



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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KWOA 2015 Annual Meeting Takes It To A New Level



Jack Rentz, out-going KWOA/F President, receives commission into Kentucky Colonels at the annual meeting; Frank Hicks (left), in-coming president; Henry Duncan, board member and former president. Courtesy: Jerry Brown

KWOA started its third decade with a substantive and enjoyable annual meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park April 10-11. The meeting's theme was *Your woodlands - timber and non-timber perspectives*.

KWOA attendees ranged in age from 18 to 80. The sharing of experiences and expertise during a well-organized and attractive venue made this meeting truly remarkable.

The location, food and weather weren't bad either! The meeting both inspired and challenged woodland owners to continue their efforts in sustainable stewardship of their properties.

Woodland Owners Short Course

KWOA is pleased to again sponsor this year's Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) presented by UK Forestry Extension. The WOSC is returning again this year to help owners learn the fundamentals of woodland management and get them connected to the wide variety of organizations and programs available to help them care for their woodlands.

Two concurrent tracks, Gold and Green, target either the seasoned woodland owner or those who

are just beginning. Landowners who might just have acquired woodlands or who are beginning to think about management and wondering what their options are should enroll in the Green Track, while more experienced woodland managers can register in the Gold Track. Past graduates of the short course will also find valuable information by returning to the course through the Gold Track.

Depending on the track and the region, sessions will cover such topics as tree identification; woodland management; wildlife management; woodland health threats; forest certification; woodland access roads, timber stand improvement, and emerald ash borer to name just a few.

Each short course session begins at 9 a.m. local time and concludes around 4:30 p.m. Lunch is included. See page 5 for registration information.

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A Message from Your President

The 2015 KWOA Annual Meeting was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated. A special thanks to Portia and Jerry Brown for coordinating the activities, and to Della Wall for managing the silent auction. Each time I participate in a KWOA activity I learn things that I probably should have already known, but didn't. For me, a highlight was Rick Olsen's presentation about the use of prescribed fire in woodland management. I now have a better understanding of how prescribed fire can be used as one

tool to control weeds and brush, and to favor certain desirable species. But the real message was that prescribed fire, like any other powerful tool, must be used only with an abundance of caution. Anyone considering the use of fire as a forest management tool must engage a trained and experienced crew, with enough manpower and equipment to keep the fire under control. Any miscalculation could result in an uncontrolled wildfire, and that must never be allowed to happen.

The KWOA continues to work to provide information about good forest management, not just for current members, but also for potential members. One strength of the organization is the diversity of our membership. Some members have forest land primarily for the timber income it can produce. Some are interested primarily in the sport hunting habitat the forest provides. Others have inherited forest land and just want to preserve it for future generations. Whatever your reasons are for owning your forest, the KWOA is advocating for you and your neighbors. After you read this newsletter, please pass it along to one of your neighbors and encourage him or her to join the KWOA.

-- Frank Hicks, KWOA President



Rick Olsen, Mammoth Cave Park Ecologist, leads a hike to a woodland prescribed burn site. Courtesy: Jerry Brown

KWOA 2015 Foundation Award: Douglas McLaren

KWOA recognized Douglas J. McLaren, one of the original founders and continuing supporters of the association, for his service as secretary and as an Area Extension Specialist in Forestry with the University of Kentucky.

McLaren is also an active board member on the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee and the Kentucky Association of Environmental Educators. His articles have been published in *The Forestry Source* and the *Journal of Forestry*. He also served five years at the U.K. Robinson Station in Eastern Kentucky as a forestry instructor in the Forestry and Wood Technology Program.

Doug runs the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program whose week-long summer field program has positively impacted hundreds of high school students introducing them to all aspects of forestry.

His legacy will be the many foresters, forestry technicians and students he has touched and

influenced during a fruitful career. Doug retires in June of this year.



Doug McLaren receives KWOA 2015 Foundation Award from Henry Duncan and is commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by Rep. Mike Meredith. Courtesy: Jerry Brown

Cooperator Reports

Kentucky Division of Forestry – Leah MacSwords. The agency will be hiring new staff. Penalties collected through the new bad actor legislation (see KFIA update below) will go into the Forest Stewardship Incentives Fund.

Kentucky Forest Industries Association - Bob Bauer. More than 350 people attended the KFIA annual meeting. Prices for timber products improved last year. Buffalo Trace Distillery will double production next year and needs white oak for barrel staves. The 2015 Wood Expo will take place at Masterson Station Park in Lexington September 18-19.

On the legislative front:

1. Senate Bill 92 passed in the special session; effective July 1. A good portion of the legislation is related to timber theft. A good percentage of bad actors are in timber theft cases. (The Timber Theft Task Force bill did not pass.) Components of the bill include new logging contracts. Previously, the bad actor list didn't carry forward to new logging contracts. The new legislation addresses that with three additional items:
 - a. If a logger is on the bad actor list and hasn't paid fines or fixed the logging site, that logger will be required to notify KDF before beginning a new operation.
 - b. If a logger is on the list three or more times, that logger will have to the end of 2015 to pay fines, fix sites or, in January 2016, can be closed down; 27 loggers in this category owe \$300,000.
 - c. The law contains language enabling the state cabinet to "pierce the corporate veil" by requiring mills to report.The bill goes into effect the end of June; notification requirement goes into effect January 1, 2016.
2. Transportation issues for loggers: language requiring trucks over 26,000 pounds to obtain training and special license plates was removed.
3. The state tax credit for conservation easements for working forests will be re-introduced next session.

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Mark Ferguson. Jack Rentz, Frank Hicks and Jack Stickney met with NRCS on forestry and

water quality issues. Jerry Adam's (retired; former representative to KWOA) position will be posted soon and is expected to be filled in late summer. The position - State Technology Coordinator/Forestry Coordinator - will be a natural resources specialist.

In 2014 NRCS obligated 106 Forestland Initiative contracts for \$660,000 for forest management plans, brush management, herbaceous weed control, tree and shrub site preparation and forest stand tree improvement.

In the Southeast Kentucky Early Successional Habitat Initiative 25 contracts were let for \$181,000 for forest stand improvement and brush management.

EQIP implemented 300 conservation practices on over 47,000 acres totaling \$900,000 in financial assistance.

NRCS has eleven people certified to write Conservation Activity Plan 106 (Forest Management Plans) for the Technical Service Providers program. It seeks more individuals interested in certification. Contact Mark if interested - Mark.ferguson@ky.usda.gov; 859-224-7370.

Kentucky Agriculture Council - Steve Coleman. The council inaugurated the Leopold Conservation Award for Kentucky last year. (The award recognizes farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners actively committed to living the legacy of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold.) Ten states currently participate - CA, CO, KS, KY, NE, SD, TX, UT, WI and WY. (KWOA provides support for the Kentucky award.)

Kentucky Tree Farm Committee - Steve Gray. The National Tree Farm System will offer certification for tree farmers in 2019 (currently there is "recognition") but there will be a fee. The Kentucky program may have to pass the \$10 fee per farm on to landowners.

University of Kentucky Department of Forestry - Terrell "Red" Baker. The university's role in the future of forestry has three components:

1. Teaching - 65 students are enrolled in the forestry curriculum; 16 graduate this year.

The natural resources/environmental sciences curriculum association has 90 student members. There are 20 graduate students in the Forestry Department. It hopes to graduate 75 professionals in the next five years. The department appreciated the KWOA delegation visit to new Dean Cox. The Pete McNeill scholarship is \$3,000 shy of endowment. It will grant scholarships when activated.

2. Research efforts – have brought in more competitive research dollars. The department has more FTEs than any time in the last ten years. The Forest Health Center is a new initiative to address invasive pests and pathogens. Dr. Mike Lacki, one of the leading bat researchers in the US, is studying the effect of silviculture on bats and white nose syndrome.

3. Extension program – it is the “jack russell terrier” of the ag extension. Included in its economic studies is the current Agricultural Situation and Outlook Report which includes an Analysis of the Forest Industry’s Potential in Eastern Kentucky. It was submitted as a white paper to SOAR. The position occupied by Tom Barnes, who died earlier this year, will be filled by the end of the year. Doug McLaren will retire June 30 after 45 years with the department.



Rachel Landham, KWOA Forestry Student Scholarship winner, receives Kentucky House of Representatives Citation of Achievement from Rep. Mike Meredith. Rachel anticipates a forestry career that compliments not only the management of our national forests but better satisfies the increasing demand for forest products. She hopes it will reflect research, conservation practices, and sustainable forest commodities.

UK forestry students - Rachel Landham and Mark Vogt. Students participated in tree planting, seed collection, drafting a BMP manual and riparian prescription at Spindletop Farm. The entire spring semester will be spent conducting a field exercise at Robinson Forest and then on summer internships. The 480 Capstone Class was assigned an 80 acre land tract at Berea College for which it was to write a management plan for all facets of forestry. That project will be presented April 30th at Young Library.

Timber Sale Process

by Kraig Moore, ACF; President, Kentucky Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters; Owner, Land and Timber Realty LLC and Hagan Wonn, Forester, Kentucky Hardwood Lumber Co.; 2012 Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

Mr. Moore provided three guiding points for KWOA members when considering a timber harvest:

1. Know what you are selling in terms of volume and species
2. Mark individual trees (preferred) or do a sample cruise
3. Sell by one of these methods:
 - a. sealed bid - on good quality tracts with good species mix, good access and a decent contract length
 - b. negotiated price – for poorer quality tracts (low volume, access issues, storm damage) short length contract, unique circumstances; minimum volume is 2000 feet per acre and 240 board feet per tree
 - c. shares method (most common) – discouraged because of uncertainty until logging is done and logs are sold; logs can’t be tracked; encourages high grading.

Items to be included in a timber marketing agreement include:

- Contact info
- Deed book and page number
- Penalty for trees cut outside harvest area
- Best management practices
- Use of warming fires
- Workers compensation insurance or general liability clause
- Bonds – buyers tend to discount their bid by that amount

Contact: kraig@kentuckylandandtimber.com; 270-792-4018

Hunt Leases

by Stephen Ruckman, Merk Farms Hunting

A hunting lease is a written agreement between a landowner and a hunter. It spells out the duration, price and rules for the lease. The rules can specify which species can be hunted and in which seasons as well as the types of weapons, stands, camping and or vehicles allowed. Landowners should be informed about state laws and lease requirements.

Priorities for attractive hunting lands are:

- Ease of access
- Type, quality and slope of terrain
- Proximity to food and water
- Diversity of crops
- Diversity of huntable wildlife, including birds

Leases in the Kentucky area typically go for \$10-30 per acre. In addition, hunters can provide additional security for absentee landowners, control game that can damage timber seedlings and help maintain roads and gates.

Landowners should be sure hunters are aware of the types and schedule of farming operations taking place during each hunting season and the location of property boundaries or allowed hunting areas within a property. Landowners considering leasing their property for hunting are encouraged to review the Kentucky 2012 agritourism statute regarding landowner liability at: <http://www.kyagr.com/laws/documents/AgritourismLimitedLiabilityStatutes.pdf>

Utilizing a third party lease management service has advantages for landowners. These services can provide or advise on liability insurance, screen and limit potential hunters, market and prepare leases and provide a professional and legal buffer between the landowner and hunters.

Contact: Stephen Ruckman at 502-724-5314 or merkfarmshunting@gmail.com

Credits:

Newsletter editor – Karen Marshall
 Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association
 KWOA website – Karen Marshall

WOSC REGISTRATION

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 CD, 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:

Central Region	West Region	East Region
Franklin/Woodford counties	Christian County	Carter/Rowan counties
August 15	August 29	September 26
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

Information contact:

859.257.7597 or visit www.ukforestry.org



Forest-based Beekeeping

by Tammy Horn, Ph.D., Kentucky State Apiarist

Horn describes the bee industry as an economic tiger with five tails: honey production; wax production; queen bee production; pollination; and extension work. The demand for honey, wax, and bees far outweighs the supply, especially of local product. Horn believes Kentucky has the potential to fill the national honey supply disparity as well as gaps in other U.S. food production that are directly or indirectly affected by honey bees.

Dr. Horn has three top priorities for her position as state apiarist:

1. hive health
2. economic development
3. extension and outreach

The public thinks of honey in a jar; not on the flowers that provide it. One hive needs 252 million flowers.

A recent study by Penn State of agricultural chemicals in beeswax found that every bee is bringing in at least six different chemicals. U.S. agriculture operations are spraying fifteen times more Roundup than was applied ten years ago. In addition, many beekeepers are trying to avoid orchards as nectar sources for their bees because of the chemicals sprayed on the fruit trees.

As native wildflower habitats decrease and agricultural crops become a greater risk to bee health because of chemical applications, forest flowers are increasingly a vital source of nectar for bees. In Kentucky, forests have the flower potential needed to support a vibrant and healthy bee population. Indeed, Horn thinks that forests are the only way Kentucky can have sufficient forage for bees.

Get your bees to the trees

Early beekeepers kept bees in hollowed out gum trees. Now outlawed in the rest of the US, this method of beekeeping is still allowed in Kentucky. However, it is difficult to inspect hives and harvest honey.

Dr. Horn recommended planting trees, such as sourwood, that bloom (July/August) when others aren't. Sourwoods are Appalachian natives. Although they do not like to be transplanted, they multiply easily from runners. Witch hazel is another valuable nectar source because it blooms in November when most other flowers are gone. It is an under canopy plant that can thrive in a woodland setting.

Horn thinks the "new normal" for beekeepers will be to provide overlapping seasonal blooms as well as nectaries that produce at consecutive times of the day. Farmers should avoid spraying insecticides around nectar-producing plants

between 9 a.m. and 3p.m. In addition, bees will require supplemental feeding of both carbs and protein.

Tammy emphasized the importance of queen bee production and health. A queen needs to mate with males from 20 different hives to maintain genetic diversity.

Neonics and bee health

There has been considerable portrayal in the media lately about the potentially harmful role of neonicotinoid insecticides on bee health. Applied to soil or as a seed treatment, neonics were introduced in the late 1990s as a less toxic replacement for the mass spraying of pyrethroids and organophosphates which are highly toxic to bees. (Editor's note: Neonics incorporate into plant tissues, making them lethal to insects that bore into or feed on them. However, two recent studies have not found neonics expressed in plant pollen or nectar at levels potentially harmful to bees.)

Horn noted that neonicotinoids have been banned in Europe. Since the two-year moratorium went into place the end of 2013, farmers have returned to older aerial sprayed chemicals. She noted that a new neonic formulated for bee safety has recently been released.

About Tammy Horn and the apiarist office Dr. Horn joined the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as Kentucky's new state apiarist on June 1, 2014. Her duties include identifying and eradicating infectious diseases in Kentucky honey bee colonies, educating the non-beekeeping public about the importance of honey bees, and offering advice to beekeepers. She inspects hives by appointment, provides health certificates for the transport of Kentucky bees out of state, and speaks at beekeeping meetings and various other functions.

The 2014 Farm Bill directs the USDA to encourage farmers to protect pollinator habitat as part of voluntary conservation plans. Horn has partnered with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) with support from other state agencies and universities to create a viable forest-based bee industry.

Horn is the author of *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation* and *Beeconomy: What Women and Bees Can Teach Us About Local Trade and Global Markets*.

Contact: tammy.horn@ky.gov; <http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html>; 502-782-5909

Armstrong Wins Outstanding Forester Award

This year's recipient of KWOA's Outstanding Forester Award is Lisa Marie Armstrong, Senior Forester, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Central Region.

Lisa began working with the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) on September 16, 1990. At that time she was one of only two women foresters for the whole state. Since 2000, she has written more than 485 Forest Stewardship Plans and Forest Management Plans, covering more than 54,000 forest and field acres. She helped establish more than 577 acres of hardwood plantations, marked more than 955 acres of TSI, and marked more than 350 acres of timber that's been harvested. She has been a service forester (field forester) for a longer time period than any other woman in the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

KWOA is pleased to present the 2015 Outstanding Forester Award to Lisa at its 2015 annual meeting.



Lisa Marie Armstrong, Senior Forester; Kentucky Division of Forestry, Central Region accepts the KWOA 2015 Outstanding Forester Award from Portia and Jerry Brown.

“Foresters spend a lot of time marking trees. But, as woodland owners, you are making your mark everywhere in improving the stewardship and management of Kentucky’s woodlands.”

-- KWOA 2015 Outstanding Forester, Lisa Marie Armstrong

Calendar of Events

June 12-14, 2015

Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards Program

UK Robinson Forest, Breathitt County

www.ukforestry.org

August 15, 2015

Central Woodland Owners Short Course
Franklin/Woodford Counties

INFO: 859.257.7597 or www.ukforestry.org

August 20, 2015

KWOA quarterly board meeting
KFIA office, 106 Progress Drive, Frankfort

August 29, 2015

West Woodland Owners Short Course
Christian County



INFO: 859.257.7597 or www.ukforestry.org

September 18-19, 2015

Wood Expo, Masterson Station Park,
Lexington

<http://kfia.org/KentuckyWoodExpo.aspx>

September 26, 2015

East Woodland Owners Short Course
Carter/Rowan counties

INFO: 859.257.7597 or
www.ukforestry.org

November 19, 2015

KWOA quarterly board meeting
KFIA office, 106 Progress Drive,
Frankfort

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o KFIA
106 Progress Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

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Next Board Meeting: August 20, 2015 - 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.

Karen Marshall, Editor
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
3740 Hwy 330
Owenton, KY 40359