



KWOA Members Introduced to New HealthyWoods App and More at 2020 Annual Meeting Webinar



Ellen Crocker, Assistant Professor, Forest Health UK Forestry Extension walked webinar viewers through **HealthyWoods** (healthywoodsapp.org), a new mobile app that provides woodland owners with a convenient tool to scout the health of their woods. A collaborative effort between forest specialists from Kentucky and other hardwood-producing states in the Appalachian region, the app makes receiving research-based

woodland management information as easy as reaching for the phone.

Users answer a series of questions and can upload pictures from their phones. Questions deal with such things as how the canopy looks, how healthy the trees are, what the understory looks like and whether invasive species are present.

After completing the questions, the user immediately receives a report geared to their management goals, whether that's timber production, recreation or attracting wildlife. It also provides contact information, if the owner wants to bring in a professional to help guide management. The user can save the report as a PDF that can then be emailed.

Crocker hopes the app will function as a good starting-off point for extension agents and professional foresters who are working with woodland owners. "We hope that this new tool will be a way for landowners to set their woodlands up for success in the long-term."

HealthyWoods is available for free for iPhone and Android devices.

In other KWOA business....

- Jerry Brown, Treasurer, took over the books in October 2019, set up an account on QuickBooks and changed post address from Maysville to Frankfort. He set up a data base for memberships and donations that is compatible with the FlipCause, the new website administrator.
- Portia Brown, Vice President, updated members on the association's communications team, website, newsletter and Wood Post.

The virtual meeting attendees were also introduced to **Dr. Jacob Muller, new Assistant Professor of Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations.** Muller joined the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the spring 2020 semester.

His extension and teaching interests include the development of continuing education programs for woodland owners and natural resource professionals. He is also interested in helping to develop and advance educational tools to better inform landowners of current and future management challenges.

Brandon Howard, the new Kentucky Division of Forestry Director, introduced himself to viewers.

He is a 16-year veteran with KDF in the areas of fire suppression and environmental control.

Several people were recognized for their contributions to KWOA and woodland owners:

- Marla Jackson who served as accountant for many years
- Jerry Brown for his work updating and upgrading membership and financial records
- Jimmy Sizemore for his service with the Kentucky Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation
- Steve Gabbard, recipient of this year's Outstanding Service Forester award
- Ray Madden, UK forestry student recipient of KWOA's student scholarship



A Message From Your President

What else is there to say? Well,.....

It was a year ago that our "normal" began to change. We began hearing the terms of Covid-19 and pandemic. It was quickly evident that our lives, all of our lives, were about to change. We just didn't recognize the dynamics and scope of it. Quickly our routines of family visitation and our traditional day to day routines would become drastically altered, and in many cases cancelled.

As summer approached, education throughout the country that had been put on "hold" during the spring was again extended into a virtual learning environment. Zoom, a term that I learned so many years ago meaning, "moving very fast", became interpreted to mean a virtual meeting location on a computer. The process of holding meetings and educational programs initially slowed to a snail's pace while we learned how to "share our screens, mute and un-mute, and how to adjust our backgrounds". We even learned to alter our backgrounds making it look like we were sitting on some exotic beach while we were actually sitting in an undisclosed corner of our homes.

Who would have ever thought that our homes would be our work location for what was to become a yearlong experience. Now everyone has some insight into our home furnishings. Early setups of the computer video camera has introduced me to every ceiling fan

option that the market provides. More recently the video views have improved allowing viewers to focus on our book shelves of our personal home libraries.

Everything, it seems, has been "put on hold" during the past year. Everything except our woodlands and the work of KWOA. Our woodlands have leafed out and grown during the past summer, and getting ready to bloom again. The expanded growth of our woodlands, both vertically and horizontally, over this period of time has gone unnoticed as it had in "normal times". Our management plans that were developed some years ago still provide a charted course for our woodlands. Cost share practices for our woodlands are still providing those needed improvements to areas of need. All we need to do is stop and take some "measurements" and we will quickly see that the improvements and growth designed for our woodlands have continued.

As President of the Kentucky Woodlands Owners Association, I have also seen a continued effort to keep our membership engaged and informed. Woodland management information comes from all directions from the countless network partners that we have come to appreciate in recent years. I appreciate this flow of needed information and also the continued efforts of the KWOA "communications team" that has taken these valuable works of management information from these talented network folks,

and then send it to the KWOA membership through our Wood Post and KWOA website postings in a timely manner.

What else is there to say? Well, thanks to all that are involved in woodland management here in Kentucky. We appreciate your continued efforts in these trying times. I do hope that as you read this newsletter in the early days of 2021 you and your families have been safe. I do hope that when the weather breaks you will take time to visit your woodlands and appreciate their diversified values. I feel the experiences of being physically in Kentucky woodlands will provide a "recharge" to you until we will have the opportunity to see one another face-to-face again.

Thanks to all,
-- **Doug McLaren,**
KWOA/KWOF President



Leopold Conservation Award 2021

- Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it. They exemplify the spirit of Leopold's land ethic.
- In Kentucky, Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with American Farmland Trust, and state partners: Kentucky Agricultural Council and Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award.
- Criteria include: *Conservation Ethic; Resilience; Leadership and Communication; Innovation and Adaptability; Ecological Community; Water Management*
- **Application Deadline: April 1, 2021**
- Application can be accessed [here](#)



Yes, I want to join KWOA!

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1201, Frankfort, KY 40602

| info@kwoa.net

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

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, or you may mail this form with your check.

Annual Membership and Donation Options	Dues	Amount Enclosed
KWOA Basic 1-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color email delivery Newsletter PDF	\$35.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA (National Woodland Owners Association) 1-year Membership (optional add on). By adding NWOA you will receive the <i>National Woodland</i> quarterly newsletter & woodland report in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	\$65.00	\$ _____
KWOA Basic 3-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color email delivery Newsletter PDF	\$100.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA Basic 3-year \$190.00: Includes the optional NWOA membership in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	\$190.00	\$ _____
KWOF Contribution: 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.	Any Amount	\$ _____
KWOA Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to help with operating expenses, such as bookkeeping, communication, programming, advocacy, and educational expenses.	Any Amount	\$ _____
Black & White Hard-copy Newsletter: Upcharge to cover expenses. \$5.00 for one year or \$15.00 for 3 years.	\$5.00 or \$15.00	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

GENERAL INFO

- Dues Run Jan 1 - Dec 31 and apply to the entire household or business entity.
- **KWOA:** Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) dues are not a charitable contribution; however, dues might be considered a business expense in some circumstances (ask your accountant).
- **KWOF:** Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOF) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Support of KWOF is fully deductible as a charitable contribution. As indicated, part of your dues support KWOF
- **NWOA:** National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA), a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization <http://woodlandowners.org/>
- KWOA needs you and your family to be actively involved in the organization | Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee or letting us know how you can help us realize our mission. Email us at info@kwoa.net to get involved.

Hugh Archer Champions Forest Networks at Home and Abroad

Hugh Archer still lives in the geodesic dome he helped build on his farm in Anderson County in the 1970's. He still hasn't cut the 130-year-old tract of towering white oaks. But he long ago gave up the cows, sheep and goats that comprised a "failed farmer" venture. The Australian Shepherd puppies were, however, a money-maker as is the mixed hardwood forest on his farm - if the euonymus and bush honeysuckle don't overtake it. Recently retired from the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, Archer says he is a certified tree farmer. Just gotta get around to the invasives removal.

A law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1976 and bar certification in three states has provided credentials for many types of employment in his long career off the farm. Archer worked for Plan Graphics in the 1980s-90s doing environmental regulation and consulting in 43 states and three Canadian provinces. From there the professional positions he held include lobbyist for the Kentucky Conservation Committee, Director of the Kentucky River Authority and Chairman of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves, Director of the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, member of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board, and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources until he was removed by Governor Ernie Fletcher.

Hugh still serves on an average of five to six boards at any one time where he tries to be a lateral facilitator among a range of natural resource conservation NGOs. He has been a long-time board director for KWOA. He calculates that during his long career he has overseen more than 300 land projects. This includes more than 50,000 acres purchased for KNLT, mostly on Pine Mountain. He has worked on many of the projects featured in Tom Barnes' book *Kentucky's Last Great Places* (The University of Kentucky Press, 2002). As Hugh expresses it, "cockroaches don't invent corporations."

At the time of his recent retirement from KNLT after 25 years as a founder, former director and staff member, the Trust has twenty active projects in the pipeline. (See the tribute to Hugh, "Thinking Like a Planet" on the KNLT website: <https://knlt.org/blog/>)

[thinking-like-a-planet/](#). Hugh was recently awarded the Forest Advocate Award by the Old Growth Forest Network. He notes how thirty years ago the idea of forest symbioses among trees, fungi, insects, etc. was too often considered a spiritual concept. New scientific findings are proving that it's a whole system. (See the December 2, 2020 article, "The Social Life of Forests" in *The New York Times Magazine*.)

KNLT recently protected an additional 1,368 acres on Pine Mountain near Cumberland, Kentucky, establishing the Warbler Ridge Preserve. The Trust is continuing to work with Greg Kuhns, a KWOA director-at-large and former officer, on a training app for landowners. Archer and Kuhns have also been instrumental in Bernheim Forest and Fort Knox corridors.

Archer sees KWOA as an extremely necessary liaison between government and private sectors. He is concerned about insufficient future involvement by younger generations, fracturing of the remaining forest blocks by so many competing interests and views of best land use. But in the end he believes water is worth more than coal, and economics of "highest and best use" may work for us in the future.

Still in the game, Hugh plans to be involved in the Eastern Wildways Network which provides a vision of a migratory corridor from Florida to Nova Scotia. He will promote a new project funded by State Heritage funds matched to Land and Water Conservation Funds which were appropriated last year by Congress. He will also work for the Southern Conservation Partnership to serve as a fiduciary for multi-state projects.

Back on the farm Hugh relaxes with his dogs, a wood burning stove and some serious culinary endeavors. He says keeping up with ever-changing internet and other technologies is too much effort although he likes the ignition chip in his new Stihl chainsaw.

And yes, he has provided for the future of his farm. Its 100 acres of forest and 40 acres of fields are uniquely located on a watershed break between the Salt and Kentucky Rivers. He has left it to KNLT.

2021 Calendar of Events



Mississippi River Basin Virtual Shop Talk Events

Feb. 17 - Rethinking on-farm nutrient use and management
March 3 - On-farm trials
March 17 - Farmer-to-farmer perspectives

Ohio River Valley Woodlands and Wildlife Workshop

March 27, 9A - 3P
tristatewoods.ca.uky.edu/

KFIA Annual meeting

April 6-8
Embassy Suites Lexington
<https://www.kfia.org>

KWOA Quarterly Board Meetings

February 18, May 13,
September 29

Cooperator Profile: Kentucky Natural Lands Trust



Since 1995, Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT) has worked to protect, connect and restore wildlands. Through the power of partnership, we have safeguarded over 50,000 acres of forest and grasslands, from the mountains of Central Appalachia to the sloughs of the Mississippi River. These wild spaces protect biodiversity, enhance regional resilience to climate change and are vital to the economic, cultural and public health of local communities.

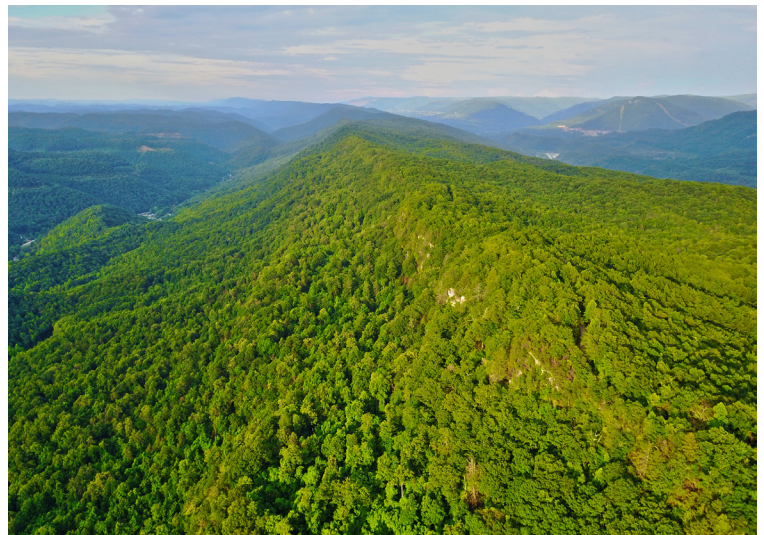
Our large landscape conservation efforts represent a matrix of public and private conservation lands paired with improved forest management by private landowners. KNLT's conservation efforts depend upon partners, and we greatly value our connection with KWOA and its members. KNLT is a longtime member of KWOA and Hugh Archer, KNLT founder and former director, has been a KWOA board member for many years.

KNLT Establishes the Warbler Ridge Preserve on Pine Mountain

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT) protected an additional 1,368 acres on Pine Mountain near Cumberland, Kentucky, establishing the Warbler Ridge Preserve. The preserve combines this newly acquired tract with land protected in 2017, creating the Trust's largest preserve totaling 2,456 acres.

This project builds upon the Trust's 25-year history of working to protect Pine Mountain, a biologically diverse and climate resilient landscape that is important to local, regional and global communities. Pine Mountain is a 180,000-acre wildlands corridor running from Tennessee through Kentucky to Virginia. The preserve protects the headwaters of several tributaries to Kentucky and Cumberland rivers whose waters flow into the Ohio River forming the fourth-largest watershed on the planet.

Warbler Ridge Preserve on Pine Mountain, KNLT's 2,456-acre preserve in Harlan and Letcher Counties.



Book Review - New York Times The Social Life of Trees



In case you missed it, KWOA's Suggested Reading series has previously included *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben and *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. Trees are connected through their root systems in what Wohlleben terms the "wood wide web" of soil fungi that exchange nutrients and help sickly neighbors. Another forest ecologist - Suzanne Simard, University of British Columbia - is referenced extensively in Wohlleben's book. Simard was also a key inspiration for a central character in *The Overstory*. See the KWOA review of both books at KWOA.net/publications.

A New York Times Magazine December 2, 2020 article, *The Social Life of Trees*, revisits the hypothesis that trees appear to communicate and cooperate through subterranean networks of fungi. According to scientific studies presented by Simard, "Seedlings severed from the forest's underground lifelines are much more likely to die than their networked counterparts. And if a tree is on the brink of death, it sometimes bequeaths a substantial share of its carbon to its neighbors."

Read more: [The Social Life of Forests - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com)

Survey Highlights Importance of Kentucky Family Woodland Owners

by Emma Sass and Brett Butler

Forests provide benefits at local, regional, and global scales. Families and individuals own more wooded land than any other group in the U.S., and their decisions about how to manage and care for their land have broad impacts. Understanding these woodland owners in Kentucky, including what they do with their land and why, and what their challenges and needs are, is important to help support healthy forests and vibrant communities now and into the future.

Here, we use “woodland” as a broad term to include woods, woodlots, timberlands, and forests – any patch of trees that’s more than one acre in size. Families and individuals who own wooded land – collectively, “family woodland owners,” can be one person, a joint ownership of spouses or other individuals, family partnerships, family LLCs or LLPs, and family trusts or estates. We use “ownerships” to refer to all the owners of a piece of woodland.

To better understand family woodland owners, the USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS). The survey asks landowners about who they are, why they own their wooded land, what they have done with it in the past, and what do they intend to do with it in the future. Below we present results from 181 randomly selected Kentucky woodland ownerships with 1+ acres who responded to the survey in 2017 and 2018.

Family Woodland Owners Count!

An estimated 8.8 million acres of wooded land in Kentucky are owned by an estimated 410,000 family ownerships. Family ownerships control 71% of Kentucky’s wooded land, more than any other ownership group, including the state or federal government or forest industry.

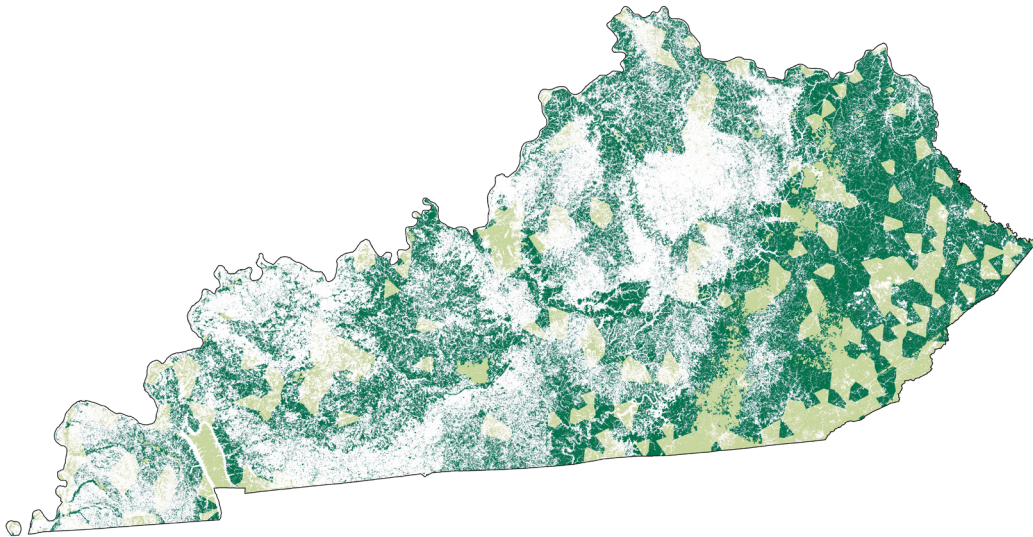
Size of Holdings Makes a Big Difference

The average wooded land ownership (with 1+ acres) in Kentucky has 22 acres of wooded land. 67% of the ownerships have relatively small holdings between 1-9 acres, but 48% of the area of wooded land is owned by ownerships with 100 acres or more. This is important because size of holdings limits what an ownership can do with their land, such as timber harvesting, wildfire protection, or control of invasive species, and often impacts what programs they are eligible for. Because of the increased management options, program involvement, and other dynamics of larger ownerships, all following results are for family woodland owners with 10 or more acres.

Beauty, Wildlife, and Nature are What Matter

The most commonly cited reasons for owning woodland in Kentucky are related to the beauty and privacy the wooded land provides as well as protecting wildlife habitat. The goal of passing land onto future generations and land investment is also important to many owners. Hunting and other recreation is highly regarded as an important reason for owning wooded land in Kentucky.

-
- Families and individuals own 71% of Kentucky’s wooded land
 - Most own their wooded land for beauty, privacy, and nature
 - 81% of family woodland owners want their wooded land to stay wooded
 - A third have cut trees for their own use, and one in eight have cut trees for sale in the past five years
 - A small percentage have a management plan or have received advice about their wooded land in the past five years
-



Map of Woodland Ownership

- Family Woodland
- Other Woodland
- Non-Woodland

Data source: USDA Forest Service.

They Love Their Land

Most family forest owners in Kentucky have a deep love of their land. The vast majority of owners, 81%, agree or strongly agree with the statement “I want my wooded land to stay wooded.” 73% of owners strongly agree that they have an emotional tie to their wooded land, and 78% say they know their wooded land well.

Management

In the past five years, around one in eight (12%) family woodland owners have cut or removed trees for sale, and one in three (33%) have cut trees for their own use. 20% have improved wildlife habitat, and 15% have reduced invasive plants. Only 3% have a written management plan and 6% have received woodland management advice in the previous five years.

They are Older

The average age of primary decision makers for family-owned woodland in Kentucky is 64 years. 17% of acres are owned by people who plan to transfer some or all of their wooded land in the next five years, and a majority of ownerships (57%) are worried about keeping the land intact for future generations. 73% of primary decision makers are male.

Conclusions

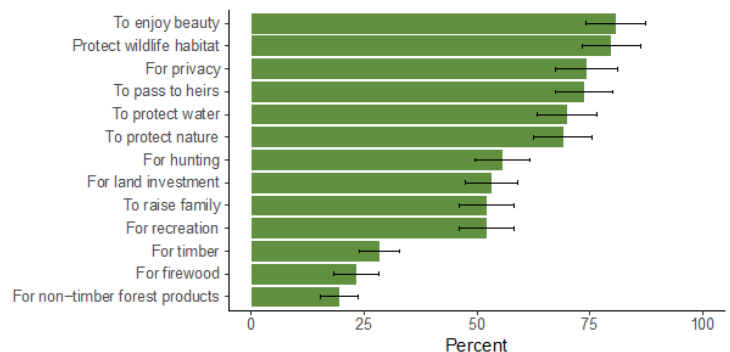
Woodland conservation and management depend on the people who own it – in Kentucky, most of these acres are held by individuals and families. Owners care about and manage their wooded land, but often the traditional forms of engagement, such as having a management plan or working with a professional, are not widely used. Understanding the threats to the land – including the loss of forest through development, parcelization, invasive plants, disease, and insects, and other issues – is critical for conservation efforts. Using a common language and designing policies and programs that meet the needs of landowners and professionals will have a

major impact on the current and future owners and the vital lands that they own.

For more results, visit the USDA Forest Service’s National Woodland Owner Survey website at www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos. To learn more about the services and resources available to woodland owners in your state, contact your local forestry agency or association.

Emma Sass is a Research Fellow with the Family Forest Research Center and University of Massachusetts Amherst. Brett Butler is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and Family Forest Research Center.

Reasons For Owning Wooded Land



Percent of Kentucky woodland ownerships who rate each objective as important or very important. Error bars represent 68% confidence interval.

Data source: [USDA Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos).

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602

DIRECTORS

NORTH ZONE

Steve Perry, Henry
Hugh Archer, Anderson
C. Michael Rich, Madison

EAST ZONE

Rodney Bruce, Greenup
Jack Stickney, Estill
Jimmie Sizemore, Clay

CENTRAL ZONE

Harry Pelle, Taylor
Henry Duncan, Woodford
Scott Taylor, Marion

WEST ZONE

Brian Barnes, Caldwell
James Vincent, Henderson
Dr. Lanny Copeland, Warren

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

L.D. "Joe" Ball, Pulaski
Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns, Jefferson
Dr. Jim Corum, Harlan

OFFICERS

President - Doug McLaren, Versailles
Vice President - Portia Brown, Louisville
Secretary - Jack Rentz, Wallingford
Treasurer - Jerry Brown, Louisville
Past President - Frank Hicks, Winchester

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome submission of articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter subject to review and approval by the executive committee. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Karen Marshall, editor@kwoa.net
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602