



“BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER”

# KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

vol. 33 no. 1

Winter 2024



Photo Credit: Leslie Sizemore

## Mark Your Calendar! The KWOA Annual Meeting is March 25-27, 2024

This year our theme is **forestry**, and we will be exploring a host of topics we hope you will find informative and help you as you make or implement your forest management plan.

We have chosen the Forest Outreach Center at Berea College for this year’s meeting. This will, weather permitting, allow us to get into the field to observe practices that will help you form and carry out your forest management plan. Meeting topics include water wells, management plans, fire as a management tool, carbon programs, forest value and record keeping, white oak initiative and climate change. See the [full agenda](#) on the KWOA website.

We have a block of rooms at both the Historic Boone Tavern and the Holiday Inn Express. Make your room reservations

directly with the facility of your choice:

- Boone Tavern, 100 Main Street, phone: 859-985-3705
- Holiday Inn Express, 219 Paint Lick Road, phone: 859-985-5500

The room rate for both facilities is \$119.00 per night plus tax (breakfast is included at Holiday Inn Express). Reservations must be made by February 24 to take advantage of this rate. This year’s meeting has expanded to a 3-day event and includes an extra meal in the registration fee. As with most everything, our cost for putting on the meeting has increased substantially.

We appreciate your continued support and hope you will find this meeting fun and informative.

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**Kentucky Woodland Owners  
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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](mailto:info@kwoa.net)  
or  
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1201  
Frankfort, KY 40602

# A Message From Your President

It is still autumn as I sit down to write to you for the winter issue of our KWOA newsletter. As the trees lose their leaves the tender tendrils at the tips of the branches reach skyward making a sort of lacelike pattern across the horizon. Often these patterns are so expressive I feel like the trees are doing sign language. Just as our minds grasp the plight of polar bears, migrant birds, and other endangered species, might we not embrace the plight of unmanaged woodlands? Might we even see the woodlands as a sort of vital nutrient that feeds our existence with air, water, beauty, a resource we want to care about every bit as much as we do the comforts of our homes and the crops that fill our plates? Might we learn to respect and appreciate the careful woodland management of a tree farmer in the same way we do the farmer who fills our grocery bags/dinner plates?

As these thoughts may seem like idle daydreaming, two old adages come to mind. "Follow the money" and "It takes money to make money." Education is important and goes hand-in-hand with improving the economics. When it comes to building up and sustaining working forests the economic factor cannot be ignored. While NRCS funding is significant and we will continue to work with our partners to raise landowner awareness of the financial help that exists, more economic incentives are needed to assure the future of working forests.

There are already many things happening. The Inflation Reduction Act could provide significant funding toward conservation and specific initiatives relating to forestry in Kentucky. The White Oak initiative has recognized the problem of sustainable hardwood regeneration and is working with industries and legislators to address the issue. The discussion that KWOA initiated in November with the partners who work most closely with woodland management, opened the door for more strategic partnering in the future.

Even as we work to develop new initiatives, I think there are some things you can do to help right now; such as: asking your county extension and conservation district offices to expand forestry programming for landowners, asking retail outlets for certified or sustainably produced wood products (mention American Tree Farm and FSC certifications), and using the statistics in the Kentucky Forest Sector Economic Contribution Report to raise awareness among your neighbors, in the agricultural community, and with policymakers. You can find the report here: [https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/ky\\_contribution\\_report2021-22\\_small.pdf](https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/ky_contribution_report2021-22_small.pdf)

In the future I see KWOA having more discussions with members and partners with a focus on actions we might support or implement in partnership with one another. The 2024 Annual Meeting plans include more time for these interactions. It is a good time to be involved with KWOA as we work with our partners to envision a positive future and develop a roadmap to get there! Together we can shape new initiatives and tweak existing programs to support our shared goals of bringing people and woodland sustainability together.



-Portia Brown,  
*KWOA President*

- Kentucky Forestry and Wildlife Coalition
- Committee Updates per requests
- Next Board Meeting: February 8 Zoom (location being TBA) - 7PM



Working Forests Panelists Logan Nutt, KACF, Jeff Stringer - moderator, UK Forestry and Natural Resources, Bob Bauer, KFIA, Jon Schultz, NRCS, Scott Taylor, KWOA Vice President. Photo by Henry Duncan

Learn about the panelists and the takeaway points from this event on our website at [www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings/kwoa-showcases-white-oak-initiative-presentation-and-working-forest-panel-discussion](http://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings/kwoa-showcases-white-oak-initiative-presentation-and-working-forest-panel-discussion)

## Looking Back on 2023: KWOA/F Accomplishments

As you know KWOA continued to provide an outstanding **Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter** quarterly, a useful and informative website; **Wood Post E-News** on current items of interest to you, and another great **Annual Meeting**.

Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOA) also continued to provide financial support for these programs:

- Student scholarships for the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program under the newly established KWOA **Pete Kovalic Forest Leadership Program Scholarship** (Youth Program).
- **Woodland Owner Short Courses (WOSC)**
- **Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award**
- **Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation Scholarship** for UK Forestry Student

Other KWOA/ KWOA accomplishments in 2023 include:

- Sign on to support the US Forest Service **Forest Stewardship Program** funding.
- Express support for our partners in the **Shared Stewardship Agreement**
- Develop a new KWOA Brochure and light weight banner.
- KWOA presence at **Woodland Owner Short Courses Field Days**; our VP even hosted one of the field days.
- **Regional Meetings**: first official regional meeting in Ohio County and less formal meetings in Taylor and Clay Counties.
- Continuing updates & improvements to our website providing easier access to relevant information, including Carbon Credit program developments and legislative initiatives.
- Continue work with **Forest Health Tax Force** (Initiated by KWOA).
- Represent KWOA 2023 **Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee** Meeting hosted by KDF.
- Form Legislative Committee/ working group through which KWOA:
  - Sign on in support of this legislation **Forest**

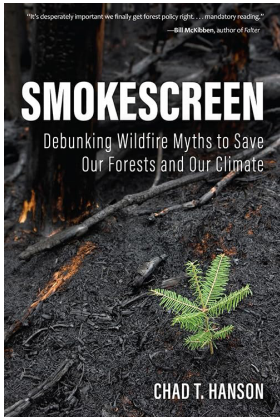
**Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) Act of 2023** (Legislative Committee).

- Participation with Kentucky Forest Industries Association in **White Oak Fly-In** to Washington D.C. to raise awareness of the challenges of working forests and support the **White Oak Resilience Act (WORA)**.

- Represent KWOA at **Kentucky Farm Bureau's Candidate Forum for Commissioner of Agriculture**.
- Represent KWOA at **Kentucky Agricultural Council** quarterly meetings.
- Submit proposal to include forestry in **KY Agricultural Council 5-Year Plan** and participate in strategic planning focus groups to promote the role of sustainable forestry in agriculture.
- Set up booth and participate in the 2-day **2023 Wood Expo**.
- Represent KWOA at **NRCS West-Central Regional Meeting**.
- Provide feedback to the **NRCS State Technical Committee** in reviewing proposed and existing program guidelines.
- Host **White Oak Initiative** Executive Director for slide presentation.
- Initiate a **Working Forests Panel Discussion**.
- Sign on in support **Kentucky Forestry and Wildlife Coalition**.
- Letter of support for UK Grant application for to create a **Kentucky Mass Timber Collaborative (KMTCC)**

All accomplished, through the dedicated efforts of your KWOA Board with your membership support in cooperation with our Partners. Directors who gave of themselves in these 2023 accomplishments are: Doug McLaren, Frank Hicks, Gail Lincoln, Greg Kuhns, Harry Pelle, Henry Duncan, Jack Rentz, Jack Stickney, Jerry Brown, Jerry Schneider, Jimmie Sizemore, Jim Vincent, Karen Marshall, Lanny Copeland, Mike Smith, Portia Brown, Preston Lacy, Rodney Bruce, Scott Taylor, Steve Perry, & Will Bowling.

## Suggested Reading: Smokescreen



### **Smokescreen Debunking Wildfire Myths to Save Our Forests and Our Climate**

Chad T. Hanson  
The University Press of Kentucky,  
280 pages, 2021

#### **Submitted by Karen Marshall**

Chad T. Hanson is a research ecologist and the director of the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute.

Hanson argues in *Smokescreen* that wildland fire behavior is driven primarily by weather and, therefore, by climate (p. 45-46). He confronts the claims of government officials and the logging industry that “overgrown” forests and dead trees cause more intense fires.

Hanson addresses what he thinks are the biggest contributors to climate change: the burning of fossil fuels and the loss of snag forest habitat. He focuses on a new paradigm that dead trees (snags) and downed logs that resemble old-growth forests are among the most ecologically valuable habitat features in the forest. He proposes and substantiates through extensive field studies and historical records research that, in combination with a move away from fossil fuels, forest protection and the resulting carbon sequestration would limit temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius - approximately half the necessary global climate change mitigation (pp. 10-11).

Chapter 11 Fire in the East chronicles archeological studies “providing additional evidence for a long evolutionary history of mixed-intensity fire in southern Appalachian forests” (p. 178).

Hanson’s concept of forest protection confronts the myth that unburned older forests are ‘overgrown’ and will burn at high intensity (p. 51). At the core of his paradigm is the role of high-intensity fire patches to create snag forest habitat. These natural fires are essential to fire-adapted forests. If undisturbed by salvage logging and replacement by tree plantations, they create an ecologically valuable habitat (p.31).

Chapter 4 The Megafire Narrative chronicles the 257,000-acre Rim Fire in 2013 in the central Sierra Nevada where the US Forest Service had claimed there would be no regeneration for decades or centuries (p. 68). Hanson began visiting the Rim fire area in 2014, often spending thirty or more field days a season, taking photos and collecting data. He found that the mature fire-killed trees were largely unchanged, structurally.

Hanson takes on the forest management practice of “thinning” in Chapter 7. Its purported purpose is to prevent large wildland fires, reduce tree mortality, and make forests more resilient to climate change. Instead, it typically kills and removes 20-50% of the tree biomass and carbon, including mature and old trees (p. 111).

Of interest to homeowners adjacent to forested areas, Hanson describes two opposing approaches to wildland fires and community protection in Chapter 12 Fire-Safe Communities. The “from the wildlands in” approach emphasizes fire suppression and vegetation management in wildlands that are distant from communities to stop fires before they reach towns. This strategy was a proven failure by the rate at which the 2018 Camp Fire, adjacent to previous extensive logging, destroyed the communities of Paradise and Concow. The second “from the home out” approach emphasizes the 100-foot defensible space zone around a house to reduce the ignitability of houses themselves such as eliminating wood shingle roofs and siding and pruning vegetation.

## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **KWOA Board Meeting** (via Zoom)

February 8  
10am-3pm EST  
[www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings](http://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings)

### **Woods and Wildlife for your Wallet**

February 22  
Register by February 16  
Greenup County High School  
[greenup.ca.uky.edu/index.php/events](http://greenup.ca.uky.edu/index.php/events)

### **KWOA Annual Meeting**

March 25-27  
Forest Outreach Center at Berea College  
[www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings](http://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings)

### **Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting**

April 2-4  
Embassy Suites Lexington  
[www.kfia.org](http://www.kfia.org)





## Forestry is the theme for KWOA 2024 Annual Meeting

Berea College Forest Outreach Center March 25 – 27, 2024

### Registration Form – 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 by County: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL PROGRAMS, DINNER on March 25, LUNCH and DINNER on March 26**

	<b>FEE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>*Member Registration</b>	<b>@ \$100.00 each</b>	<b>X</b>	_____	<b>=</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
<b>Non-Member Registration</b>	<b>@ \$120.00 each</b>	<b>X</b>	_____	<b>=</b>	<b>\$_____</b>

\*MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID or RENEWED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

\*Recognized Partners Qualify for the Member Rate

Registration and payment can be made by: Credit Card on KWOA website: WWW.KWOA.NET  
or mail this registration form and a check for payment to: KWOA - PO BOX 1201 – Frankfort, KY 40602

A block of rooms has been reserved for KWOA at Holiday Inn Express Berea and at Historic Boone Tavern. Please remember to mention that you are attending the Kentucky Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Conference to receive our Group Rate. The Group ID Code for Boone Tavern is 252488

**Please make your room reservations NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 24, 2024, at EITHER Location:**

**Holiday Inn Express Berea Room Rate = \$119 + Tax Includes Breakfast 859-985-5500**

**Historic Boone Tavern Room Rate = \$119 + Tax Breakfast Not Included 859-985-3705**



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>		\$ _____

# Leopold Conservation Award Program Accepting Applications



The Leopold Conservation Award Program recognizes and celebrates extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation by agricultural landowners. Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust and conservation partners across the U.S. present the prestigious honor, which consists of \$10,000 and a crystal award, in settings that showcase the landowners' achievements among their peers.

The Kentucky award is presented in partnership with American Farmland Trust, Kentucky Agricultural Council and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

## Nominate yourself or another landowner!

Go to: <https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award> for award criteria and application.

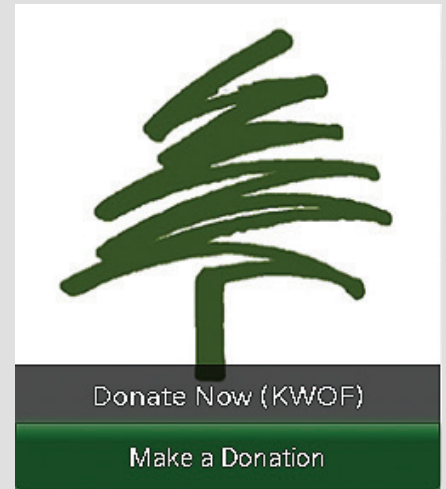
## KWOF Selects Scholarship Award Recipient



Jason Brown, UK Forestry student, is recognized as recipient of the 2023 KWOF student scholarship. Photo credit: Reneé Williams, UK Forestry Extension

## 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**

## **Woods & Wildlife for Your Wallet**

Thursday, February 22, 2024 | 5:30 pm - 8:45 pm  
Greenup County High School (*Main Entrance*)

Sessions Include:

- Edible Mushrooms - Ellen Crocker, UK FNR
- Pond Management - Tom Timmerman, KDFWR
- Coyotes Nuisance - Wes Mattox, KDFWR
- Turkey Talk - Jimmy Woods, KDFWR
- Edible Plants - Tina Potter, Master Gardener
- Logging Best Management Practices (BMP's) - Beth Williams, KDF

+ more topics and speakers to be announced!

A Free dinner will be prepared by the Greenup  
County FFA

**Please RSVP at (606) 473-3228 by Feb. 16**