



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Kentucky
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Association

Celebrating



KWOA

New Board Member Jimmie Sizemore Hosts August 24 WOSC

COL (retired) Jimmie Sizemore is a very passionate, energetic and busy woodland owner. Recently retired from the United States Army Reserve and the Clay County Board of Education, he and his wife Leslie are enjoying a very active retirement. Their property in Clay County lies on the Sarvis Fork of Buzzard Creek deep in the heart of Eastern Kentucky. Here they manage an orchard of mainly heirloom apples, keep honey bees, grow sorghum cane, black walnuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts, paw paws and persimmons. They also enjoy tapping maple trees and spending time enjoying the natural wonders of their woodlands. COL Sizemore is an active member of many organizations including: the Arbor Day Foundation, American Chestnut Foundation, the American Tree Farm System, Disabled American Veterans, North American Pawpaw Growers Association, the Great Smokey Mountains Association, Kentucky Maple Syrup Association, Kentucky State Bee Keepers Association, Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association, the Midwest Apple Improvement Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation. When they aren't busy working their farm or managing their woodlands they enjoy volunteering at their church or traveling and spending time with their five daughters and grandchildren.

Jimmie and Leslie will be hosting the August 24 Woodland Owners Short Course at their Tree Farm in Clay County. Register now at: ukforestry.org.

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A Message From Your President

Twenty Five Years and a Time for Reflection

Your Kentucky Woodlands Owners Association Board met in May to reflect on the past 25 years of the association. Dr. Dan Kahl, professor at the University of Kentucky's Community and Economic Development Department met with us to facilitate a strategic plan for the future.

Discussion of the future began with the question, "Based upon the mission of KWOA, what is the most important thing that KWOA exists to do?"

Three important aspects of KWOA mission came from this discussion:

- Promote sustainable forestry and to be the voice for woodland owners
- Promote private forest sustainable management
- Promote sustainable forest management practices through expanded knowledge and awareness

After this brief discussion of the fundamental aspects of KWOA, the board members split into three groups which were based on the most important aspects of KWOA: KWOA Membership and Outreach, Organizational Structure, and an extremely important grouping for any organization, Finances. Each group made a list of elements within their topic area which they felt were important. Each group then reported back to the whole board their list of elements identified as being most important to KWOA.

If you have ever taken part in a similar planning process, you will remember the next step that is used to reduce the number of elements down to a manageable list is the use of "dots". Each participant was given a limited number of dots and was asked to identify what was most important from the list generated by each of the groups. Each person's "dots" helped to prioritize items most valued by the KWOA Board.

* Membership and Outreach Top Priorities

1. Identify value of membership
2. Build bridges with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Agents
3. Determine what the "hook" is that captures potential members attention

* Finance Top Priorities

1. Budget and more detailed reporting
2. Find a way to employ a director
3. Increase revenue



Dr. Kahl, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, leads strategic planning session with KWOA/F board members at May 9 meeting.

* Organization Structure Top Priorities

1. Strengthening committee and cooperative involvement
2. Merge Tree Farm and KWOA
3. Grow affiliate relationships

It was a long but pleasant process that Dr. Kahl took the board through. The energy that was in the room was extremely positive and rewarding. Everyone commented at the end of the session the importance of the process and the results that were outlined. When you revisit the list of important aspects and the priorities that resulted from them, you, the membership of KWOA, will see that there are issues that KWOA has been evaluating and working on for several years. There are many tall orders that need to be worked on through the board and general membership.

I want to thank first Dr. Dan Kahl from the University of Kentucky who helped us through this process of KWOA reflecting and then projecting the future of KWOA. I want to also thank the current board members that attended and fully participated in this planning process. A committee was formulated during this daylong event and will be taking time to evaluate how we, KWOA, can best approach these priorities. More information concerning the retreat and the direction of KWOA's future will be coming within the next few months.

Thanks to all,

-- Doug McLaren, KWOA/KWOF President

July 20 WOSC Hosted By Former KWOA President Henry Duncan



Henry Duncan, former KWOA president, hosted the west region Woodland Owners Short Course at his farm in Logan County.

Cooperator Profile: Kentucky Farm Bureau



Kentucky agriculture encompasses an array of crops including corn, soybeans, wheat, and tobacco, to name a few.

But timber may not often be thought of as a crop. The fact is, 48 percent of Kentucky is forestland, and 88 percent of that forestland is privately owned, notes the state's Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Kentucky Farm Bureau has long supported forestry efforts on a state and national level. Current state priority issues include the support of forestry initiatives that enhance the economy and create opportunities for woodland owners.

From a much broader perspective, the state's forestry sector is estimated to have an \$8.5 billion direct economic contribution to the economy, according to information from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Because of this kind of economic impact, the industry plays a pivotal role in sustaining rural communities.

KFB President Mark Haney said the state's forestry businesses are a critical component of communities across the state, in terms of rural development.

"While we may not always think of our forestry sector as part of the state's overall agriculture industry, we must never forget its value to Kentucky's economic well-being and the impact these individual businesses have on our rural communities," he said. "Our forestland is one of our most valuable assets and the opportunities that come with being involved in the forestry industry are immeasurable."

Haney added that KFB policy has long included support of the forestry industry and that support will continue as the organization heads into its second century.

"As KFB celebrates its Centennial Year, we know our support of Kentucky's forestry industry and the businesses that utilize our forestland will be ongoing well into our next century."

“Take Your Extension Agent to Lunch – at the Wood Expo”

This year’s Wood Expo includes three trainings for county extension agents and interested woodland owners. KWOA members are encouraged to attend and to contact their extension agents about the session and attend it with them.
Sponsored by the Kentucky Forest Industries

Association, a KWOA cooperator, the 2019 Wood Expo will be held at Masterson Station Park, Lexington on September 20 - 21. Other events include forestry equipment sales and demonstrations, lumberjack competitions, chainsaw carving and crafts. For more info go to: <http://kfia.org/KentuckyWoodExpo.aspx>.



In-Service Training for County Extension Agents and Woodland Owners at the Kentucky Wood Expo

Timber Economics (3 CEUs)

Friday, September 20, 2019
10 AM-2PM Eastern

Invasive Plant Management (2 CEUs)

Friday, September 20, 2019
2 PM-4PM Eastern

Small Scale Logging: Cutting and Moving Logs Using ATV's and Tractors (2 CEUs)

Saturday, September 21, 2019
10 AM-12PM Eastern

Jerry & Portia Brown want to thank everyone for the kind condolences upon the death of Jerry's father. Coming home to find such a nice card was very comforting in our time of loss.

2019 Calendar of Events



August 8, 2019
KWOA/F Board Meeting
KFIA Office, Frankfort

September 20-21, 2019
Wood Expo
Lexington, KY kfia.org

August 10, 2019
Woodland Owners Short Course - Central
Washington County Extension Office

October 3, 2019
Tree Farmer of the Year field day
Lagerman Tree Farm in Metcalfe County

August 24, 2019
Woodland Owners Short Course - East
Clay County Extension Excel Center

Fair and Equitable Woodland Assessment

Presented at the KWOA Quarterly Board Meeting
By Jeff Stringer

The following are central points for the on-going discussion on the fair and equitable assessment and taxation of managed (agricultural) woodlands in Kentucky.

Agricultural land, including woodlands, is defined as land that is being actively managed for crops, pasture, and timber. It is required to be assessed based on the value of its highest agricultural use, resulting in a tax burden that is constitutionally equitable and fair.

The Department of Revenue provides guidance for use by PVA's for the assessment of agricultural lands. The guidance uses annual rent values for a range of productivities of crop and pasture lands to determine the assessed value of agricultural lands including woodlands. For woodlands, the valuation is based on a percentage of the annual rent value for pasture. This is inherently flawed, as the annual rent value of woodlands (i.e. the annual value of timber production) is unrelated to annual pasture rent fees.

Studies by the University of Kentucky found that the majority of woodlands are being taxed on assessed values of \$100 to \$500 per acre. This was significantly above the range of \$17 to \$60 per acre obtained when the annual rent values of woodlands were determined using timber production figures. As a result, many woodland owners are carrying a higher financial burden than other agriculture users, a situation that is in opposition to the constitutional requirement for "equal burden".

The studies resulted in a proposal in 2012 to the Department of Revenue to modify the existing guidelines to use timber production values to determine woodland assessments for those woods that are being managed for timber production. The latter is in accordance with the requirement that landowners are actively engaged in the practice of agriculture, in forestry jargon the practice of silviculture. The modification of the guidelines continues to be the recommended means of addressing the issue.

The use of annual timber production values is the standard technique for establishing assessments of managed woodlands. Other states use this technique. The University of Kentucky provides the crop/pasture rent data used for use in agriculture assessments and could also provide the timber data to the Department of Revenue and the PVA's that can be used for timber land assessment. UK can also provide an efficient methodology for its use by PVAs, as well as how to easily define which woodland owners are engaged in woodland management (i.e. agricultural practice).

Providing proper assessment and equitable taxation ensures that Kentucky's woodland owners are not at a competitive disadvantage and has the benefit of encouraging sound woodland management. This also sustainably improves rural economies by increasing, by as much as 4 times, the long-term value of an acre of timber. The mid-term benefit would result in landowners gaining \$60 to \$100 per acre in increased timber value, \$25 million to landowners statewide, resulting in a downstream economic return of \$64 million from milling logs and an additional \$179 million in secondary manufacturing.

Estimates by UK indicate that the impact of using timber production values to guide assessments, thus resulting in a reduction in tax payments, while important for individual landowners would have minimal initial impact on county tax revenues with an initial loss of only \$1.1 million statewide as only 350,000 acres of Kentucky's 12 million forested acres are currently being actively managed. This may increase as more landowners manage their woodlands. However, estimates based on experiences in other states, indicate that family owned managed woodlands would only increase to 10 to 25% of total woodlands.

Kentucky Forest Leadership Program - Thank You KWOF

By Laurie Thomas

The Kentucky Forest Leadership Program (KFLP) is a collaborative effort of Forestry and Entomology Extension, the Kentucky Division of Conservation and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The educational program is managed and administered by Extension Forestry and Natural Resources. In addition the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation graciously provides scholarships for students to attend. This year's scholarship recipients were Matthew Mueller from Franklin County and Gloria Bolan from Nelson County.



KFLP is designed to educate high school students about the importance of Kentucky's environment and natural resources. The state-wide program began in the mid 1980s and has been in its current format since 2016. Each year KFLP typically attracts between 20 and 30 students; this past summer 27 students from 15 different Kentucky counties as well as students from Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Virginia attended.



The overall goals of KFLP are that participants will: (1) have a greater understanding about the importance of our forests and natural resources as well as the management and conservation of these resources, (2) be introduced to natural resources professionals and learn about

academic programs and careers in this field, and (3) develop team building and leadership skills while working in resource management teams.

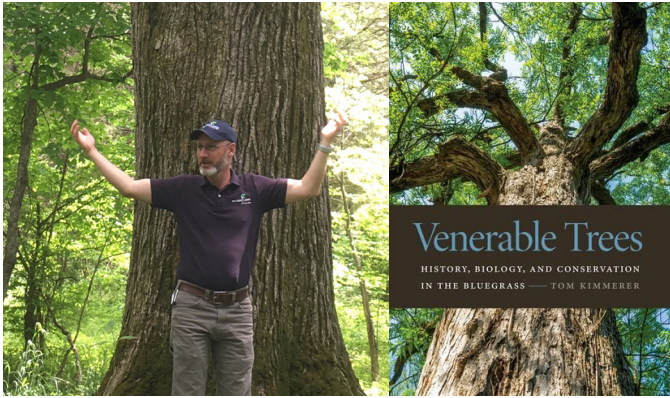
The week-long, residential program offers three different areas of concentration: forestry, wildlife and entomology providing participants an in-depth learning experience. Even though the students choose an area of concentration they all work together as a team just like real-life natural resources professionals to design a responsible and sustainable resource management plan for an 80-acre parcel of Kentucky land.

Program assessments and evaluations include pre- and post-testing as well as summative evaluations. Based on combined results from 2016 to 2018 students had an overall gain of 42% in knowledge regarding the environment, natural resources and natural resources management. From evaluations students reported what they thought was the most important idea they will take home from KFLP which included: "there are so many different aspects to resource management and they are interconnected"; "we are a part of the environment and must act responsibly"; "just how much we depend on our forest". To date more than 500 high school students have attended KFLP.

Educating Kentucky's youth about our natural resources is critical to the future of our environment and economy. Programs like KFLP provide participants a greater understanding about the environment and the importance of managing and conserving our natural resources. From the KFLP Team thank you KWOF again for helping educate Kentucky's future generations!



Suggested Reading: Venerable Trees



Venerable Bur Oak at Parklands Woodlands Gardens. Photo by Portia Brown.

Venerable Trees
History, Biology, and Conservation in the
Bluegrass
Tom Kimmerer
University Press of Kentucky, 2015
229 p

Book review by Michael Rich, ECU Associate Professor and KWOA Board Member

This is the book I wish I had read when I bought my first woodland acreage in Kentucky. The author gives a detailed description of the differences between the subregions of the Bluegrass and the reasons for the various vegetation patterns found in these subregions. His description of the Nashville Basin provides an excellent comparative perspective in understanding how urbanization and other land use changes have affected ancient woodlands.

Kimmerer also makes specific suggestions for current and future management of these unique ecosystems which are under threat. The barometer of this threat, according to Kimmerer, are the "venerable trees," trees which predate European

colonization of the region. Surveys going back decades indicate that the Bluegrass and Nashville Basin have lost significant numbers of venerable trees due to urban development, soil compaction, lack of root space, intensive lawn maintenance, and outright destruction. Because venerable trees in the Bluegrass and Nashville Basin are not regenerating, we must understand the factors that led to the creation of these ecosystems if we wish to preserve and restore their unique features.

Kimmerer introduces a useful concept of the "woodland pasture" to describe the vegetative features of the Bluegrass and Nashville Basin. Contrary to my own preconception, fire, in contrast to the "savannah" of the upper Midwest, was not an important factor in the formation of woodland pasture. Rather, drought augmented by the rapidly draining karst topography is the main factor in the creation of the "woodland pasture." Maintenance of the woodland pasture, originally created by giant cane which shaded sprouting trees, and occasional intense grazing by bison, can be recreated by grazing animals and creating protection zones for trees. Furthermore, he recommends planting with seedlings from native stock rather than genetically identical cuttings.

In addition to prescriptions for preservation and restoration, Kimmerer gives thoughtful descriptions of the main tree species of the Bluegrass and their unique aesthetic and ecological benefits. The book is generously illustrated with informative maps, charts and photographs that enhance understanding of Kimmerer's main arguments. The fruit of decades of research and observation, Venerable Trees offers insight and guidance on important principles for anyone seeking to manage, preserve or restore land under their stewardship. For further information, including other reviews of the book, I recommend a look at the author's website Kimmerer.com.

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.

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.

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 694
Maysville, KY 41056

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August 8, 2019
KWOA/F Board Meeting
KFIA Office, Frankfort

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Karen Marshall, editor@kwoa.net
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
PO Box 694
Maysville, KY 41056