of KWOA/F several years ago and provided direction for our organization. Both gentlemen provided support and direction for the mission of KWOA.

During the last weeks of 2021 a very destructive series of tornados affected a large segment of Kentucky. This event was followed several weeks later by a less severe but just as powerful storm that again affected some of the same areas. Many Kentuckians have reached out in some desperate way to help these individuals come back to some state of normalcy. We need to keep these folks in our discussions as we make plans for the future.

[READ MORE] <https://www.kwoa.net/tornado-support-resources.html>

Again, we need to look back at 2021 and consider our losses and be thankful for our blessings.

--Doug McLaren

Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominations

Know a Kentucky farmer or forester who goes above and beyond in the care and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2022 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award®.

[Sand County Foundation](#) and national sponsor [American Farmland Trust](#) present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 23 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In Kentucky, the \$10,000 award is presented annually with the [Kentucky Agricultural Council](#) and the [Kentucky Association of](#)

[Conservation Districts](#). Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may apply themselves. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA. **The application deadline date is April 1, 2022.** The committee prefers application materials to be sent electronically.

Applications can be emailed to colemansteve51@gmail.com or postmarked by April 1, and mailed to:

Leopold Conservation Award
c/o Kentucky Association of
Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 4027
Frankfort, KY 40601-4027

KWOA is a financial supporter of The Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award. For more information on the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

Suggested Viewing: Yale Forest Forums Showcase Lesser-Known Attributes of Forests

The Yale School of the Environment, in partnership with Orion magazine, is hosting several forums addressing old growth, urban and bioenergy from forests. Panels of accomplished authors, academics and activists discuss where we are today, how we got here and where they hope we can go. Recordings, of the sessions, with closed captioning, can be viewed on the Yale website at <https://yff.yale.edu/>.

On September 18, 2021 the Celebrating Old Growth forum revolved around a new publication, *Old Growth: The best writing about trees from Orion magazine published in late 2021*. (Look for a review of the book in the KWOA spring 2022 newsletter.) The guest commentators were Robert Macfarlane (*How Forests Think and Ghost Lands*), David Haskell (*The Songs of Trees*) and Robin Wall Kimmerer (*Braiding Sweetgrass* - see a book review on the KWOA website) moderated by Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology.

The speakers addressed relationships with trees, not as a collection of objects, but as individuals who can be known through all five senses in their particular/local environments. The driving of indigenous people from their ancestral lands, sometimes by the environmental movement in order "to protect" those lands, has lost a wealth of knowledge and wisdom regarding respect for and communion with trees as subjects.

Going forward, the participants agreed that forests are becoming climate refugees. The panel's lens on assisted migration expanded the practice from re-locating individual tree species to conservation corridors of intact ecosystems that allow slow migration of forests.

A correlative legal structure would need to reorganize around, for example, watersheds.

Regarding, at the time of the webinar, the upcoming UN climate change conference, the panel asserted that climate change negotiations are not just about grams of carbon, but relationships and mutual responsibility.

"The earth is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." -- Thomas Berry

Read more: <https://yff.yale.edu/event/celebrating-old-growth-conversation-robin-wall-kimmerer-robert-macfarlane-and-david-haskell>

YFF SPRING 2022 SPEAKER SERIES:

The Forest School and Yale Forest Forum hosted *On Trees* on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, a discussion with authors Peter Wohlleben (*The Hidden Life of Trees*), Jessica J. Lee (*Two Trees Make a Forest*), and Sumana Roy (*How I Became a Tree*).

Forest Products in a Changing Climate: Bioenergy from Forests will be held on Tuesdays, beginning January 25th, ending April 19th, 11:30am-12:10pm ET.

The webinar will bring in a wide range of experts to discuss the future role of bioenergy from forests in addressing climate, resource, societal and environmental challenges at regional and global scales. Guest speakers will represent forestry, energy, conservation, and climate science. To preregister for this webinar series, click [here](#).

Joe Ball's Woodlands Legacy Continues the Cycle of Life

By Todd Ball and Karen Marshall

Joe Ball's passion for the woodland was deeply rooted in his love of the land through his childhood experiences on his grandparent's working farms in Henry County, Kentucky and Franklin County, Tennessee. He spent his 38 years of "retirement" embracing the role of tree farmer on his and his wife's properties in Pulaski, Wayne and McCreary counties as well as 2,000 acres near Pall Mall, Tennessee near the headwaters of the Wolf River.

Joe received his B.S. in agriculture from the University of Kentucky in 1955 and his Masters in adult education from North Carolina State in 1965. He spent 26 years working to improve the lives of rural Kentuckians as a county extension agent and as a community development specialist with the UK College of Agriculture Extension





Service before retiring in 1983. Joe utilized these leadership experiences and skills toward his devotion to the woodlands and woodland owners.

One of his early personal goals was “to someday have a little farm” where he raised a few crops, calves and children. With very limited financial resources, he bought his first farm in 1965, a 1,250 acre cut-over timber tract for \$15 per acre on the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River in Wayne and McCreary counties. He made an initial purchase in Tennessee of 1,600 acres in 1993 from Stearns Coal and Lumber Company with additional tracts of 400 acres purchased in 2002 and 2019.

Joe spent the next 56 years perfecting his practice of tree farming and formulating his conclusion that woodlands must be managed to produce income on a 5-to-10-year cycle to be sustainable. Joe believed the woodland must grow high value timber, and selective harvest of damaged and less desirable species periodically was the means to the goal. An uneven-aged management of selective harvesting and regrowth has been the most effective method.

The ability to market lower grade pallet, tie and pulp logs would allow timber stands to “break even” on their stewardship and improvement. The payoff would be the highly productive and high-quality timber stand to be harvested by this generation or the next. Joe logged oak, walnut and cherry as well as pine for fiber laminated beams. He emphasized using every part of the timber harvest for the wood products industry.

In 1999 Joe was named Kentucky Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for his leadership and innovation. His work was innovative in how the roads and trails he built made forest management and selective logging efficient and sustainable. He diverged from the traditional logging practice at that time of skidding logs down the mountainside. Joe referred to his method - building skid paths like spokes from the landing hubs along the contours of the hillsides - as logging with the hill instead of vertical to it. Regarding government involvement in private woodland management, he thought the federal government should provide technical assistance to build proper logging roads.

Joe got timber stand improvement assistance in exchange for allowing people to hunt, ride and hike on

his property. He constructed a rustic pavilion, camping site and fire pits deep in his woodlands for family and friends to attend, participate and appreciate the scenic woodlands. The Tennessee property has great geologic diversity, more than 1,000 feet of vertical relief and a wide range of wildflowers. Joe and Doris shared it with family, friends and professional acquaintances on many spring wildflower hikes and fall cookouts and camping trips.

Joe came to understand the enterprise of tree farming to be very similar to other crop farming:

- The land must be put in a productive state through the efforts of the farmer over time.
- Equipment and investment are necessary to be effective.
- “Do-it-yourself” makes production cost effective.
- Planning is the foundation.
- The selling of the crop can be on the tree farmer’s schedule (unlike row crops and livestock). Marketing of the tree crop was key to getting a fair return on the tree farming effort.

Joe personally oversaw the most major and minor details of timber stand improvement and timber harvesting. In his 38 years of active tree farming, he owned and operated his own skidders, dozers, loaders, trucks and timber cutters.

Henry Duncan, who succeeded Joe as KWOA President, comments, “I could feel Joe’s passionate breath breathing down as we embarked on long range program plans for the organization.” Duncan says Joe was passionate in his encouragement for the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, agriculture organizations, universities and any other organizations to, first and foremost, plan for, support and promote the challenging needs of commercial timber woodland owners.

In an interview with M.E. Dickerson for the May 13, 1999 *Somerset - Pulaski News Journal* Joe referred to a person’s life as “a cycle which interacts with other biological cycles in a very calculated, precise manner”. He loved the crop cycle, working with livestock and human interaction with the farm community.

Leon D. “Joe” Ball “cycled out” at age 87 on October 18, 2021. During his last year, Joe began marketing the timber off his 1,250-acre tract. His wife, Doris, and his three adult children are working to complete the cycle that Joe started more than 50 years ago.

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
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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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