



Kentucky  
Woodland  
Owners  
Association

# KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

[www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)

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Woodland  
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## KWOA Annual Meeting Tests the Waters at Pennyriple State Forest and Park

With clean water and forest management as its theme, the 2019 KWOA annual meeting explored the many ways in which forests impact water quality and quantity. Forestry and water quality professionals conducted presentations and streamside demonstrations on the ways in which the Pennyriple forest contributes to the excellent quality water supply of the park's lake, how citizens can participate in testing for water quality in their watersheds and efforts to strengthen the propagation of tree species such as white oak and American chestnut.

Not all of the expertise was at the podium. Attendees exhibited their depth and range of expertise by contributing concepts, experiences and challenges to consider additional perspectives in the complex relationships among the natural and human environments.

KWOA President Doug McLaren alerted members to the need to cultivate new champions for sustainable forests. We need to share what we've learned with our neighbors and communities. Members noted many additional sectors with which woodland interests intersect such as beekeepers, hunters, mushroom growers, maple syrup producers and the wives/widows/daughters of timber property owners.

KWOA has already launched a vigorous initiative to improve its internal coordination and communication while bringing onboard new faces and perspectives. As it enters its 25th year the association has a great opportunity to "pave the way forward" for the next generation of woodlands and the owners who care so much about them.

See Annual Meeting Updates under Events for more information from the website – [kwoa.net](http://kwoa.net).

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# A Message From Your President

Can you believe it? Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) is twenty five years old! Twenty five years ago Don Girton, recently retired from a career in government in Washington DC, came into the University of Kentucky Forestry Extension office and suggested that a statewide woodland owners association be formulated for Kentucky. The rest is history. \*

There have been many individuals involved in KWOA for these past 25 years. These individuals have helped in making history by working on issues such as woodland assessed values and enlisting new board members, as well as integrating new cooperators into our network of supporters that have been instrumental in keeping our organization current in the political and silvicultural needs of our woodlands.

History is written and recorded in our minutes. Anyone can refer to that information. KWOA needs to now turn to the future. There are some highlights that are making KWOA a better organization for woodland owners. One is the streamlining in the use of the communication tool referred to as Mail Chimp, a strange commercial name for a software package that allows KWOA to send its members timely information rather than waiting for expensive publication of a newsletter. Mail Chimp has been used most recently to announce the events of the upcoming annual meeting. It has also announced relevant forestry news from all over the forestry community that would be a value to you, a woodland owner

in Kentucky. Look for more of it in the future. It is spreading the work of KWOA quicker.

Our finance department is also looking for newer methods of "banking". Gradually the database of members' names and membership categories will be automated for more efficient and effective means of keeping the membership informed.

We have also changed our "everyday appearance" of KWOA, our logo. For 25 years we used a logo that portrayed KWOA with a conifer. A committee last year moved to change the looks of KWOA to be represented by a hardwood. The new logo is found at the top front of this newsletter.

KWOA is very encouraged by the work of the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources that has recently initiated the White Oak Initiative. This will make even more of an incentive to do higher degrees of management in our woodlands. The health of Kentucky's woods has always been a concern to woodland owners. KWOA is again encouraged by the development of the Forest Health Research and Education Center that is focused on the immediate needs of the ongoing health concerns of Kentucky's woodlands.

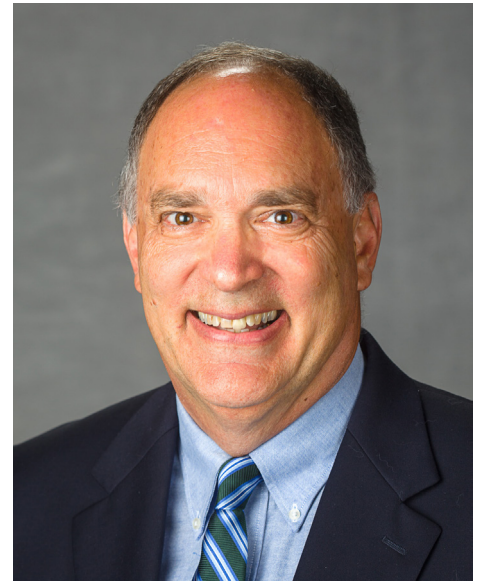
I would like to personally thank those board and at-large members that have stepped up to help and promote KWOA throughout the state. Thanks to all that helped locate and develop the past annual meeting at Pennyryle Forest. At the suggestion of a board member, our next three meetings will be based on the remaining three

facets of the American Tree Farm logo of water, recreation, timber and wildlife. I want to also thank those individuals that help in the communication of our organization, finances and day-to-day operations. "Many hands make light work". It certainly has made my work load easier.

Birthday parties come and go. We will soon be blowing out the candles on our 25th anniversary cake. It is now time to get back to the practice of woodland management opportunities and concerns in Kentucky. Happy 25 years KWOA!

\* Thanks to KWOA Board member Steve Perry while researching another facet of KWOA history that he stumbled upon this information from 1994.

**-- Doug McLaren, KWOA/  
KWOA President**



## Restore the American Chestnut to the Kentucky Landscape

Rick Caldwell, Kentucky American Chestnut Foundation Chapter, inspired members with several options to be part of the restoration of the American Chestnut to the Kentucky landscape. Get more information on the below opportunities at <https://kwoa.net/volunteer/restore-the-american-chestnut>.

- Submit photos of chestnuts with leaf and twig samples.
- Suggest sites where you would like to see chestnut groves.
- Establish and maintain a Backcross Breeding Orchard.

## UK Forestry Students Share Enthusiasm and Intentions



For Michael Branscum, the best part about being a forestry student is marking timber and the Fire Cats. For Dan Eaton it is the small class size and the friendships among students and with professors. Sarah Hays' experience with a forest inventory in Robinson Forest made a believer out of her that switched from an engineering major to forestry. The three students attended sessions and spoke at the KWOA 2019 annual meeting as part of their education at the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

All three students have a good idea of what they want to do post-grad. Branscum hopes to work in urban forestry or in timber purchase and sales. Eaton wants to pursue an MBA and then work to increase the economic value of forests and incentives to keep property in forests. Hays is working with the Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team to develop the newly formed Forest Health Research and Education Center.

*Photos by Billy Thomas.*



## Newsletter Transition to E-Delivery

KWOA strives to utilize membership dues in an effective and efficient manner. Printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter is a significant budget item for the association. KWOA foresees going to an electronic version in the near future. By providing an email address members will receive the newsletter as a PDF in their inboxes. Some advantages of receiving an electronic version are that photos and graphics will be in full color and hot links to further resources are only a click away. All issues of the newsletter are always available on the News and Publications page at [www.KWOA.net](http://www.KWOA.net).

Members who do not have access to the internet or would prefer to continue receiving a paper copy via USPS will be able to do so for the near future. See details with membership renewals for 2019.

## State of the Watersheds



Amanda Gumbert, UK Extension Water Quality Specialist, spoke to members about the monitoring system in place for Kentucky's watersheds. Members joined Amanda streamside to observe and draw their concept of a typical riparian habitat. Kentucky has seven river basins and 90,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Gumbert introduced members to the Kentucky Water Health Portal. [<https://watermaps.ky.gov/WaterHealthPortal/>]

Streams and lakes all have designated uses and are coded in the portal as to which of those uses they support, such as aquatic life, swimming, fishing or drinking.

Gumbert left attendees with three to-do items:

1. Learn about your watershed/stream.
2. Develop and implement a Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan [<https://www.uky.edu/bae/awqp>]
3. Enjoy Kentucky's water resources.

*Photo by Ward Wilson, Kentucky Water Alliance.*

## KWOA Elects New Directors to Board

KWOA members elected three new directors to the board during its annual business meeting on March 27 at Pennyrile Forest State Park. Jimmy Sizemore, Manchester, is coming on as a representative for the East Zone. Brian Barnes, Princeton, joins the West Zone as does Dr. Lanny Copeland who has timberland in Warren County. See more about Dr. Copeland below. (Bios for Sizemore and Barnes were not available at press time.)

Dr. Lanny Copeland is a Family Physician who practiced in rural settings in Indiana and Georgia for 20 years. He was instrumental in beginning a family medicine residency program focusing on

rural healthcare, especially the underserved area of southwest Georgia. For many years he was recognized as one of the top 50 Most Influential Physician Executives in the US by Modern Healthcare, ranking #8 on this list in 2012.

Copeland's humanitarian work has taken him to Yemen, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Haiti, and most recently to Cuba, where the foci has been on medical education and health care delivery.

After retiring from the corporate world, he and his wife Mica actively manage their 280 acres of timberland in Warren County, Kentucky.

## 2019 Calendar of Events



July 20, 2019

**Woodland Owners Short Course - West**

Logan County Extension Office

August 10, 2019

**Woodland Owners Short Course - Central**

Washington County Extension Office

August 24, 2019

**Woodland Owners Short Course - East**

Clay County Extension Office

**Register online at:**

<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wosc>

## Ricky Harrell Receives Service Forester Award



The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association presented its annual Service Forester Award to Ricky Harrell at its 2019 annual meeting. After earning his B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Kentucky in 1976, Harrell began his forestry career with the Madisonville Branch of the Kentucky Division of Forestry in 1977 as a forest products utilization forester. After several years in the private forest products sector he returned to the KDF Madisonville Branch in 2006.

***Rick Harrell, KWOA 2019 Outstanding Service Forester Award recipient, receives an honorary commendation from Kentucky agriculture commissioner's office representative Tim Hughes.***

***Photo by Billy Thomas.***

## Kentucky Senator Robby Mills Connects Counties, Clean Water and Forests

"We have to teach the next generation how to work." Kentucky Senator Robby Mills advised attendees at KWOA's 2019 annual meeting with the additional comment that government should be about resolving problems and filling gaps.

Senator Mills, Vice Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, launched into the meeting's theme of Clean Water and Forest Management by noting the lack of investment in water and waste water infrastructure. He said

Martin County loses 64% of its treated water between the water treatment plant and homes because of leaks.

Mills recognized the role of trees as natural barriers to sediment and water run-off as well as water purifiers. He highlighted the Audubon Wetlands in Henderson County. It consists of 649 acres that was added to the 724-acre John James Audubon State Park. Over 400 acres have been reforested there.



***Warren Beeler, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, discusses the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund with meeting participants. Photo by Greg Kuhns.***

## Warren Beeler, GOAP, Stresses Self-Sustaining Enterprises

Warren Beeler stressed that the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy is interested in capital projects, not in paying people not to farm. Its assistance is seed money with the expectation that the enterprise will use those funds to become self-maintaining.

Beeler queried members for ideas that should be included in the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund that would assist woodlands. Members were not shy in responding. Suggestions included incubator tree farms, easements that would remove development rights to keep properties in woodlands, and cooperation with related agriculture industries.

# 2019 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course



Woodland owners have a wide variety of interests when it comes to their woodlands. Some are focused on timber production while others may be more interested in wildlife, recreational opportunities or simply the “peace & quiet” their woodlands provide. These diverse interests are not necessarily incompatible and in fact, with proper planning and the right assistance, they can be very complimentary. To assist Kentucky woodland owners in getting the most out of their woodland ownership experience the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and many partners (including the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association) conduct the Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) on an annual basis across the state.

The 2019 WOSC consists of three full-day regional programs in East, Central and West Kentucky. These regional educational programs are developed by local planning committees with local needs in mind. Each regional program includes two different programming tracks featuring both indoor and outdoor presentations including a visit to a nearby woodland owner. The green track is for newer landowners or those just getting started in managing their property and the gold track is intended for those that may already have a written woodland management plan or those looking to become even more active in woodland management activities. Each track features forestry, wildlife, and natural resource professionals from across Kentucky covering a wide variety of topics—there is sure to be something for everyone! Individuals as well as couples are encouraged to attend the regional event nearest their woodland property. A complete schedule of topics and online registration is available at <http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wosc>.

**July 20, 2019** - West Region  
 Logan County Extension Office  
 and Henry Duncan’s Tree Farm  
<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wosc>  
 859.257.7597

**August 10, 2019** - Central Region  
 Washington County Extension Office  
 and Danielle and Jason Hagler’s Woodland  
<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wosc>  
 859.257.7597

**August 24, 2019** - East Region  
 Clay County Extension EXCEL Center  
 and Jimmie Sizemore Tree Farm  
<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wosc>  
 859.257.7597

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 additional name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home address (street and/or box number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone

I own \_\_\_\_\_ woodland acres in \_\_\_\_\_ county.

Course Fees (Pre-registration strongly encouraged):  
 Sessions are \$20. Couples \$30. (\$10 extra day of program)  
 Registration includes: lunch, clipboard, resource USB, and  
 educational programs from some of the best forestry and  
 natural resource experts in Kentucky.

Visa/MasterCard accepted by phone or mail.

Circle one: Visa MasterCard

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ month / \_\_\_\_\_ year

or checks payable to: **UK Department of Forestry**

**Please check the track(s) you wish to attend:**

West Region	Central Region	East Region
Logan County	Washington County	Clay County
July 20	August 10	August 24
Green Track <input type="checkbox"/>	Green Track <input type="checkbox"/>	Green Track <input type="checkbox"/>
Gold Track <input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Track <input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Track <input type="checkbox"/>

Mail your registration form to:  
**Woodland Owners Short Course**  
**UK Forestry Extension**  
**216 T. P. Cooper Building**  
**Lexington, KY 40546-0076**

Register on-line at: [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org)  
 Information contact:

**859.257.7597 or visit [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org)**

## Suggested Reading: American Canopy



American Canopy - Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation  
Eric Rutkow  
2012. Publisher: Scribner, A Division of Simon and Schuster, Inc.

Book review by Doug McLaren

On visits to the local library I always find myself heading for the natural science and history sections. When I find a book that includes both, I feel like I have scored high on the "must read list". American Canopy was a real catch. As you can imagine, none of the characters in the book had speaking parts, but as you will find as you read the book the trees found on America's soils certainly spoke as to the overall history and development of America.

Several years ago I attended a professional forestry meeting and the author, Eric Ruthow spoke on his book, American Canopy. Ruthow is a lawyer and then began working on a degree in history. His work in law involved environmental issues.

The first few lines of the dust cover sold me on this very interesting collection of stories about American's history and its relationship to trees. "Like many of us, historians have long been guilty of taking trees for granted. Yet the history of trees in America is no less remarkable than the history of the United States itself..." It reminded me of that old saying, "You can't see the forest for the trees".

Rutkow begins the book by telling of the intentional cutting in 1964 of one of America's oldest trees, a bristlecone pine, that when cut and measured for annual tree rings was nearly 5,000 years old. It was all done in the name of science and education. Upon cutting the tree, the untold history of America was unleashed and recorded in Rutkow's book. The book, immediately after the telling of the bristlecone pine, goes to 1524 when a visiting explorer from Europe sees the trees of America for the first time and records his words as, "These trees were the most useful thing the land had to offer." That was 1524. The history of America told by Rutkow is told by peeling back the pages of history by telling a story of a tree on each of these "peels" and its relationship to America's history.

America had the trees that all of Europe in the

early years of discovery of America needed for the war ships that were being produced to fight the wars for controlling the oceans. The wood supply of Europe had been utilized to its maximum. Europe had a large population that relied on wood for building, eating and keeping from freezing to death. The resource in Europe had reached its end as America, and its boundless supply of trees, was being discovered. The first boats that came to America brought pioneers to tame the new world and returned to Europe filled with wood for the needs there. A small portion of history that Rutkow uncovers suggests that Britain may have lost the Revolutionary War simply due to the fact that they could not repair the masts on the ships due to the lack of trees, white pine, that was out of their reach during the war on the sea coast of New England.

The book continues to explore the true value of the trees in America including even medicines that the trees and the forests they grew in provide. The forests were also a hindrance as the pioneers progressed west. They were cut not only for the building of the cities and communities that began to be established but also simply cut and burned to make way for the countless immigrants that came. The forests also became the fortunes of many related industries. The railroads were a major contributor of the use of wood as well as a means to move people west to use them.

Rutkow discusses how the forests were altered not simply by the wholesale cutting but also by the insects and diseases that have in the past and present affected species populations. Rutkow uses the end of the book as a time to explain how lessons that were being taught and slowly learned throughout our history has provided ample understanding of the need and approaches to sustainable management of the resource.

When I was reading this book, American Canopy, I was simply reminded of all these stories that I had heard during my career in the natural resource work that I have done over four decades. What I appreciated about Rutkow was his seamless interweaving of these stories, all told at one time in sequence, into a better understanding of the importance of America's valuable resource of timber and the value that it provides for the population of folks that use trees in some way daily.

It is some 348 pages in length. I actually read it twice, the second time to create a power point presentation to utilize in forestry educational programming on many levels.

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