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"BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER"

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2022

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

New Board Member Introductions

KWOA members voted to approve the slate of KWOA/F board members for 2022 presented by Jack Rentz and Henry Duncan, nominating committee.

New board members Michael Smith (Henderson County) and Jerome Schneider (Kenton County) introduce themselves.

Michael C. Smith

I am a retired Agriculture Extension Agent with the University of Kentucky. I worked in both Marion and Henderson counties for forty years. My wife, Kay, is also retired and we enjoy traveling. We have two married sons and three grandchildren (with another expected in September). One son and his family lives in Henderson, and the other lives in Bozeman, Montana.

The farm has been in our family for thirty-five years and is all in timber. The farm is a LLC with five other families and totals right at 1,000 acres with a ten acre lake. We anticipate cutting timber every five to seven years in lots of one hundred acres.

Timber is the life blood of our operation, along with all the recreational opportunities this land provides. Work consists of road maintenance and keeping log loading areas from eroding. We have six cabins on the property which allows us to be on the farm for long periods of time during spring, fall, and winter. What we do on our farm is mirrored by landowner's adjoining us.

My interest in woodlands, which I love, is from personal experience, other land owners, education programs, and contacts in Extension and Division of Forestry.

I look forward to serving on this board and making contributions to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association.

Jerry Schneider

I am Jerry Schneider, a new KWOA board member from Northern Kentucky. Ann and I own 90 acres in Kenton County which consists of woods and hay fields. We do not live on the property. Takes us twenty minutes to get there from our home on the east side of Cincinnati.

We paid our first KWOA dues in 2008, the year that we had a timber harvest. The Indiana loggers spent all of April on the project. More than a century of hardwoods went off to lumber mills. Later that fall emerald ash borers felled the smaller ash that loggers left behind.

Our interest in KWOA is rooted in an effort to be a good steward of the land. The farm will be passed on to heirs so they can reap other harvests. Two family friends hunt deer and turkey and harvest hay on the property. Our main challenges are urban sprawl and taxes. New homes are being built along our north property line which reduces habitat and diminishes privacy. We enjoy the fields and woods for their natural, scenic value.

Looking forward to being a board member!

A Message From Your President

Your Choice!

Summer is in full swing! Even though the summer solstice has passed the summer heat continues and vacations, if not already taken, are in their final plans for fulfillment.

Many of us enjoy the summer and early fall for forestry field activities. Now is the time to look at what opportunities lie ahead. I know that found within this newsletter you will find many of the activities that I will lay out for you, but I have heard that we must be presented the same information about seven times before we act. Count this newsletter as two of those times and the upcoming Wood Posts notifications providing the final opportunities to register.

First, KWOA and other natural resource partners help sponsor the traditional summer Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Courses that are provided by the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. The schedule is available and there are a lot of options to choose from. There were four webinars, each with a different forest management focus. Also included are two actual field day tours. These Woodland Owners Short Courses will be concluded by mid-August. The webinars were recorded and can

be viewed by registering with UK Forestry Extension.

In late September/early October plans are being made for a forest water quality field day experience, Riparian Management/Stream Side Management at one of our KWOA members properties in central Kentucky. Watch for the exact date, time, and location in future Wood Post mailings as the event draws closer.

Speaking of October, the state Tree Farmer of the Year will be hosting a field day in Lewis County. Landowners will be greatly impressed how the property has been traditionally managed with appropriate forest management practices but also the field day will focus on how the wood has been harvested, cut, and dried on the property and then turned into wooden items for personal use and sale.

At the conclusion of all these events that have been noted, and possibly others, we will be approaching the winter holidays for a short respite before you will be hearing announcements of the spring Kentucky Woodland Owners Association Annual Meeting that

will be held at Lake Cumberland State Park. The theme for this year's event will be recreation.

Hopefully you will be able to attend many of the woodland management events that are stretching out before us in the coming months. Again, it is your choice!

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



2022 Calendar of Events



Woodland Owners Short Course

Online Sessions can be viewed at:
<https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/>

In-Person Site Visits:

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

KWOA Board Meetings

Aug. 11, Nov. 10 | 10 am EST
KFIA Office, Frankfort

-Officers and board may attend in-person or virtually via Zoom

KFIA Regional Meetings

September 7
Morehead

<https://www.kfia.org>

Traxler Tree Farm Field Day

October 4
Lewis County

Riparian Management Field Day

October 14
Knobs State Forest

Dr. Jim Corum Update on House Joint Resolution 41

(May board meeting)

Jim Corum provided background and an update on House Joint Resolution 41 to the KWOA board at its May 12 quarterly meeting.

Dr. Corum expressed thanks to the following for their contributions to the recent legislative approval of HJR 41: Representative Adam Bowling, Bob Bauer, Don Miniard, and the

Harlan County Farm Bureau. He also indicated that the information contained in the UK Kentucky Forest Sector Economic Contribution Report was helpful in emphasizing the importance of forestry to the Kentucky economy. Dr. Jeff Stringer indicated that contact with the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet has been made as stipulated in the legislation and the required report is prepared.

Dr. Corum reflected that users of oak timber have finally realized there is not an infinite supply of good quality wood for bourbon barrels and other products. The White Oak Initiative has also been a force in the management and restoration of oak forests.

Dr. Stringer commented that KWOA's participation may be needed. The resolution only authorizes a report, not what is done with it.

Annual Meeting Awards Dinner Inspires Members, Recognizes Forestry Services and Endeavors to Communicate KWOA Message and Mission



Jacob Muller, UK Extension Professor, addressed members at the banquet. Photo credit: Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester



Ray Madden, UK forestry student, is recognized as recipient of the 2020 KWOF student scholarship. Photo credit: Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester



Doug McLaren presents plaque to Karen Marshall. Photo credit: Jerry Schneider, KWOA board member

Karen Marshall, KWOF Board Member, was "recognized and appreciated for continued efforts shown to the dedicated endeavors in communicating the message and mission of KWOA."

Marshall also noted, in her acceptance of a plaque, that she appreciated the trust in the association for her work as editor of the newsletter and the initiation of several new topic series. She noted that Doug McLaren gave her pretty much free rein as long as he got to read the articles first!



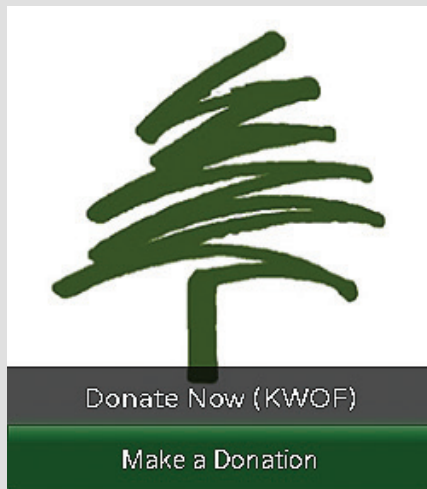
Doug McLaren presents plaque to Portia Brown. Photo credit: Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester

Portia Brown, KWOA Vice President, was recognized at the annual meeting Awards Dinner for her service to the association.

Portia Brown has served as KWOA secretary from 2016 - 2018 when she stepped into her current position as vice president. In accepting the award Portia reflected on how we can make a difference by sharing our experiences/ insights with fellow woodland owners.

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 State University

Submitted by Jody Thompson

The Forestry and Natural Resources program at Kentucky State University is an interdisciplinary research and Cooperative Extension program that provides resources to landowners and natural resource professionals through training workshops, applied research and media resources. We strive to improve the efforts of those seeking to understand, plan and implement management practices across Kentucky's natural and agricultural lands. The program has three focus areas: Forest Health, Agroforestry and Pollinator Habitat.



Forest health, the overall condition of a forested area, is affected by factors such as soil health, invasive species impacts, light levels, and weather conditions. This program emphasizes assessment and management of select forest health factors. Our extension efforts focus on training workshops to improve invasive plant management. Our research efforts include examining drone technology to improve assessment and management efficiency and small ruminants as a brush management system.

Agroforestry is the practice of integrating trees or shrubs with agronomic or horticultural crops as part of a farming operation whether commercial or non-commercial. Although not yet common in Kentucky, this can include producing crops between crop trees or shrubs, rotating small ruminants through tree plantations and producing fruiting shrubs on marginal lands. Our growing Cooperative Extension efforts include training events and the development of statewide demonstration areas. Our research efforts include examining the feasibility of alley cropping production systems and their environmental benefits.

Pollinator habitat is an important practice that can be incorporated into nearly any land use type. To many, it is viewed as only wildflowers growing in open fields or landscape beds. However, it also includes flowering trees and shrubs, diversified orchards, windrows, woodland edges and other situations where flowering herbaceous and woody plants grow. Our Cooperative Extension efforts include habitat management and installation training. Our research efforts include examining diverse site preparation methods to accommodate different agriculture and land management goals, incorporating drones as a management tool and the environmental effects of different habitat establishment methods.

Kentucky State University (KYSU) is grateful to be a partner with KWOA and looks forward to cooperative training events and providing assistance to KWOA landowners. For more information about the Forestry and Natural Resources program, contact Jody Thompson at jody.thompson@ksu.edu.

Kyle Magee, KDF Service Forester, Recognized with KWOA Award at Annual Meeting

Kyle Magee, Kentucky Division of Forestry Service Forester for seven northern counties, was selected for the 2022 KWOA Program Achievement Award for Service Foresters. The award recognizes an outstanding service forester based on criteria that include demonstrated overall professionalism, volume of work, relationships with woodland owners, responsiveness to their requests and sustained excellence.

Now in his fifth year with KDF, Magee has a good rapport with landowners. He relays technical information to landowners in a down to earth and easy to understand manner. As well as attending trainings to promote sustainable forestry, tree farm inspections and herbicide applications, he has assisted in wildland fire suppression and prescribed burns. He leads adult workshops to educate landowners about forest management and compiles stewardship plans that have resulted in forest management practices implemented on the ground.

Kyle grew up in Owen County and now lives in Grant County. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Forestry in 2018. Kyle won the KDF Forester of the Year award in 2020. In that year he compiled 75 Stewardship Plans that addressed 8,361



Henry Duncan (left) and Jerry Schneider (right) present KWOA Outstanding Service Forester Award to Kyle Magee. Photo courtesy of Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester

acres. His Timber Stand Improvement and timber harvest recommendations resulted in 87 acres of completed TSI and 372 acres of timber harvested. His hard work resulted in 536 acres of forest management practices implemented on the ground.

Wood Not You Know It?

KWOA launches new word riddle series for fun and enlightenment

Raise your forestry IQ and have some fun at the same time by playing *Wood Not You Know It?* - KWOA's word riddle. Each month's KWOA Wood Post will feature clues for a forestry-related term. Reply to info@kwoa.net with (please put My Word Puzzle 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, answers and additional information will also be posted on the KWOA website. Are YOU ready to play the riddle??

For our paper-only newsletter friends, see how you fared in the bottom margin of page 7.

Riddle # 4 - May 2022

As a noun it is "the scientific study of trees". Its adjective form is "having the shape or form of a tree".

Extra credit for identifying a noun related to this word for "the science or technique of dating events, environmental change, and archaeological artifacts by using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks."

Riddle # 5 - June 2022

Common in the Fagaceae, the tree family that includes oaks, beeches and chestnuts, this function retains

dead leaves on the tree well after other trees are completely bare.

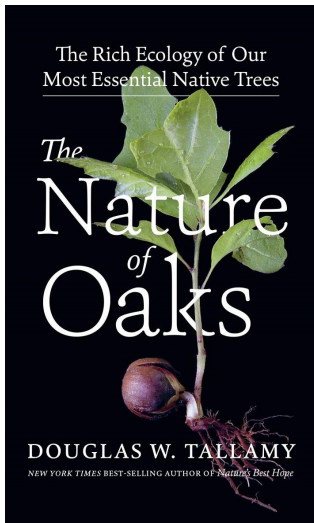
*Find assistance in our latest book review of *The Nature of Oaks*, and at <https://www.kwoa.net/publications.html>*

Riddle # 6 - July 2022

A distinctive feature of this native hardwood tree is "squarish stems". Can you name the tree and perhaps two other distinctions for this tree?

**Congrats to George Walz, Michael Rich, and Craig Moore for submitting correct answers!*

Suggested Reading: The Nature of Oaks:



Submitted by Mike Rich

The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees

by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2021

Whether you are thinking of planting a yard tree, or afforesting an old field, this book will help guide you to making good decisions on what kinds of trees to plant. Dr. Tallamy, a professor of entomology, makes a passionate argument for the ecosystem services that oaks provide, and offers a number

of fun facts about the role oaks play in hosting a huge number of insects that in turn provide essential food and habitat for birds and sequester huge amounts of carbon to boot.

Dr. Tallamy focuses on a single white oak he germinated from an acorn then planted in an old hay field by his home in October and takes us through the intertwined lives of the insects, birds, fungi and microorganisms that he observes engaging in mutually beneficial relationships with the oak throughout an entire year.

Fun facts include: why do so many species in the *Fagaceae* family retain their leaves throughout the winter (marcescence), how did the month of April get its name, why do birds migrate north in May, why do oaks have such variance in leaf form, why do oaks make good street

and yard trees, how does acorn size and shape influence their distribution by different animals and birds?

A slender book of 197 pages including two appendices with information on the right oak species to plant in different geographical locations, a list of oak species native to North America, and "how to plant an oak," Tallamy writes a moving paean to one of the world's oldest living genuses (60 million years) with a huge geographic range.

Excellent photos of mutualistic insects that depend on oaks well illustrate his point that *Quercus* hosts more than 500 caterpillar species (important food for birds) throughout the year (even in winter!), 100 species more than its closest rival, the cherry. In comparison, maples support 259 species of caterpillars, and Callery pear (uggh!) only one.

He gently and artfully weaves a complex tale of the ecosystem roles oaks play and why, concluding "... that model of mutual exclusion has failed us dismally. ... we must construct ecosystems that contain all their functional parts right where humans abound."

Although I have heard the competition between plants and insects described as "an arms race" in which every species evolves to overcome the defenses and offenses another develops, Tallamy tells us why and how these adaptations occur and how they benefit our world.

Given the attention being paid lately to "the oak bottleneck," this book provides a compelling argument to learning more about the hows and whys of nurturing oak, in a time where insect and bird populations are crashing. Highly recommended.

Site Visits to Fish Hatchery and Wildlife Education Center Bring It Up Close

2022 annual meeting attendees visited the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery guided by Noah Nelson, Fisheries Biologist with the Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

"At the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, we aim to conserve, protect, and enhance Kentucky's fish and wildlife resources and provide outstanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, shooting sports, wildlife viewing, and related activities."

Learn more about the agency at <https://youtu.be/h-zzxY9WA8w>

Attendees were treated to a pleasant change of venue when the meeting re-located to the Salato Wildlife Education Center.

All eyes and ears were focused on a Salato Center staffer who introduced the facility's purpose and function while striding back and forth across the stage with a screech owl perched on his fist. The owl took it all in stride, obviously used to being summoned from her quarters for educational purposes. (Due to an eye injury she cannot be released to the wild.) The staffer commented that her species name did not accurately describe the owl's call. Rather than a screech it is

more like a whinny, which was ably imitated by an attendee who is also a horse owner.

Learn more about the Center and plan your visit by going to <https://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Salato-Wildlife-Education-Center.aspx>.



Traxler Tree Farm is a Value-Added Experience for Visitors

From information submitted by Phil Traxler and Laurie Yanoshek.

Phil Traxler moved to Lewis County in 1980 and bought a 350-acre farm that had been heavily logged. He pitched a tent and started building a house out of reclaimed material, because he wasn't sure how long he would stay. That was 41 years ago.

In 1981 he started and received his first forest management plan.

From then till 1988 Phil built a dry kiln and started drying wood. We only take trees that are in decline, have them sawn, dry the lumber in our dry kiln and sell the wood and make a wide variety of projects - doors, woodwork, cabinets and historical reproductions.

From 1989 - 1993 Phil planted over 3,800 trees, mixed pine and white oak. Working with the Division of Forestry we did nine acres intermediate harvest and a 3-acre clearcut. We started hosting demonstrations for KDF. In 1997 we received our Forest Stewardship certificate.

In 2000 Traxler Farm was put in a trust for the family and future generations to carry on with the caring of the forest. We now have an Airbnb on the property to help fund the family trust. <https://www.facebook.com/creeksidecottagesky/>

The handicap accessible cottage is for all to enjoy. We like to say we're sharing our "little slice of paradise." Plus educating our guests on how we improve the land.



Traxler Tree Farm was recognized by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association with the 2021 Tree Farmer of The Year Award.

The Airbnb Cottage has a walking trail with the different tree species marked. Plus, we have other trails on the property. Since then, we have hosted several field days and held classes on mushroom logs and woodworking for kids and adults.

We have competed 157 acres of Timber Stand Improvement mid-story, cull trees and crop tree release. We do all the TSI ourselves. There is no better way to get to know your forest than doing TSI. You get to see your land and improve the forest for future generations. In 2020 we started working with the USDA and now have pollinator patches, bees, invasive species removal and a clear cut to help bring back the ruffed grouse.

White Oak Assessment and Conservation Plan

Recognizing the importance of private landowner involvement in healthy white oak forests, the *White Oak Assessment and Conservation Plan* was designed to provide valuable information for anyone interested in learning more about white oak and upland oak forests. A *Brief Overview* in Kentucky Woodlands Magazine - Volume 15 Issue 1 describes the plan and its importance for white oak regeneration. https://kywoodlandsmagazine.ca.uky.edu/sites/kywoodlandsmagazine.ca.uky.edu/files/kwm_15_1_white_oak.pdf

The plan is a result of a goal of the 2017 White Oak Initiative (University of Kentucky, American Forest Foundation and Dendrifund) and was generated with input and review from hundreds of forestry experts, oak researchers, stakeholders and other professionals.

The Assessment provides a basic overview of white oak and the challenges associated with its management. It includes white oak regeneration, the benefits of white-oak dominated forests and management techniques. The Conservation Plan outlines guiding principles for achieving short- and long-term goals for creating a healthy, productive forest.

Download the plan at <https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/assessment-conservation-plan>

"Without swift intervention today, the American white oak population will begin to decline significantly within the next 10 to 15 years, with more extreme declines over the next several decades."

RIDDLE ANSWERS

#4 - May 2022

Dendrology. The related term is dendrochronology.

#5 - June 2022

Leaf marcescence.

#6 - July 2022

Blue ash.

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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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