

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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2021 KWOA Annual Meeting Updates

The KWOA 2021 annual meeting is still scheduled to convene September 28-29 at Lake Cumberland State Park at 5465 State Park Road/Jamestown in south central Kentucky.

In keeping with its focus on American Tree Farm themes, this meeting will address woodland recreation interests that include a tour of the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, trail construction and maintenance, wilderness safety and survival, edible and medicinal plants, and timber trespass and river basin activities. Two sessions on forest carbon credit programs have been added to the program. KWOA formed a board committee to study this emerging income for woodland owners. It will facilitate a discussion of these programs on Monday evening as part of the "unofficial start" to the meeting and an update on Wednesday morning from Harry Pelle, KWOA board member.

See the full agenda at https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings/2021-annual-meeting-lake-cumberland-state-park

Registration includes attendance of all activities on September 28 and 29, including meals at luncheon and banquet dinner on Tuesday. The KWOA Registration fee does not include your individual lodging or other meals.

Please contact the hotel directly by calling 270-343-3111 to make your lodging reservation. A block of rooms is available at a discount for our organization.

You must complete your reservation before August
30, 2021 to receive the discount and provide the Block Code 2745 for the KY Woodland Owners Association.

Register for the annual meeting via the tear-out form in this newsletter or on the website at https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings/2021-annual-meeting-lake-cumberland-state-park

Updates will be posted to the <u>kwoa.net</u> website as available.



A Message From Your President

Back to the Future with KWOA

As I write this article for the KWOA newsletter, summer is in full swing. Schools are out. Vacations are giving us an excuse to see one another. COVID is in the rearview mirror, still in sight but hopefully we are gaining speed to outrun it.

I have just finished attending this year's three day conference of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD). As always, lots of good information and fellowship. It is with great pleasure to visit with supervisors from across the state that represent folks that respect and appreciate good conservation of our valued resources, timber included.

Everyone attending also enjoyed the face-to-face opportunity to speak to one another. One very out of the ordinary remark that I heard from one individual was, ""It was a great chance to speak to other colleagues from across the state without any of them starting off by saying, "Your mute is on." "

I was asked by the organizer of the KACD meeting if I could supply a timely topic concerning forestry topics during the commodity sessions. I appreciated very much the opportunity and made the session, "Three for the price of

one". I asked Dr. Jeff Stringer and Dr. Jacob Muller from the University of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resource Department to coordinate with me. I lead off with a session describing the value of Kentucky's forests/woodlands (I used the Economic Report from the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources). Dr Stringer discussed the White Oak Initiative. Dr. Muller reviewed with the audience the emerging markets of Carbon Credits for Kentucky.

I hope that you have discovered the new KWOA logo that is being presented for the first time on this newsletter cover. Portia Brown initiated conversation with the KWOA board about a logo that better reflected KWOA's mission and message. We are presently investigating if the new logo will be possible for applying to shirts and caps. The work on the logo was finished before the KACD conference, so I was able to incorporate the new logo into the presentation that I made.

I do hope that the summer has been an opportunity for you to visit with family and friends that you have not been close to in the past year. We hope that you will continue your "outings" and be with KWOA/KWOF during its annual meeting in September that

has been postponed two times. Steve Perry, our KWOA annual meeting coordinator, has done a superb job coordinating with the state park, Lake Cumberland, to make our first KWOA reunion in nearly two years successful. Please look through this newsletter for information concerning the annual meeting and make plans to join other KWOA members and friends at Lake Cumberland State Park.

Welcome back to what we hope is the new normal! See you in September!

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



2021 Calendar of Events



Woodland Owners Short Course https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/

ps.//wosc.ca.aky.caa

Online Sessions:
• August 3 & August 5

Field Visits:

- August 14 UK Research and Education Center in Princeton
- August 21 UK Robinson Forest
- August 28 Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Kentucky Wood Expo

Fri, Sep. 17 - Sat, Sep. 18 Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY

KWOA Annual Meeting

September 28-29 Lake Cumberland State Park

KWOA Quarterly Zoom Board Meeting Wed, Nov. 10, 2021



Recreation is the theme for KWOA/KWOF 2021 Annual Meeting

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park September 28 - 29, 2021 optional Free September 27 tour

Registration – PLEASE PRINT

Name:					
Spouse/Guest Name(s):					
Tree Farm Business Name: _					
Mailing Address:					
City, State & Zip:					
Phone number(s):					
E-mail:					
Woodland acres owned/man					
REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL	PROGRA	AMS, LI	JNCH and DINNE	R on Se	ptember 28
MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID (or RENE\	NED AT	THE TIME OF RE	GISTRA	TION
	FEE	Х	# of People	Total Amount	
Member Registration	\$70	х		=	\$
	FEE	Х	# of People	Tota	l Amount
Non-Member Registration	\$90	Х			\$

Registration and payment can be made by: Credit Card or PayPal on KWOA website: WWW.KWOA.NET or mail registration and check for payment to: KWOA - PO BOX 1201 – Frankfort, KY 40602

Please make your room reservations at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park separately by calling the park at 270-343-3111. A block of rooms has been reserved for KWOA. Please remember to mention that you are attending the KWOA Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Conference.

Donate an Item For Annual Meeting Silent Auction

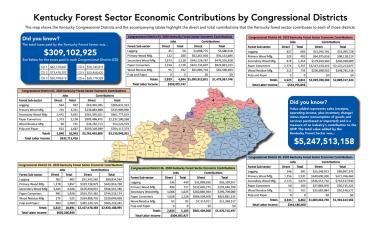
It's time to find a new home for those gifts that were never given!

Donate that item to the KWOA annual meeting silent auction. Donations can be anything with a monetary value. Event tickets, gift baskets, gift cards, books, artwork and crafts are welcome.

Email a description of your item and a suggested minimum bid to Harry Pelle, board member - hpelle@windstream.net.

Please put Silent Auction in the subject line of your email. Please let Harry know whether you can bring it to the meeting or need it delivered. And thanks!

KWOA Members Encouraged to Share KY Forest Sector Economic Contribution Report with US Representatives



The 2019-2020 Kentucky Forest Sector Economic Contribution Report includes a breakdown by congressional district of direct and indirect jobs and economic contributions attributable to the forestry sector. It also includes taxes paid by the forestry sector broken down by congressional district.

KWOA members will find the new Contributions by Congressional Districts a useful tool in discussing forestry issues with their US Representatives.

The full report is available at http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/economic-report

KWOA/F New Logos Reflect Mission of "Bringing People and Woodland Sustainability Together"

As KWOA and KWOF continue to grow and improve ways to connect with privately held woodland owners across KY, the communications chair, Portia Brown, felt the need for a logo that more fully reflects our mission of "Bringing people and woodland sustainability together" and connects us as sister organizations in support of sustainable forestry practices.

The current logo images had a single tree. Portia made contact with several Kentucky based organizations for information and referrals to begin the process of developing a new logo.

Ashley Hoffman, Director of Kentucky Association for Environmental Education shared their process and contact for the online company they used. As an artist herself, Portia asked Louisville

Visual Arts Association for graphic designers. Portia had some rough sketches to share with the idea of an image that would reflect human involvement and multiple trees. She also reached out to Jaime Corum, renowned equine artist and daughter of KWOA board member, Jim Corum. Jaime also did some sketches.



At the May board meeting Portia presented the concept; Director Greg Kuhns also had a graphic design contact for us. The board then approved further study and authorized the Communications committee to work directly with the Executive Officers to move forward in seeking a new logo design for presentation to the entire board.

Over the summer Portia took proposals from various sources to develop the image she and Jaime had put forward; the concept was to have an outline of the state, multiple trees reflecting a forest, and some representation of the role humans play in managing woodlands.

We ended up working with Lindsey Kuhns to come up with the new logo design for both organizations. We plan to share more information about Lindsey and her work in a future newsletter but for now we hope you appreciate the new logo.

Partner Profile: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

Established in 2004, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) is dedicated to restoring forests on coal mined lands in the Eastern United States. It is a cooperative effort among the states of Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia under U. S. Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. ARRI partners include local/state/federal government agencies, non-profits, corporations, investors, universities, foundations and private landowners to secure funding & coordinate restoration efforts.

ARRI's partnership with KWOA is represented by Cliff Drouet, Forester with the Office of Surface Mining in Lexington. Drouet informed the KWOA board at its May 2021 meeting that there are 1.5 million acres of old mine sites in Appalachia that could use reclamation.

ARRI seeks to change the existing cultural, technical, and regulatory barriers surrounding the forestry reclamation of coal mined lands:

- Cultural change the perception that tree planting is more expensive and risky than conventional reclamation, provide education on the impacts of compaction and change the perception of what good forestry reclamation should look like
- Technical eliminate excessive surface compaction, ground cover competition, and inappropriate growth medium; plant high value hardwood trees
- Regulatory change the perception that regulations

impede effective reforestation techniques and interfere with bond release.

ARRI strives to plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands, increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees, and expedite the establishment of forest habitat through natural succession. Its science team is comprised of individuals active in forestry research from across the country, including academia, soil scientists, plant biologists, foresters, and others whose function is to improve the science behind ARRI.

ARRI advocates using a technique known as the Forestry Reclamation Approach to plant trees on reclaimed coal mined lands. The FRA's five steps are:

- 1. Create a suitable rooting medium for good tree growth that is no less than 4 feet deep and comprised of topsoil, weathered sandstone, and/or the best available material
- 2. Loosely grade the topsoil or topsoil substitutes established in step one to create a non-compacted growth medium
- 3. Use ground covers that are compatible with growing trees
- 4. Plant two types of trees 1) early succession species for wildlife and soil stability, and 2) commercially valuable crop trees
- 5. Use proper tree planting techniques.

ARRI provides 18 Forest Reclamation Advisories to clearly explain the approach. They are available in PDF format at https://arri.osmre.gov/Publications/Publications.shtm#FRAs.

The ARRI program utilizes both KDF nurseries for needed tree seedlings, local equipment operators for mechanical site prep, local tree planting crews and consulting foresters to coordinate all mineland reforestation activities. This "employ local" concept patronizes local businesses and promotes economic development which boosts community pride and builds strong ARRI partnerships--a true "Win-Win" for KY forest landowners & businesses.

The project sites are hand planted by professional planting crews. The program also schedules volunteer planting events in each state to observe Arbor Day & Earth Day (on small plots=2+ ac). Donors, local media and ARRI partner groups are invited to attend to observe the "5 W's" behind restoring old mine sites (aka=moonscapes) and promote the ARRI program.

The ARRI program is not carbon credit certified at this time but is being evaluated as a volunteer carbon market program and should be certified soon. It will provide another valuable investment option to all landowners/donors/investors-in addition to existing federal and state tax credits.

For more information contact: Cliff Drouet, Forester Office of Surface Mining Lexington KY 303-549-7249 cdrouet@osmre.gov http://arri.osmre.gov









Pictured above are research plots where ARRI foresters and Academics have studied the Forestry Reclamation Approach.

Forest Carbon Credits Part 2

Submitted by Karen Marshall, newsletter editor

This installment focuses on the Natural Capital Exchange (formerly known as SilviaTerra). Alex Macintosh, Director of Landowner Success at NCX, conducted a Zoom session for Kentucky woodland owners on June 8, 2021. At that time NCX was completing its second enrollment cycle with over 350 landowners across 11 states.

Watch the zoom meeting by going to https://www.kwoa.net/kwoa-meetings/june-8-zoom-meeting

The Natural Capital Exchange (NCX) pays forest landowners to retain forest carbon on their properties by deferring timber harvest below a "business-as-usual" level.

NCX's long-term goal is to create a market for all landowners to be paid for all of the natural capital on their land. It is starting in 2021 with forest carbon. Landowners are selling a commitment to defer timber harvest. Buyers are paying for carbon offsets that are generated by harvest deferral.

Deferred harvest = retained carbon on the landscape

Advantages of the NCX system

- One-year terms also allows for landowners not to lock in for a price when those may go up in the future
- No fees for landowners to participate. Enrolling is free and there's no commitment. Assessment of inventory and

harvest risk is by remote sensing methodologies. This results in lower marginal costs for participants. NCX also does ground-truthing on sample areas to improve its algorithms and models.

 No acreage minimums due to remote assessments that don't differ substantially for various sizes of acreage.

The Process

Review Assessment

Landowner submits property information, including boundaries, through the NCX on-line mapping system, that are complete and accurate. All parcels must be included in the submission so NCX can monitor harvest levels across the entirety of the property. When enrollment is confirmed, landowner submits request for remote eligible carbon assessment via Basemap. No commitment is required.

Submit Bids

Landowner determines acreage for harvest deferral - below business-as-usual baseline - and the price they would like to be paid. Landowner receives carbon volume eligibility report (in about a week). Landowner submits bid to be paid to reduce harvesting. Landowners can choose the price at which they would be willing to defer their harvest. NCX tries to match that supply with the demand from buyers.

Defer Harvesting

If the NCX bid is accepted, landowner reduces timber harvest for one year to meet deferral commitment. (This

does not have to be across all of the acres enrolled.)

Harvest deferral can add flexibility to a landowner's forest management plan as well as increasing the volume and quality of timber, wildlife habitat, hunting, etc. due to timber being harvested at a later date.

<u>Payment</u>

NČX verifies and compares standing timber volume to that on initial bid. Landowner gets paid after property harvest deferral commitments are verified.

How much will a landowner gets paid depends on inventory, age/class distribution, species mix, density, volume and management practices. Landowner would not get paid for the volume credits of deferral commitment wiped out by a disaster, but there would be no further penalty. NCX factors in risks for landowners not delivering due to various circumstances.

Payments could range from \$5 to \$30 per acre. Rates depend on productivity, merchantable volume that is deemed to be at risk and what bid price the landowner submits. For previous cycles the markets have cleared at \$14 and \$17 per credit. See the NCX blog for more info. Read more... www.ncx.com/ncx/landowners

In the next installment KWOA hopes to provide feedback from Kentucky woodland owners who have begun participating in this or other forest carbon credit programs.



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

SUZANNE SIMARD

Book Review - Finding the Mother Tree

Submitted by Karen Marshall

Finding the Mother Tree is about striking a balance - whether in nature or one's professional and personal life. Dr. Suzanne Simard unflinchingly narrates her struggle between the conflicting demands of scientist, instructor and mentor in a male-dominated forestry industry and commitments to family and friends.

Simard's passionate interest in all things forest began as a member of generations of horse-loggers in western Canada who managed to make a living with a "lighter touch" from which "the land mended itself when left to its own devices" (p. 4). The premise of her book is not about how we can save the trees but "about how the trees might save us." (p. 6)

Her initial trial as a government tree scientist in British Columbia landed her in the middle of the logging practice of exterminating birches and broadleaf trees in favor of higher-value Douglas firs. Simard found that birches actually provide nutrients to firs through the mycorrhizal network (remember that term) belowground.

Her accounting of the mind-numbing

logistics of conducting a well-designed and executed field experiment over thousands of plots and many years is a cautionary tale to the generally accepted laboratory experiments to achieve the same results. It is no wonder that many scientists prefer a laboratory environment to enduring lengthy commutes to field sites on bad roads or only trails, biting insects (did I mention bears?), intense heat and humidity, limited supplies of power and unexpected weather events. But Simard contends that between those settings is the difference in perceiving what trees in their natural setting have to tell us beyond the parameters of proving a specific theory. And they have a lot to say to those who are listening. "Turning to the intelligence of nature itself is the key." (p. 305)

Returning to that biological neural network underground— Simard's research results confirmed that trees exist not as individuals but in communities. She identified what she named **Mother Trees** that act as a hub of nutrients shared

by trees of different ages and species linked together via a vast underground fungal network. Rather than competing, diverse species collaborate in a more stable and resilient system that also leads to greater productivity. Her field work also showed that injury to Mother-Tree seedlings induced them to transfer even more carbon to their kin (p. 287).

Simard posits that this adaptability has profound implications for the ability of forests to survive climate change. "The practical application - what this means for forest management - is that elders that survived climate changes in the past ought to be kept around because they can spread their seed into the disturbed areas and pass their genes and energy and resilience into the future." (p. 288)

Simard's findings have also directed her guidance for woodland owners and the timber industry in several ways:

plant seedlings in clusters rather than rows

- reinstate controlled burn practices
- cease the practice of clear cutting
- think twice about salvage harvesting dying Mother Trees; leave a portion behind to take care of the young

In the Epilogue to her book Dr. Simard introduces **The Mother Tree Project**. It consists of nine experimental forests that span a 900-kilometer range across the "climate rainbow" in British Columbia. "We are examining the structures and functions of the forests - how webs of relationships play out in real environments and change with forest-cutting patterns that retain various numbers of Mother Trees and plantations that contain different tree-species mixtures. We want to make educated guesses about which combinations of harvesting and planting will be most resilient to the stresses our planet is facing, how the healthiest connections can thrive alongside our needs to use resources from the forest." (p. 304)

Frankfort/ Franklin County Invasive Species Task Force



Chris Schimmoeller, a volunteer with <u>Remove Invasives Partnership of Franklin County</u>, leads a February 22nd briefing for the Court on invasive plant species at a property located on Admirals Landing. https://franklincounty.ky.gov/invasive-species-briefing/

Invasive plants are widely recognized as a threat to natural areas. Common problems caused by invasive plant infestations include tree death, erosion of creek and riverbanks, reduced tree reproduction, plant suppression, degraded wildlife habitat, loss of aesthetic beauty and impaired use of property. https://ripfc.net/

In April 2021 Frankfort and Franklin County voted unanimously to establish a joint task force to study the problem of invasive species in the area and to make recommendations for a coordinated response. The task force includes experts on invasive species, land management and mapping as well as representatives from the city, the county, extension office, Kentucky State University, Frankfort Plant Board and area nonprofits.

The task force was petitioned by Remove Invasives Partnership (RIP) of Franklin County which was formed in 2017 to protect the local ecosystem by removing invasive pest plants and educating and inspiring the public to remove invasive plants. Chris Schimmoeller, RIP coordinator, said in a May 7 State Journal staff report, "Our natural environment makes our community beautiful, unique and productive, but without serious stewardship in the next decade we will lose many of those attributes to monocultures of non-native species." Schimmoeller, also a founding board member and past board president of the Woods and Waters Land Trust, added that "Loss of mature trees along creeks and the river increases flooding, erosion and property damage. Aesthetic values are being compromised, diminishing tourism, recreation and wildlife habitat." https://www. <u>state-journal.com/news/frankfort-franklin-county-</u> establish-task-force-to-study-invasive-plant-species/article_ee4cf2f6-af34-11eb-b275-0b8b07fd674a.html

Among other invasives, Schimmoeller mentioned winter creeper that blankets the riverbanks and hillsides along the Kentucky River corridor, killing trees, compromising bank stability and displacing native species, and bush honeysuckle that chokes roadsides, neighborhoods, parks and forests, compromising public safety and access and suppressing natural tree regeneration.

The task force plans to meet several times with a recommended plan released by late summer. For more information visit www.ripfc.net or contact Schimmoeller at cschimmoeller@gmail.com or 502-226-5751.

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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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