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KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Thanks for Making the 2022 Annual Meeting a Reality

Coordination, flexibility and patience might best describe the resources that made KWOA's in-person annual meeting a reality on March 28-30. The enthusiasm and attentiveness of those who managed and those who attended the annual meeting was evident throughout the three days of wildlife-themed tours and presentations in Frankfort. A re-cap of the meeting sessions is forthcoming on the website and in the summer newsletter.

Thanks to Steve Perry who took the lead from his new residence in Texas on logistics and presenters. Unable to attend in person, Steve was ably assisted by Jerry Brown, KWOA treasurer, in seeing that conference providers were compensated and on-site events coordinated. Frank Hicks staffed registration for the event. Jimmie Sizemore managed the silent auction and raffle. Items that were donated by Jimmie, Lanny Copeland, Harry and Karen Pelle, Jerry and Portia Brown, and Jaimie Corum. The social hour was ably supplied with refreshments thanks to Scott and Marie Taylor and Harry and Karen Pelle.

Portia Brown provided hands-on contact with new and returning members as well as thoughtful questions and input during the sessions from her considerable experience with wildlife habitat on their family forest.

Doug McLaren kept the program moving as he adapted to speaker changes while entertaining attendees with the anecdotes and observations for which he is well-known and fearless. Billy Thomas, UK Forestry Extension, quietly and ably staffed Tuesday's audiovisual equipment and Power Point presentation at the Inn that greatly expedited attendee comprehension of a wide range of concepts and processes. Henry Duncan bird dogged the nomination of and award to Kyle Magee for KWOA's annual service forester recognition. With assistance from Jack Rentz and Greg Kuhns, Henry identified, recruited and oriented new directors for the association and foundation boards.

Catering was provided by Family Affair Restaurant and Catering in Salvisa with good-willed adaptation to changing headcounts as the meeting progressed.

Thanks to the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery for a tour of its facility on March 28 and to the Salato Wildlife Center for opening its doors to tours, meeting presentations and lunch on March 29.

Finally, and most of all, KWOA appreciates the time, effort and expertise of the many presenters who provided information, incentives and explanations on a range of wildlife-related topics for attendees.

*Photograph by Portia Brown, Spring
Wildflowers in the Great Smoky Mountain
National Park*

A Message From Your President

Back to Normal

Back to normal. This statement can be followed either with the punctuation of a question mark or simply a period. The statement ending with the question mark leaves room for doubt where the period at the end simply makes a statement. I would like to take a few minutes to discuss both alternatives as related to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) during the past two years.

If this statement "back to normal" would have been posed to me two years ago, at the beginning of the COVID 19 crisis, I would have questioned KWOA's struggle to get through the problematic period of time we were then approaching. Concern about membership, ongoing expenses, and communications were high on the priority of concerns.

But do remember the most recent 148th running of the Kentucky Derby. This one race enlightened my hope that there is nothing safe in a "sure bet" no matter how well the concern is explained. Looking back on the previous two years, KWOA has been very fortunate. During those two years the trees continued to grow, as did KWOA's work.

Since early 2020, KWOA has continued to find new ways to keep our membership informed as to important issues that were critical to the management of the forest industry. Kentucky recognition

programs such as the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the year and Leopold winners were nominated and recognized bringing the announcements by way of zoom to celebrate those winners.

KWOA leadership stepped up quickly and created the Wood Post that brought important membership needs, concerns, and issues to the woodland owner in a very timely manner. Our partners of KWOA, so very diversified throughout the state, continued with their work and KWOA, through the Wood Post, funneled materials out in a timely manner.

KWOA held annual meetings and special topic programs throughout this period by way of zoom, again informing and maintaining connections with fellow woodland owners. KWOA membership increased during this period. During the latest legislative session, one of KWOA members and former president, Jim Corum, continued working with the legislative body to see that KY HJR41 which was a joint resolution was a success directing the Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to recommend equitable property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests.

I take this time in this issue to thank all the folks that stepped up and gave extra effort to keep KWOA alive and well during the past two years. KWOA made the decision to hold a face-to-face 2022 annual meeting in

Frankfort several months ago with successful results. KWOA continues to meet in our quarterly board meetings to again focus on not what was done but most importantly taking what lessons we learned and improve upon them for future direction and programming.

Yes, KWOA is back to normal! Most emphatically. Thank you again to all those that helped maintain KWOA while we were missing that opportunity to be together discussing woodland management face-to-face. If you are not a member and wish to be part of this increasingly important tool for your management objectives in your woodlands, please consider joining. For those of you that are members, thank you for your continued support.

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



2022 Calendar of Events



From The Woods Today

May 18 | 11 am
Guest presentation by KWOA President
Doug McLaren
<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/woods-today>

KY Master Logger 3-Day Program

May 24 - 26 | 8 am - 4:30 pm
Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service

<https://masterlogger.ca.uky.edu/3-day-program>

KWOA Board Meetings

Aug. 11, Nov. 10 | 10 am EST
KFIA Office, Frankfort
-Officers and board may attend in-person or
virtually via Zoom or Owl

Woodland Owners Short Course

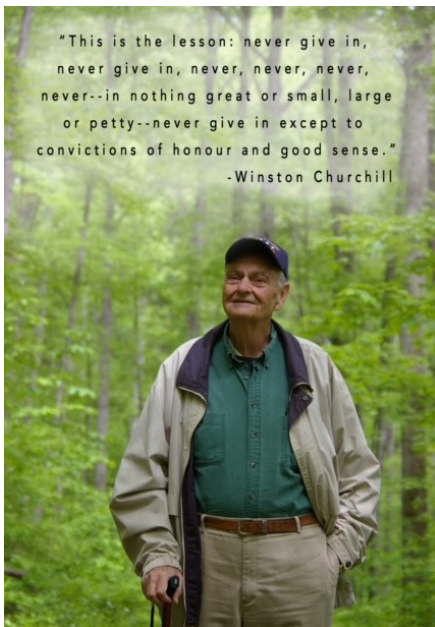
Online Sessions (7-8:30 pm EST):
-July 19 -July 21
-July 26 -July 28

In-Person Site Visits:

-August 6: Pennyryle State Forest
-August 13: Berea College Forest
<https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/>

HJR 41 Scores in Legislature March Madness

Submitted by Karen Marshall, newsletter editor



Courtesy of Jaime Corum

The UK Wildcats did not survive March Madness for their NCAA championship bid. But woodlands-related legislation passed smoothly through the 2022 Kentucky legislative session. Initially conceived by Dr. Jim Corum, KWOA Director at Large (Harlan County), House Joint Resolution 41 has been 20 years in the making. HJR 41 directs the Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to recommend equitable property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests. The resolution was introduced to the legislature by Representative Adam Bowling, District 87 (Bell and Harlan counties).

The resolution went before the House Agriculture Committee on March 9. Lane Boldman, Kentucky Conservation Commission, provided guidance for KWOA regarding the legislative process. Jaime Corum assisted her father in providing updates on its progress. Portia Brown, KWOA Vice President, sent special editions of the association's Wood Post email blast urging members to contact legislators in support of the resolution. Dr. Jeff Stringer, Chairman, UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, attended the committee meeting as Rep. Bowling's guest to field questions from legislators. HJR 41 passed the committee by unanimous consent of the members present.

The resolution went before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy in a similar procedure on March 23. It was favorably reported and sent to the Governor's desk for signature. Governor Beshear signed it on April 8.

HJR 41 directs the Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2022, detailing their recommendations for equitable property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests.

Thanks and congratulations to the many players who stepped to the floor to score this win for woodland owners. KWOA looks forward to reporting on its recommendations in the future.

KWOA Directors and Partners Recognized for Their Contributions to Forestry

Dr. Jim Corum of Stoney Fork received the Herman Bagganstoss Recognition Award, "... for an individual's contributions to forestry beyond the demands of their regular employment" at the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters winter meeting. Corum has continued five generations of woodland ownership and management in southeast Kentucky on the family property focusing on multi-resource planning of high-quality timber, protection of water quality and wildlife habitat. He has been a long-time KWOA board member.

The Education Committee of the KTSAF also awarded a financial scholarship to Christopher Michael (Mike) Rich, forestry student at the University of Kentucky. Rich has worked with the Fire Cats for three years and hopes to begin a new career following graduation in silviculture, prescribed fire and habitat restoration. He is a KWOA board member and contributing author for its newsletter and website.

From the Woods Today, www.FromTheWoodsToday.com, a weekly webcast from the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, won a national award for exemplary educational programming responses to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. The National Woodland Owners Association and the National Association of Forest Resources Programs created the Individual Project Award to recognize shows that furthered forestry education during the pandemic.

Congratulations to the webcast co-hosts Renee' Williams, UK senior information specialist and Billy Thomas, extension forester. The webcast aired its 100th episode in April!



In Their Own Woods Sketch - James "Greg" Kuhns



Head waters of Crooked Creek on Crooked Creek Farm

Maple Gate/ Crooked Creek Farms ensure preservation through youth, state forest and educational programs

Submitted by James "Greg" Kuhns, Sr., M.D.

Maple Gate/Crooked Creek Farms have been in my family for over a hundred years. My grandfather Judge James P. Gregory loved to hunt and bought the first tract in the late 1890's. From there the farm grew to about 3,000 acres of woods and fields. My aunt and uncle managed the farm from the depression until 1990 when my sister and I inherited it.

As the son of a career army doctor we moved often but returned frequently to Kentucky and home was the farm. I spent many summers on the farm enjoying the woods and helping with the chores. Along with the farm, my experience with the scouts created a real respect for conservation. It is with this ethic we have tried to manage the forest and the fields.

My timber management goal has been to improve the stands of trees that have been high graded where the harvest had been to take the best and leave the lesser or deformed trees. This improvement, I think, has happened as much as is practical.

Our intention was to preserve the forest and land from development and use it as demonstration areas of forest

and wild land management. With this in mind, and facing the potential legacy of 14 heirs, we sought possible successor owners. While my aunt was alive we sold about 700 acres to the scouts, who have developed an excellent facility serving many young people year around.

With the help of Steve Gray, the Kentucky Division of Forestry service forester, and the support of Hugh Archer, Eric Gracey and Bill Martin, funds were obtained through the USDA Forest Legacy Program and the Kentucky Heritage Land Trust to purchase about 1,100 acres to form Knobs State Forest. An approximately additional 500 acres was added more recently. My goal of the forest being used as an educational site came true with programs of red maple suppression, poplar stand thinning, dendrology, logging best practices, and water quality testing with field days and workshops using Salt River Watershed Watch and UK Extension instructors.

In addition, these programs also continued on our own farms. In 1999 the American Tree Farm System held their annual field day with over 400 people from all over the US and other countries attending the workshops and demonstrations held on Crooked Creek Farm.

Some of our ongoing projects and practices have been enhancing the wildlife environment with field plantings of native grasses, preserving fence rows, pollinator forbs plantings with NRCS grants, timber stand improvement, as well as fencing cattle out of the streams, monarch butterfly way stations and breeding grounds with plantings of milk weed, patch cutting to enhance white oak regeneration. More recently has been the filming of a virtual workshop to demonstrate water quality testing and monitoring, tree planting, passive riparian buffer establishment, and invasive honeysuckle control. This was produced by Amanda Gumbert, water quality specialist, University of Kentucky Extension.

These activities were recognized with the awards of Tree Farm of the Year for Kentucky by the American Tree Farm System and Land Owner of the Year by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department.

None of this would have been possible without the support of Hugh Archer, former Commissioner of the Division of Natural Resources, as well as such dedicated foresters as Steve Gray, Robert Bean, Billy Thomas, Dick Brantigan and Sean Godbold. Many thanks to the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, whose guidance in land management and preservation was very helpful. And finally, thanks to my sister and co-owner who supported these activities and programs, Anne Kuhns Van der Steur.

Partner Profile: American Chestnut Foundation - Kentucky Chapter

The American Chestnut Foundation collaborates with numerous universities, researcher institutions and others including sixteen different state chapters. Our state chapter here in Kentucky is very active with much of our efforts devoted to identifying the location of existing wild American chestnuts and the establishment of what are known as germplasm conservation orchards. If anyone is interested in learning more about American chestnuts or in getting involved in restoration efforts, go to the web page for the American Chestnut Foundation, at www.acf.org or connect with the Kentucky Chapter at <https://acf.org/ky/contact-us/chapter-information> or on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

Kentucky's woods still have lots of American chestnuts existing mainly as stump sprouts. It is very important that we identify these. There is a lot of diversity within the species and successful restoration depends on the retention of that diversity. All woodland owners, regardless of where you are in the state, are encouraged to get out in your woods and look for these. If you find one,

there is an App called TreeSnap (TreeSnap.org) that you can use to record its location. You can also download a form from the American Chestnut Foundation website to record the location. If you find a tree and aren't sure if it is an American chestnut, contact Jimmie Sizemore or another member of the Kentucky chapter and they will be happy to assist you. Call or text Jimmie at 606-813-1885 or email him at tucmdr2@yahoo.com.

WRUS Radio Hosts KWOA Guests on American Chestnut Restoration

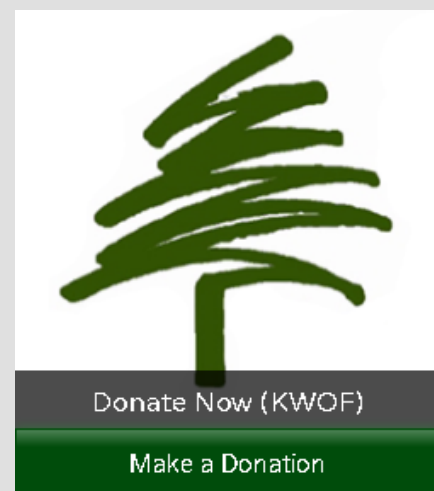
KWOA board members Henry Duncan and Jimmie Sizemore were the featured guests on the April 27th broadcast of WRUS radio *Feedback with Don Neagle*. Henry's ancestors owned forests in Logan County, home of WRUS radio 610 AM, Russellville. The hour aired a lively interchange on the history and demise of the American Chestnut. Jimmie described the three-pronged approach to its restoration by The American Chestnut Foundation (read more at ACF.org). Listen to the one-hour broadcast by going to the April 27 Podcast on the WRUS website at <https://streamdb3web.securenetsystems.net/cirrusencore/WRUSAM>.



Jimmie is active in the Kentucky Chapter of ACF. Its president is Ken Darnel. See the Partner Profile about ACF-KY in this newsletter for information about getting involved in American Chestnut identification and restoration.

Help Support Us

Woodland Owners join together to improve forest management science, services, education and law. Your contribution will make sure that mission has the resources it needs to be successful.



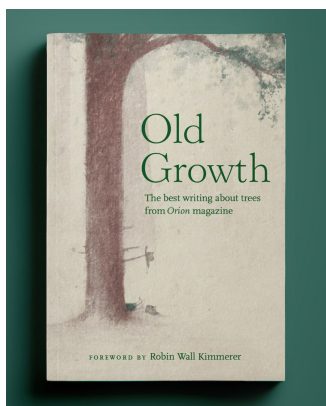
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<https://www.kwoa.net/donate>

Suggested Reading: Old Growth



Old Growth

The best writing about trees from Orion magazine 2021.

Orion Magazine, Northampton, MA, 2021, 215 pages

Book review submitted by Karen Marshall

Old Growth balances science and metaphor in its stories and poems written from the perspectives of humans and of trees about how both can evolve. The book's subtitle - *The best writing about trees from Orion magazine* - backs the claim with articles and poems since 1982 by a trove of heavy-hitters in the conservation and preservation fields as well as authors new to many of us. Basic scientific explanations alternate with poignant and personal stories that will send the reader looking for more (and there's much more) in the authors words and deeds.

Old Growth explores competing scenarios and theories on forest management, or its absence. Do we continue to try to preserve endangered species by the captive breeding of "conservation-reliant species"

(p. 131) when their natural habitats have been destroyed - "an ark with no gangplank" (p. 191) as one author expressed it? Do we follow a policy of nonintervention in pristine areas that will still evolve in unpredictable ways? Or do we practice "assisted migration" that has its own perils for the new habitat by the introduction of non-native species and the unknowns of climate change even with the best of intentions. All of the above can also be used to justify continued destruction of existing habitat.

"The more we destroy the forests, the more we turn into separatists, strangers in our own home. We lose our way, because an age where all things are expendable makes it increasingly hard to identify what it is we need. You cannot follow trees if they are not in you, but only in your way."
The Autumn Trees, pp. 91-92.

A final contention in the book is that ecological restoration must not focus on a gilded landscape based on a more or less stable point in the past (*To Take Wilderness in Hand* (pp. 202-203)). Instead, conservationists need to husband conditions such as fires, floods and behaviors that change clogged or absent natural processes. In her Foreword to the collection Robin Wall Kimmerer describes the book as essays "of interspecies relationships of an arboreal kind" that "embody the idea that it is not enough to eulogize the nearly lost; we must try to bring them back".

Wood Not You Know It?

KWOA launches new word riddle series for fun and enlightenment

How many times has terminology in your woodlands management plan furrowed your brow? What exactly did that service forester mean when he/she suggested releasing the canopy during an inspection of your woodlands? Is that like raising the sunroof on your convertible?

Raise your forestry IQ and have some fun at the same time by playing Wood Not You Know It? Each month's KWOA Wood Post will feature clues for a forestry-related term. Reply to info@kwoa.net (please put My Word Riddle Answer in the subject line) with your best shot at the mystery word. The next Wood Post will reveal the correct response as well as challenge readers with a new riddle. The riddles will also be posted on the KWOA website. Are YOU ready to play the riddle??

Riddle #1 - February 2022

What looks like bacon, tastes like meat and grows like a cottony web underground? With its help a tree can greatly increase its functional root surface. These fungal threads are better appreciated above ground by wild mushroom hunters as porcini, cepe or bolete. Now some producers of plant-based meats are growing them in layers in fermentation tanks using only water, sugar and nutrients. The resulting slab has only a few processing steps and the texture of a cut of meat. Vegan never tasted so good. So, at your next Meatless Monday dinner, say "I'll have the ???, please mam."

Riddle #2 - March 2022

What tree is named after [a body] part of a deer and why?

Riddle #3 - April 2022

This word is defined as "resembling a tree in growth or appearance". It takes on elevated meaning in a recently published book of poems by the first National Youth Poet Laureate. A derivation of this adjective names the state botanical garden of Kentucky.

2022 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course



 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Forestry and Natural Resources Extension

The 2022 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) will occur over four evening online sessions followed by a woodland and wildlife management tour at Pennyriple State Forest and Berea College Forest. The WOSC supports Kentucky's woodland owners through education and connections to foresters and natural resource professionals who can work one on one with them. Woodlands are valuable resources worthy of our attention and care and with proper planning and the right assistance, interests such as timber production, wildlife, and recreational opportunities can complement one another.

2022 WOSC Dates

Online Sessions Dates (7 to 8:30 PM Eastern)

- July 19: 2022 WOSC Overview; Starting/Increasing Your Woodland Management Activities; and Tree Identification
- July 21: Forest Health
- July 26: Wildlife Management
- July 28: Woodland Management in a Changing Climate


Regional WOSC Events on Saturdays

- August 6: Pennyriple State Forest
- August 13: Berea College Forest

Register at <http://wosc.ca.uky.edu/> in June 2022.

From The Woods Today Wednesdays @ 11am EDT

A weekly show focusing on Kentucky woodlands and wildlife

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Forestry and Natural Resources Extension



FromTheWoodsToday.com

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
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Jack Stickney, Estill
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CENTRAL ZONE

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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.

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