



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

www.kwoa.net

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

vol. 21 no. 2

Spring 2013

KWOA founder, Don Girton, honored at annual meeting

Don Girton, one of KWOA's founders, was recognized for his years of service to the association by several individuals. The annual meeting guest speaker, Keith Argow, has been a friend of Girton since before the association was formed. Argow is President of the National Woodland Owners Association based in Washington DC. He wanted to attend this year's KWOA meeting to express his appreciation for Don's leadership and guidance over the years. In his comments, Don moved attendees with his acknowledgement that he has tried to apply principles learned in his personal life - acceptance, patience and understanding of others - to KWOA. In addition, Rep. Mike Denham presented Don with a Kentucky Colonel title.



Keith Argow, NWOA President, honors KWOA founder Don Girton (The plaque didn't quite make it out of DC!)

Editor's note: Don started the KWOA newsletter and has been its only other editor. He notes that the newsletter will have been in continuous publication for 20 years with the fall issue.

Kentucky Division of Forestry Budget Cuts Necessitates Reorganization

The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) has announced changes due to budget cuts that will go into effect over the upcoming months. The division will have a new organizational structure after working under a budget shortfall for several years. The shortfall in the current fiscal year is estimated to be \$1.2 million. Other Energy and Environment Cabinet agencies have been able to support that shortfall with the use of general fund dollars that could be shifted to KDF to address this issue. Unfortunately, the ability for these agencies to provide financial support has ended and has precipitated a reorganization of the division.

The division has examined its operations across the state to determine the most

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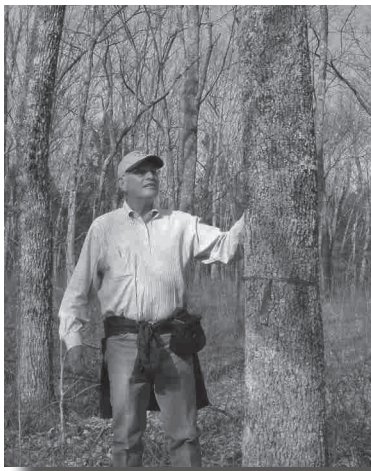
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Farewell from the Head Hickory Nut (but he'll still be around!)



I would be remiss in trying to recap all of the many experiences that we have had together during the past three years... It has been a wonderful trip...



working and being with so many fine folks on the board and woodland enthusiasts throughout the state. Kentucky woodland owners have a special dedication to the land and natural resources that is hard to find elsewhere.

Some of the positive experiences have been in KWOA's recognition of our fine KDF Service

Foresters... and to experience the love and dedication that the woodland owners have shared as they nominated these service workers and assisted in the presentation of the awards. Another plus was the recognition of KWOA founders: Pete McNeill, Bill Green and Don Girton were all woodland owners who dedicated themselves to establishing the much needed organization that represents woodland owners throughout the state. As with the Service Foresters there are others deserving recognition.

KWOA's experiences with our partners have been fabulous. Leah MacSwords and the KDF folks have supported KWOA in most professional ways. 'Red' Baker and the UK Department of Forestry staff - Doug McLaren, Jeff Stringer, Billy Thomas and Renee' Williams - have provided forestry educational support in every way possible. We could not survive without the support of Bob Bauer, Michele Brewer and the KFIA board and their facilities for providing our regular KWOA board meeting sites and much other support. Other partners include the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Tree Farm Committee, Department of Agriculture, USDA/NRCS and Consulting Foresters among others.



We cannot say enough about the support Marla Jackson and the Herb Lloyd Tree Farm facilities provide in the way of administrative and office

facilities. Thanks, Marla, for going over and beyond the bounds in seeing that our every administrative need is met!

KWOA program and committee thrusts included: pushing for equitable taxing for woodland owners; and pulling for KY Division of Forestry as it deals with the effects of a slashed budget and the devastating storm damage to the eastern Kentucky nursery. We have pushed for better fire protection and the prevention of timber theft. A committee has been encouraging more local forestry organizations to meet the needs of woodland owners. We also present scholarships to encourage future forestry students.

We are also represented on the NRCS/USDA State Technical Committee to ensure equitable USDA practices are available for forestry. KWOA is on the UK invasive pest study committee. We serve on the KY Farm Bureau state forestry committee to help develop the forestry position for KFB policy. KWOA is represented on the KY Agriculture Council to include forestry in the five year strategic plan for Agriculture. KWOA is represented on the long range advisory team at the Department of Forestry at UK to support its future forestry plans.



Best wishes to Jack Rentz as he assumes the leadership for KWOA/KWOF... There is an outstanding board and dedicated members throughout Kentucky who will make the upcoming journey pleasant and successful!

**-- Henry Duncan,
KWOA out-going president**

KDF Reorganization

(continued from page 1)

efficient and cost effective means of meeting statutory mandates while, at the same time, addressing the shortfall. In so-doing a reorganization plan has been crafted, effective Feb. 16, 2013. Virtually every area of the Division of Forestry will be impacted, the most prominent of which is the restructuring of the field operations to a regional approach.

Twenty-six counties in western Kentucky will comprise the West Region with the regional office in Hopkins County. There will be two regions in eastern Kentucky since that region is more heavily forested with mountainous terrain and the greatest wildfire probability. The Northeast Region will have 19 counties and be headquartered in Rowan County. The Southeast Region will contain 16 counties and be headquartered in Perry County. Another 33 counties will comprise the North Central Region

and be administered from Franklin County and twenty-six counties in the southern part of central Kentucky will become the Central Region with its central office located in Taylor County.

There have been several adjustments to the administrative headquarters operation in Frankfort. In addition, nursery operations were evaluated and changes will be made to staffing at those facilities. Now that the new structure is in place, work will start on operational details to ensure that KDF continues to meet their mission to protect, conserve and enhance Kentucky's forests. The offices in Mayfield, Elizabethtown, Pineville and Betsy Lane will stay open through the spring fire season and then be closed at that point.



KWOA board and officers go to Governor's office to save tree seedling nursery for woodland owners.

Kentuckians have always been able to obtain many varieties of tree seedlings from the Kentucky Division of Forestry's two tree nurseries. State budget cuts and a March 2012 tornado that devastated the Morgan County nursery in Morgan County, near West Liberty in Eastern Kentucky, could have cut the supply of tree seedlings in half. This nursery cultivates more than one million seedlings

a year in native varieties suited to the requirements of regional climate and soil.

The remaining nursery in western Kentucky is not capable of supplying either the quantity or the range of species residents want to plant. In addition, the Morgan County nursery researches and develops seedlings for the American chestnut tree recovery.

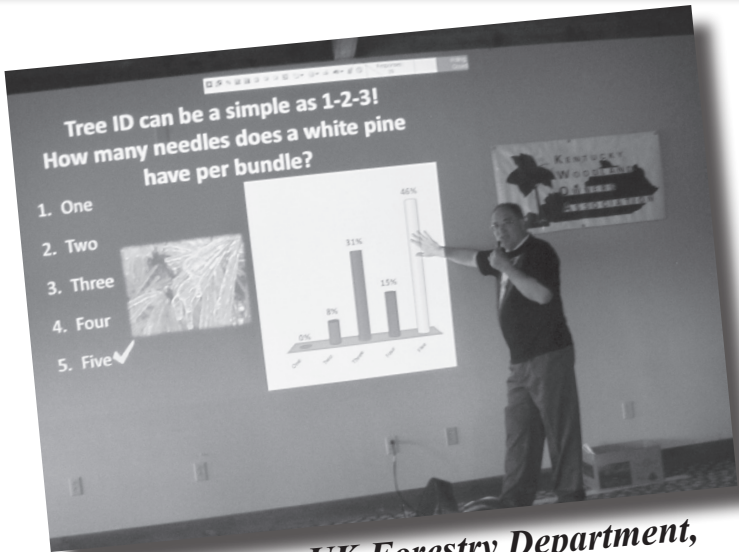
The damage to the Morgan County nursery was covered by insurance. However, the Governor's office considered closing the nursery and using the insurance proceeds to fund other State operations.

KWOA members discussed and unanimously approved

a resolution at their April 2013 annual meeting directing the officers and board of directors to make every effort to convince Governor Beshear of the wisdom of keeping the Morgan County nursery open. Consequently, KWOA's officers, board and concerned members called, wrote, and conducted visits with legislators to urge them to use the in-hand insurance monies to re-build the West Liberty nursery. Also, KWOA officers initiated an April 30 meeting with two members of Governor Beshear's cabinet to encourage them to keep the Morgan County nursery open. Attendees included representatives of KWOA, of Kentucky Forest Industries Association, and of State Representatives from Eastern Kentucky.

On May 3, Governor Beshear announced that the Morgan County nursery will remain open, saying in a written statement: "The nursery is an important resource for our forest industry, mine and stream reclamation efforts, and land owners, and it impacts the regional economy all around Morgan County."

Annual Meeting Highlights



Doug McLaren, UK Forestry Department, quizzes attendees during the popular Forestry Bowl game.



Leah MacSwords, KDF, walks attendees through the department's reorganization and reduced regional offices.

Attendees get an overview of the history and wildlife at Blue Licks before starting on the field tour.



Past and present KWOA/F Officers and Board: (left to right) Don Girton, Jerry Brown, Portia Brown, Cliff Taylor, Jack Stickney, Robert Gossett, Jack Rentz, David Hartman, Henry Duncan, Frank Hicks, Doug McLaren, Lyndle Barnes, Greg Kuhns, Joe Ball, Tim Frieibert, Yancey Clark, Della Wall, and Perry Sebaugh



Annual Meeting Highlights



Luke Biscan, Forest Scholarship recipient, presents his academic research.



Jeff Stringer, UK Forestry Department, summarizes a new report on the economic impact of the Kentucky forest and wood industry.



Jamie Johnson, NRCS & KDFWR, provides information from the American Chestnut Summit.



Jerry Adams, NRCS, updates attendees on programs and incentives for woodland owners.



KWOA is dedicated to promoting economically and environmentally sound forest management.

**Visit our new Web site...
www.kwoa.net to learn more.**

Luke Biscan Recipient of 2013 Forestry Scholarship

University of Kentucky forestry major Luke Biscan won this year's competition for KWOA's forestry scholarship.

Now in its third year, the award is applied to tuition expenses for promising Department of Forestry students. Luke quoted Gifford Pinchot in his acceptance of the award. It was noted how forestry is an evolving profession that has expanded from raising and harvesting timber to good stewardship and sustainable management.

Rep. Mike Denham presents a special citation to KWOA forestry student scholarship winner Luke Biscan.



Doug McLaren, UK Forestry Department, presents the KWOA 2013 forestry scholarship to Luke Biscan.

Kentucky Wood Expo coming to Lexington, KY

You and your family are invited to attend the 2013 Kentucky Wood Expo that will celebrate the 30th show sponsored by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA). The Wood Expo will make its debut at Masterson Station Park located in Lexington, Kentucky on Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21. The show offers the entire family a chance to see different types of demonstrations and equipment related to the wood industry. Everything from logging to sawmill equipment to finished wood products by Kentucky craftsmen will be on display.

The IronJack Traveling Shows and Competitions (aka Lumberjack Feud) from Pigeon Forge, TN will be performing live lumberjack competitions both days. The lumberjacks will compete in sawing, pole climbing and log rolling competitions, three times a day. Chain saw carvers will also be there sharing their love of carving and sculpting some of the most amazing chain saw carvings ever seen. Carvings will be auctioned at the show both days and bidding is open to the public. Also on Friday from 6 -7 p.m. come see local celebrities test their hands at lumberjack competitions.

In addition to the many inside and outside exhibits, Friday will feature an educational program for area students. Local FFA students and surrounding areas will compete for prizes in forestry-related events and learn about the importance of the wood industry. A large number of educational events will take place both days dealing with all types of forestry and wildlife topics.

On Saturday, the University of Kentucky Forestry Extension will have several educational booths from

nature photography to antique wood furniture identification, not to mention the annual Woodlands Owners Short Course will be held that day.

For a full schedule of events or to order advance tickets contact KFIA at 502.695.3979. The Expo is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$7 (\$5 in advance) at the gate for adults and \$5 for children 6-12 (under 6 is free). For more Expo information visit www.kywoodexpo.org

Calendar of Events



August 15, 2013
KWOA Board Meeting
KFIA - Frankfort, KY
10:30 a.m.
INFO: 606.876.3423

September 20-21, 2013
Kentucky Wood Expo
Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY
www.kywoodexpo.org

September 21, 2013
Woodland Owners Short Course
Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY
INFO: 859.257.7597

Robert Bean, Accepts KWOA 2013 Outstanding Service Forester Award

The competition grows each year for KWOA's recognition of an outstanding service forester at the annual meeting. This year was no exception. The winning nomination for the 2013 award was submitted by Perry Seabaugh, KWOA board member, with a letter of support by Greg Kuhns, board member at-large. Both have benefited from years of on-site guidance for the maintenance, harvest and improvement of their woodlands.

Robert D. Bean has worked in the Kentucky Division of Forestry's central district since 1995 as forester, senior forester and since 2002 as chief forester. The chief forester position oversees implementation of the Forest Stewardship Program for the district and supervises and trains the foresters in the district. Under Robert's leadership the stewardship program has consistently been one of the top producing districts in the state in terms of forest stewardship accomplishments over the past ten years.

Robert oversees the tree planting projects funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program as well as EQIP/WHIP timber stand improvement projects. He also provides input for the division's new M-5 mapping program. He also serves as aerial observer and ground fire control in the central district.

Beyond his forest district duties Robert has been active in the Big Tree Program, FFA Leadership

Camp and National Convention, Forest Leadership Camp, Urban Forest Strike Team, thousand cankers disease inspections and in Elizabethtown with Greenspace, the garden club and



Perry Seabaugh, Greg Kuhns and Karen Marshall recognized Robert Bean with the KWOA 2013 Outstanding Service Forester award.

the community and technical college.

Perry Seabaugh described the range of practices with which, Robert has assisted him in his woodlands stewardship. He guided the Seabaugh's through the CREP tree planting application, ground preparation, species selection, seedlings order and maintenance issues. He trained them on running the mechanical tree planter and was in the woods with them for timber stand improvement planning and crop tree release.

Greg Kuhns attributed part of Bean's outstanding qualities to his recommendations that go beyond "just trees" to the preservation of ecosystems and sustainability of natural lands.

KWOA encourages its members to consider nominating their service foresters for the 2014 award. Guidelines and application will be available on the website in the fall of this year and a reminder in the fall newsletter. Deadline for applications will be February 1, 2014. Previous awardees are Kevin Galloway (2012) and Steve Gray (2011).



Rep. Mike Denham capped off the award by presenting Robert with a Kentucky Colonel title.

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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WEST ZONE

Tim Freibert, (13) Louisville
Perry Sebaugh, (14) Park City
Lyndle Barnes, (15) Princeton

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Dr. Jim Corum, (14) Stony Fork
L.D. "Joe" Ball, (15) Somerset

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Next Board Meeting: August 15, 2013 - KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

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