

"BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER"



KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

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Photo Credit: Portia Brown

Thank You To All Who Made the KWOA/F Annual Meeting Possible

Submitted by Stephen Perry, Board Member at Large / Chairman of the Programs Committee

In early March 2019 the planning for what was to be the KWOA 2020 Annual Meeting began. Scheduled for late March 2020, a nasty little bug known as COVID 19 had other plans. After several reschedulings we have finally been able to bring it together. As the chairman of the committee I am deeply appreciative and humbled by all of the presenters that shared a wealth of knowledge with us. They were more than gracious in shuffling their schedules multiple times to help us bring the information to our members.

I am equally thankful to our membership for their patience with us. You registered and paid your money, then graciously let us hold those funds or you donated it to the association.

And lastly, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Lake Cumberland State Resort Park and the entire Kentucky State Parks for carrying our contract over until now and honoring the terms of that contract in full. On behalf of myself, the programs committee and the entire board of directors we thank you all. We sincerely hope that we met your expectations after a long delay.

On behalf of KWOA, a big thank you to Steve for his persistence, good nature and attention to detail that made this meeting possible and exceptional. - Karen Marshall, Newsletter Editor

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A Message From Your President

Connections

At the beginning of every week, I sit down and peruse my calendar on my phone to see what projects I will be working on for the week that involves forestry. Even though I am retired, I continue to find enjoyment in my professional work associated in forestry. I don't think I have to tell anyone reading this newsletter about the outcomes of enjoyment and fulfillment we find while working in our Kentucky woodlands.

Usually within any week I will be reaching out to one of KWOA's (Kentucky Woodland Owners Association) partners finding ways to bring information concerning some aspect of woodland management to woodland stewards, either in word or event. These options and partnerships are endless! That is why I continue in this work. So many great opportunities, so little time! Last week I was visiting woodland owners involved in the Kentucky Tree Farm Program reviewing their accomplishments, not just in the aspect of their woodlands, but the many diverse options that prevail on their land. (The Tree Farm Program looks at all facets

of woodlands, water, wildlife and recreation within a Tree Farm plan). Every landowner has a different degree of interest in the diversity available for their land.

Looking ahead on my calendar I see I will be meeting with another set of partners to plan an early summer opportunity that will seek folks that are yet to be involved in even the basic aspects and fundamentals of woodland practices. We know that many folks own woodlands but are yet to be engaged at any level. The reason for many not being involved in the partnerships of natural resource management is simply they have not heard of the need for stewardship on their land.

KWOA and its partners are striving to reach every woodland owner in Kentucky. A hard task definitely but we do know that the present membership of KWOA enjoys the opportunity to attend woodland programs and engage with the folks attending. The scientific program from the forest community professionals is enthusiastically sought after but just as important is the peer-to-peer conversations of the woodland owners. KWOA

is founded on the principles of an organization that brings people and woodland sustainability initiatives together. If you are a member of KWOA, and meet someone that has an interest or need for woodland conversations, please direct them to the tremendous opportunities and the countless connections found at KWOA. It is as simple as typing KWOA.NET into their computer browser.

-- Doug McLaren,
President, KWOA/F



2023 Calendar of Events



The American Chestnut Foundation

Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut

Film debut - Earth Day April 22

Watch the trailer at

<https://www.rescuingtheamericanchestnut.com/>

KWOA Quarterly Board Meeting

May 11

Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Frankfort

Woodland Owners Short Course

Online Sessions (7-8:30 PM Eastern):

- June 20, June 22, June 27, June 29

Field Sessions (9:30-3:00 PM Local)

- July 15 - Pennyrile State Forest
- July 29 - Elk Caves Farm in Boyle County

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

Officers

President – Doug McLaren, Breathitt
Vice President – Portia Brown, Shelby
Secretary – Jack Rentz, Lewis
Treasurer – Jerry Brown, Grayson
Past President – Frank Hicks, Greenup

Board of Directors (by region and county)

North

Jerry Schneider, Kenton
Preston Lacy, Scott
C. Michael Rich, Scott

East

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

Central

Harry Pelle, Taylor
Henry Duncan, Logan
Scott Taylor, Casey

West

Lanny Copeland, Warren
James Vincent, Henderson
Mike Smith, Ohio

Board Members at Large

James “Greg” Kuhns, Bullitt
Jim Corum, Bell & Harlan
Steve Perry, Henry

Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation

In addition to KWOA Board:
Karen Marshall, Owen
Gail Lincoln, Fleming, Greenup, Carter,
& Rowan
Will Bowling, Clay

Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter

Founding Editor – Don Girton 1993-2005
Editor – Karen Marshall

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

Submit copy to:
Karen Marshall, Editor, info@kwoa.net
or
Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter
P.O. Box 1201
Frankfort, KY 40602

Who, what, how and why?

KWOA Officers and Board Participate in 2019 and 2022 Strategic Planning Sessions

The first workshop was held on May 9, 2019 to identify what is working well or not in three areas: membership and outreach, finance and structure. The session was conducted by Dr. Dan Kahl, Associate Director, Community and Economic Development Initiative of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. The participants also identified three top priorities going forward for each of those areas.

Dr. Kahl’s analysis suggested surveying members as to why they joined KWOA; providing details to members on the budget and finances and developing a revenue generation strategy; and developing standing committees with clear agendas and regular meetings.

KWOA board and officers attended a second planning session on November 10, 2022 conducted by staff from the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development. The event was hosted by Kentucky State University’s Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm. Several KSU faculty and students observed the training and ensuing board meeting.

Board members were asked why KWOA exists. The responses resolved into its commitment to the future of humankind and our reliance on the environment by serving woodland owners and assisting them to better manage their forests.

KCARD’s three key takeaways from the meeting:

1. identified the threat to the association of a lack of succession planning to bring new and younger members onto the board with appropriate orientation;
2. prioritized the need for outreach into communities; and
3. recommended a short and simple “elevator speech” to talk with new members about benefits of joining as well as a speech for policy makers and funders.

KWOA was encouraged to use its partnerships to look for opportunities to fund special programs and to add partners to its standing committees. The KWOA board looks forward to working with its members and partners to implement these strategies in order to continue growing our organization together.

WHY does my newsletter take two weeks to arrive after I have been told it is online??

An explanation:
We send the newsletter via email to members as soon as it is edited for release and also post it to the KWOA website. For paper copy the files are sent to printer which has at least one week turn around.

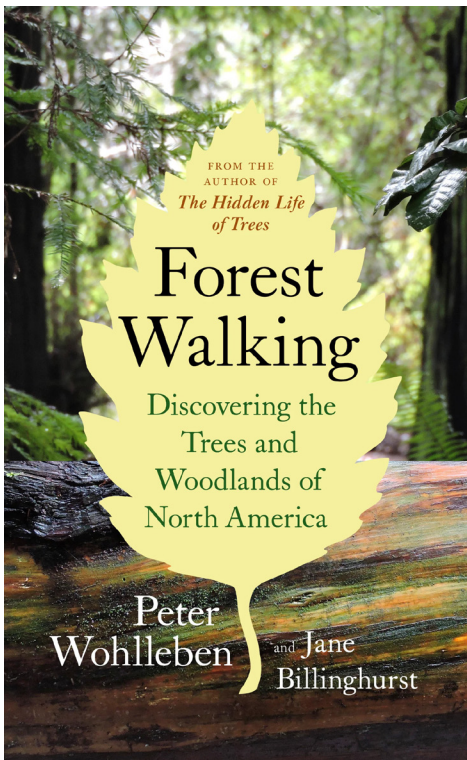
We are an all-volunteer organization so mailing hard copy requires that a member pick up the copies, apply addresses and postage, and deliver to the post office. (We assume the post office treats it as first-class mail.) We are doing everything possible to deliver your printed newsletter from KWOA in a timely manner. However, that uses a lot of resources (financial, environmental and volunteer) that could be saved or redirected

to benefit programming for all members.

Help us reduce printing and mailing costs of this newsletter! You can receive the newsletter by email as soon as it is complete and receive it in color! Clickable hot links provide easy, accurate and quick access to additional related information and resources. See the membership form for newsletter options.

Although the newsletter is an important vehicle for communicating with our membership, there are additional digital platforms to find out what’s coming up at the website: <https://www.kwoa.net> and our monthly *Wood Post* email blasts.

Suggested Reading - Forest Walking: Discovering the Trees and Woodlands of North America



Peter Wohlleben and Jane Billinghamurst, Greystone Books 2022, 230 pages

Submitted by Karen Marshall, Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter Editor

In conjunction with the 2023 Annual Meeting sessions related to its theme of recreation, it's time to take those lessons to the woods. If you are huddled indoors to wait out the last of the bad weather, grab a copy of **Forest Walking: Discovering the Trees and Woodlands of North America**. Peter Wohlleben, also author of the *New York Times* bestseller **The Hidden Life of Trees** (see the KWOA review of that book in its Fall 2018 newsletter at <https://www.kwoa.net/newsletter.html>) left the German forestry commission after over 20 years to found a forest academy to implement his vision of environmentally responsible forest management.

In his introduction Wohlleben explains what he means by the word "forest". It is a community of trees "of different ages and different species [that] grow in the places they choose that suit them best." (p.4) "The forest is so closely linked to place that the trees themselves begin to shape the soil, the climate, the frequency of fire, and the path taken by water in the surrounding landscape." (p.5) The book takes readers on hikes - the good, the bad, the ugly - by Wohlleben. Co-author Jane Billinghamurst, who lives next to 2,800 acres of community forest lands in Washington state, conducted a four-month trip visiting forests around North America for the book.

Forest Walking covers all parts of trees - living, dying and dead - from roots to canopies and the resident fungi, lichen, woodpeckers, owls, beavers, ants and worms that inhabit and are an integral part of their life cycles. The book takes on all aspects of total immersion in the light, air, moisture, sounds and scents on a typical hike.

A concurrent and in-depth publication, **An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal Hidden Realms Around Us** (Ed Yong, New York: Random House, 2022), explores debunked theories and new scientific findings on the extraordinary ability of animals and plants to smell, to taste, to see light and color, to feel pain, heat, contact, flow and vibrations, to hear sounds and echoes, and to perceive electric and magnetic fields.

A major component of *Forest Walking* is devoted to providing positive engaging experiences for **children in the woods**. Chapter 9 - *Interpreting the Forest for Children* and Chapter 10 - *Forest Activities for Children engage their senses with various aspects of forests*. Chapter

15 - *Finding Beauty in Small Things* connects with children's attraction to and likelihood of encountering an abundance of spiders, salamanders, ants and beetles in a small area. By an almost uncanny coincidence Orion Magazine released an article listing *The 7 Best Bugs in Children's Literature* (Kyo Maclear in the magazine's Winter 2022 issue). Maclear has compiled a list of "fully illustrated picture books, most of them fabular and fictional and woefully unscientific, many of them intended for the very young.... For the kinder-set, tiny is MIGHTY but also DEEPLY RELATABLE." Find the book titles for these "Tales of Colossal Smallness" at <https://orionmagazine.org/article/best-bugs-childrens-books/>.

The first quarter 2023 issue of *National Woodlands Magazine* includes an article titled "Reasons Why Children May be Afraid of the Forest (Vol. 46, No.1, p. 50).

Wohlleben is not oblivious to the risks and discomforts of traveling on foot in these habitats. He has advice on forging stream branches, navigating steep slopes and crossing briar patches that spare the hiker and the terrain. He spends considerable space on advice for the prevention of misery inflicted by mosquitos, horseflies, deer flies, ticks (use sharp-nosed, not flat-nosed tweezers to remove them), chiggers and no-see-ums. He emphasizes the importance of apparel and makes recommendations on fabrics and footwear in Chapter 20 - *Choosing Your Wardrobe*.

In closing Wohlleben offers, "This book is not a reference book. It's an appetizer." (p. 203) The forests are waiting for you to discover, tread their paths lightly and leave them as you found them.

State Model Legislation - Georgia and Ohio

NWOA's National Outstanding Forestry Law of 2022, Georgia HB 897, The Timber Harvest Notification Act, is a statewide mandate that requires landowners and loggers to file notifications of intent to harvest timber. A statewide website forwards the notices directly to the counties or cities that require timber harvest notifications. "NWOA anticipates that the essentials of this law, including the informative website (<https://gatrees.org/forest-management-conservation/timber-harvest-notifications/>), will be a model for other states to follow." (National Woodlands Magazine, Vol. 45, No. 4, p.7)

State laws launch ban of invasive ornamental pear trees

Ohio this year has banned the sale of Callery pear trees that are crowding out native wild plants in many forests across the country. According to a January 20, 2023 University of Cincinnati News article (<https://www.uc.edu/news/articles/2023/01/ohio-bans-pear-trees-to-curb-invasive-species.html>), the pear trees grow quickly and tolerate a variety of wet, dry, sunny or shady conditions.

Ohio is the first of several states taking steps to eradicate the once-popular ornamental trees, known for their white spring blossoms. South Carolina has enacted a ban on new Bradford pear sales effective on Oct. 1, 2024. A ban on the sale and cultivation of the tree in Pennsylvania will also take effect in February 2024.

In 2018, Ohio gave landscapers, growers, and nurseries five years of notice that the ban was coming so they could replace their inventories without causing financial harm. The trees have a very long taproot, grow quickly and tolerate a variety of wet, dry, sunny or shady conditions.

Pete Kovalic Forest Leadership Program Scholarship



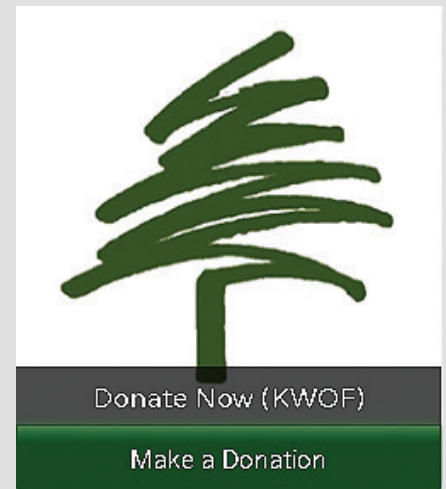
Long-time friend and supporter of KWOA, Pete Kovalic, has passed at the age of 93 after living a full and meaningful life.

The family has generously included KWOA for memorial donations. The KWOA directors established the **Pete Kovalic Forest Leadership Program Scholarship** (youth program) through the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation.

To learn more about Pete's life, all the ways he contributed to sustainable forestry and to donate to the scholarship go to <https://www.kwoa.net/news/peter-p-kovalic-in-memory>.

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.



[Donate to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation](#)



[Contribute to Kentucky Woodland Owners Association](#)

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



Partner Profile: Kentucky Tree Farm Program

Submitted by Doug McLaren, Chair, Kentucky Tree Farm Program

The Kentucky Tree Farm Program is an affiliate of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) based in Washington DC. ATFS is a program designed for private woodland owners who are committed to sustainably managing their woodlands for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. Members of ATFS are very proud to acknowledge that they are part of the system by placing their distinctive green and white “tree farm” sign in a very prominent location on their property. People seeing these designated properties recognize that the landowners are practicing sustainable woodland management. Nationwide millions of ATFS acres are involved.

Each state program is run by a diverse group of partners, state agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers, foresters, and landowners. In Kentucky, there are two sponsors, the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association. Both organizations recognize that tree farmers are involved in certified sustainable lands managed under today’s high standards which can lead to potentially higher future values.

On June 12, 1941 the nation’s first tree farm was dedicated near Montesano, Washington. Owned by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, the 120,000-acre Clemons Tree Farm launched a nationwide movement. Over the next few decades, ATFS would expand east across the U.S. Kentucky joined the national system

in 1955 with 19 units dedicated in a ceremony in Campbellsville. G.L. Rhinehart woodlands were awarded the state’s first certificate. Presently, in 2023, over 500 tree farms exist in Kentucky, spread throughout the state.

The national tree farm program began as a recognition program identifying individuals managing lands with sustainable management objectives. All had a plan designed by a professional forester. Recently the ATFS has moved from the “recognition” program to a certified system of checks and balances on these properties. A list of standards has been implemented for tree farmers to achieve. Anyone with land in Kentucky, ranging in size from 10 to 10,000 acres who has shown accomplishments in the standards of ATFS, can apply to become a member. To contact a certified tree farm inspecting forester that can help you in this process, go to <https://www.kfia.org/Page.ign?title=49-kentucky-tree-farm-program->

KWOA is a committed partner in the Kentucky Tree Farm Program. Doug McLaren, a KWOA member, is chair of the Kentucky program. KWOA and Tree Farm represent those individuals in Kentucky that have shown high standards for managing their woodlands and associated properties. Many KWOA members are also members of the Kentucky Tree Farm Program which in turn makes them a member of the national certification program of the American Tree Farm System.

KWOA Leadership in the Media

Compiled by Karen Marshall, newsletter editor

KWOA officers and board members don't hesitate to get before cameras and microphones to spread the word about the latest programs in woodland management and restoration. Their presentations during 2022 as guests on **From the Woods Today**, the UK Forestry and Natural Resources weekly webcast, are summarized below.



Woods and Wildlife for your Wallet

Rodney Bruce, KWOA east region board member, joined the 99th episode of From the Woods Today, on April 13. Watch the full episode at <http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/episode/woods-today-prescribed-fire>. Hosted by Billy Thomas, Extension Forester, and Renee Williams, Program Coordinator, this episode presented a Greenup County program: Woods and Wildlife for your Wallet. Sherri McCarty (Conservation) and Linda Heinemann (Extension) were on the webcast as well.

The program brings together forest landowners, loggers, timber buyers and equipment retailers so they can get to know each other. For seven years this evening event has included presenters from forestry, wildlife, beekeepers, etc. on topics such as preparing for a harvest, tick borne diseases, maintaining hives, hunting mushrooms and ginseng.



Searching For and Documenting American Chestnuts

Jimmie Sizemore, KWOA east region board member and active member of The American Chestnut Foundation, joined episode 114 on August 3 to share his experiences in identifying and locating American Chestnuts.

History of the American Chestnut covers the history of the American Chestnut in Kentucky and what you can do to help save it. The presenters walk through the process of hunting for and reporting American chestnut trees that can be found in the wild. Ready to check it out? <http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/episode/woods-today-chestnut-history>

Additional presenters were:

Rex Mann - 42-year career with US Forest Service and founder of the Kentucky chapter of TACF. Mann comments, "We have the wealth. We have the means. But do we have the will to restore the American Chestnut?"

Ken Darnell - TACF President, walks viewers through using Tree Snap! <https://treesnap.org/> the mobile app for anyone to tag trees and send in data for scientists to use for research and better breeding programs.

Darnell has entered over 850 trees into Tree Snap. He says the search process tells you where they grow - in sunlight openings and with mountain laurel, rhododendron, blueberries and chestnut oak (indicator species). Searchers should look for larger trees to use in breeding programs - 3.3" - 10" diameter.



Bringing People and Woodland Sustainability Together

Doug McLaren, KWOA President, was the featured guest on the May 18 webcast (<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/episode/woods-today-common-mushrooms>). McLaren presented the broad scope of how the association partners with private and public natural resources and forestry entities to inform and enable woodland owners in the many aspects of managing their properties.

McLaren's preference for a hands-on approach is evident in his suggestion that "trees have stories to tell" about past historical use of the land and natural events, as well as migratory and permanent users of forests - some welcome and some not by landowners.

Enjoy just Doug's lively segment of the webcast about what KWOA is and does and how you can access its website, quarterly newsletter, monthly email blast and more at https://youtu.be/tlUToZZK_gE.

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



2023 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR WOODLANDS BE
AS HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE?

This multi-part program features a hybrid
format with four live-online sessions (that will
be recorded) in advance of two field sessions.
Registration and additional details will be
available soon.

See dates on the calendar of events.

Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Short Course

WOSC.CA.UKY.EDU

